

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: BUILDING BENCHMARK BC PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on 2021 May 20, received and adopted the attached report providing an update on the Building Benchmark BC pilot program.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Keithley
Chair

Councillor C. Jordan
Vice Chair

Copied to:	Acting City Manager Director Corporate Services Director Engineering Director Planning and Building
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE **DATE:** 2021 May 10
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 41500 20
SUBJECT: BUILDING BENCHMARK BC PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE
PURPOSE: To update Council on the Building Benchmark BC pilot program.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Council endorsed the City of Burnaby's participation in an energy benchmarking and disclosure pilot program on 2019 December 16. The project was renamed 'Building Benchmark BC' (<https://buildingbenchmarkbc.ca/>) after the first Council report. On 2021 February 8 Council endorsed the public disclosure of energy use and emissions data for the portfolio of thirty (30) civic buildings included in the program and participation in a potential additional phase of the program if external funding were received by the project convener, Open Green Building Society.

This report provides to Council a copy of 'Building Benchmark BC Annual Report 2021' (see *Appendix A* attached), released since the last report to Council and provides an update to Council on the timing of the since confirmed additional phase, the inclusion of additional civic buildings in the program and further City promotion of Building Benchmark BC to encourage community participation, for information.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

Benchmarking civic buildings as part of Building Benchmark BC and encouraging community participation supports Burnaby's City Energy Strategy (2020 July 6) and Climate Action Framework (2020 July 6), demonstrating leadership on the challenging Big Move to retrofit existing buildings. Specifically, the benchmarking project meets one of the City Energy Strategy's Quick Start commitments under Zero Emissions Buildings, Existing Facilities, demonstrating best practice in building energy management:

QUICK START: "Benchmark key civic buildings, through the Building Benchmark BC program. In addition to tracking building energy use, benchmarking allows for comparison across similar buildings, improved energy management and consideration of potential GHG reductions. By participating in voluntary benchmarking and disclosure, the City is demonstrating best practice in

building energy management.” (City Energy Strategy, Report to Environment Committee, 2020 June 24, p. 16.)

Promoting energy benchmarking also supports strategies and actions in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016) and the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (2016).

Burnaby’s participation in Building Benchmark BC pilot program aligns with the City of Burnaby’s *Corporate Strategic Plan* by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the Plan:

- ***A Connected Community***
 - Partnership – Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments
- ***A Healthy Community***
 - Healthy environment – Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability
- ***A Dynamic Community***
 - Economic opportunity – Foster an environment that attracts new and
 - Community development – Manage change by balancing economic development with environmental protection and maintaining a sense of belonging
 - City facilities and infrastructure – Build and maintain infrastructure that meets the needs of our growing community
- ***A Thriving Organization***
 - Financial viability – Maintain a financially sustainable City for the provision, renewal and enhancement of City services, facilities and assets

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Building Benchmark BC Annual Report 2021

The enclosed report is for the first cycle of the Building Benchmark BC (BBBC) pilot program that collected building energy use and emissions data for the year 2019. This a public report released in March 2021. The report introduces the BBBC pilot program, identifies the City of Burnaby and other municipal partners as participants, discusses energy benchmarking and disclosure, and presents some aggregated data highlights and findings from the first year of the program. A digital copy of the report is available at the program website: <https://buildingbenchmarkbc.ca/#results>. A digital copy of the report and a link to the public disclosure map, including the 30 Burnaby civic buildings submitted to the program, is available at: <https://buildingbenchmarkbc.ca/#results>.

3.2 Building Benchmark BC Next Phases

The project convener has received external funding to add an additional year of data collection to the BBBC program. Council previously endorsed Burnaby’s participation in this additional phase. The full program now consists of three cycles of building energy and emissions data collection:

- Cycle 1 (2019 data)
- Cycle 2 (2020 data)

- Cycle 3 (2021 data)

Cycle 1 is complete, culminating with the release of the *attached* report and the public disclosure site. Recruitment for community participation in Cycle 2 has been underway since mid-March, 2021 and will finish at the end of May 2021. A public recognition event is tentatively planned for the fall of 2021. Recruitment for community participation in Cycle 3 will begin in the fall of 2021 with data collection and final reporting for the pilot program scheduled for the first quarter of 2022.

As part of the City of Burnaby's ongoing participation in the program, staff will provide the 2020 building energy and emissions data required for Cycle 2 and the 2021 data required for Cycle 3. Staff also plan to add the following buildings to the program for Cycle 2: Burnaby Lake Arena and C.G. Brown Memorial Pool, Eileen Dailly Leisure Pool & Fitness Centre and Bonsor Recreation Complex pool. Additional buildings will be considered for Cycle 3. Growing the data set of civic buildings is of value to existing municipal partners and helps BBBC recruit new municipal members. To encourage greater voluntary community participation staff will continue strategic communications with existing contacts and networks and will use City communication channels from time to time during the two remaining recruitment phases of the BBBC pilot program. Recent examples of such communications include:

- a City of Burnaby media release regarding the BBBC first annual report and go-live date for the public disclosure site;
- staff contacting sustainability staff and building energy managers at the British Columbia Institute of Technology and Simon Fraser University to encourage institutional participation; and
- planned social media messaging about the BBBC program during Burnaby Environment Week (May 30 to June 5).

3.3 Resource Implications

Industry stakeholders with external funding lead the BBBC pilot program. As one of the original participating municipalities, the City of Burnaby is not required to provide funding to participate in the program. Burnaby's contributions to participate in the program come in the form of in-kind staff time to compile and prepare building data, provide input to guide the program and to help recruit new buildings and encourage community participation. The necessary staff time is accommodated by resources dedicated to existing green building and climate action programs.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Burnaby's participation in the Building Benchmark BC pilot program demonstrates City leadership and accountability for climate action to help achieve our community's emission reduction targets. Disclosing and sharing energy use data for our civic buildings on the public disclosure map demonstrates climate action leadership by highlighting energy benchmarking programs as a building management best practice. Participation in the Building Benchmark BC has also provided staff with valuable experience and knowledge about energy benchmarking and disclosure in this area of climate action and with valuable information about building energy performance.

To: *Chair and Members Environment Committee*
From: *Director Planning and Building*
Re: *Building Benchmark BC Pilot Program Update*
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This report, including the *attached* Building Benchmark BC Annual Report 2021, is provided for Council's information. Staff will provide future updates on the Building Benchmark BC pilot program, as necessary.



E. W. Kozak, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MS:sa

Attachment

cc: Acting City Manager
Director Corporate Services
Director Engineering

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