

ANNUAL REPORT - 2023



In September, Climate Hub vice-president Hudson Campbell led a rally and march to put an end to our reliance on fossil fuels.

The year in review

A year of planning

Improving board function

During 2023 the Climate Hub laid the groundwork to improve our governance approach and plan for future programs.

We reorganized the structure and function of the board, to differentiate between governance meetings (now held every alternate month) and the hands-on work of the board, which is carried out through sub-committees.

In a similar vein, the board portfolios have been removed, with the new title Director at Large replacing portfolio titles. This allows more flexibility and to some degree confers more responsibility on each director.

Sub-committees are struck as needed by the board, and are chaired by a member of the board. They may include participants who are not board members.

Current subcommittees include:

- Public engagement committee
- Communications & marketing committee
- Policy committee
- Nominating committee
- Fundraising committee

Funding for future programs

In 2023 the Board decided to research funding opportunities and apply for grants. We received two grants for events that will take place in 2024:

- A public engagement on food waste and food security, to take place in the fall of 2024
- A symposium on Active School Transportation in School District 42 (which took place in April of 2024)

We also received a commitment from the Fraser Valley Regional Library for in-kind support in the form of a venue to bring in an educational series from Regenerate BC.

Public engagement

In September the Climate Hub organized a rally and march through downtown Maple Ridge to demonstrate for an end to the world's reliance on fossil fuels. This was part of an international movement. More than 50 city residents participated.

Throughout the year the Climate Hub participated in several public events in Maple Ridge, with a booth and display at:

- Earth Day
- GETI Fest
- CEED Centre Neighbourhood Block Party

Programs

Climate Champion Awards

The Climate Champion Awards program continued in 2023. Winners included:

- Perk Eco - for their program that helps coffee shops divert 90% of their waste from the landfill, through recycling and composting
- Graham Lewis and Lynn Prindle of The Tyler Lewis Clean Energy Research Foundation, which awards research grants to graduate students studying in the field of renewable energy and sustainability
- Carla Van Der Pauw - for leading the THSS Eco-Action team, educating youth on climate change and the actions they can take to combat it
- Dee and Rick Hislop - for recycling an entire house! They purchased an existing home that was slated for demolition, and moved it to their rural Maple Ridge property, thus saving the construction waste from demolition and the carbon footprint generated by new construction
- Gerry Pinel - for his work as a climate activist for the last two decades. Gerry founded the Boiling Point Action Network to link climate activists, and then co-founded and led GETI and GETI Fest since 2012, finally forming ACES with a focus on creating a self-sufficient eco-village style community
- The Intergenerational Garden - for teaching a new generation to grow, prepare, and eat their own vegetables. This directly increases food production and consumption of local food, reduces transportation and associated greenhouse gas emissions, and increases food security as increasingly supplies are affected by drought, heat and disease caused by climate change.

The Climate Champion Awards are handed out as part of the annual Earth Day celebration in Maple Ridge.

Communications & marketing

The Communications and Marketing committee took the lead on creating a new logo and modern new website. In addition the Climate Hub:

- Published newsletters throughout the year to more than 250 subscribers
- Were featured in The News numerous times
- Raised awareness of local opportunities and issues through social media

Public policy

In November the Climate Hub was invited to provide feedback on the City's proposed Off Street Parking Bylaw. In our comments, we drew attention to the connection between this bylaw, the City's Strategic Transportation Plan, and its upcoming Climate Action Plan.

We stated that this bylaw has the potential to augment the effectiveness of the other plan's abilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by supporting the adoption of electric vehicles and ride sharing, while at the same time increasing the safety and convenience of cycling, walking and micro mobility.

Position statements

In 2023 the Climate Hub drafted and adopted two position statements:

- Low Carbon Transportation
- Housing & Buildings

Looking to the future

Plans for 2024 include:

- Hosting a series of five sessions with partners Regenerate BC. These sessions will be held at the Maple Ridge Public Library and will be free for the public. The sessions will be led by Regenerate BC Facilitators and will share information on research-based solutions to the climate crisis and how to take action.
- Continuing to evolve the structure of the Climate Hub Board to provide as many opportunities as possible for individuals to make meaningful contributions and share their unique skill set and interests.
- A renewed focus on connecting with other local groups that are working on climate action, and seeking opportunities to share and promote the work of others in the community.
- Raising awareness of the role the provincial government plays regarding climate action in the lead up to the 2024 election. This may include hosting a climate related debate for candidates.