

ANNUAL REPORT - 2024



7 / 10 The Maple Ridge Climate Hub was given the Environmental Leadership Award at the 2024 Business Excellence Awards gala on March 9, with Kim Dumore also winning the Ridge Meadows Community Spirit Award. (Brandon Tucker/The News)

Climate Hub members accept the Environmental Leadership Award at the Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce Business Awards. Photo credit: Maple Ridge NEWS

The Maple Ridge Climate Hub is a non-profit society helping Maple Ridge take action on climate change.

The year in review

Continuing to engage the community in meaningful ways while evolving as an organization.

As in past years, in 2024 Maple Ridge Climate Hub offered a number of opportunities for the public to engage in climate action. A highlight of the year was receiving the first ever Environmental Leadership Award, presented by the Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce at their annual Business Excellence Awards. This recognition from the community reinforced that Maple Ridge Climate Hub is making a mark when it comes to local climate action.

During 2024 Maple Ridge Climate Hub continued to evolve as new members came in, and some long term members stepped back. The structure of Climate Hub was adjusted to reflect what has worked most effectively for the group - which is to have members volunteer to be part of short term “Project Teams” that respond to specific opportunities and ideas. This structure allows members to volunteer for projects that are of particular interest to them and fit with their current capacity. Creating a Climate Champions team to solicit nominations for these annual awards, select recipients and organize the awards ceremony is an example of a Project Team.

The Board Executive is made up of the Vice-President, President, Past-President, Executive Administrator, Communications / Marketing Director and Treasurer positions. The Executive Board is responsible for hosting Climate Hub meetings, approving spending, updating bylaws, reviewing project plans and recruiting new members. The Communications / Marketing Director, Treasurer and Vice-President positions were vacant during 2024.

Climate Hub members attend meetings and volunteer to participate in specific projects through the Project Teams. Members have voting rights during the Annual General Meeting and Special Meetings, including for the election of the Board of Directors. Only members can be elected to the Board.

Project Teams meet separately from the Board, and report back to the larger group at the all-member bi-monthly meetings. Project Teams connect with members of the Executive for financial and other authorizations.

Membership

There were twelve members of Climate Hub in 2024.

Public engagement

Regenerate BC Workshop Series - Maple Ridge Climate Hub partnered with Regenerate BC and the Maple Ridge Library to provide a series of five sessions for the public. The free sessions were scheduled over a number of weeks. The sessions provided information on research-based solutions to the climate crisis and how to take action. A focus of the sessions was encouraging dialogue and learning by participants. There was a facilitated process to identify local sources of greenhouse gas emissions and opportunities to reduce emissions. Participants were supported in developing their own personal plan to reduce emissions.

Active Transportation Symposium - Maple Ridge Climate Hub organized and hosted an Active Transportation Symposium in April 2024. This event was very well attended, with participation from the City of Maple Ridge, the City of Pitt Meadows, School District 42, Fraser Health, ICBC, Metro Vancouver, Translink and Hub Cycling. With a \$5,000 grant from the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions we were able to engage the Community Energy Association to plan and facilitate the session. As a direct outcome of the symposium a working group was established to plan for a district-wide program to increase participation in active transportation to and from SD42 schools.

2024 Provincial Election - with two candidates running in the October 2024 election Climate Hub looked at a number of options for ensuring climate was included in the campaign. A series of questions were provided to candidates in both ridings, with responses shared online through the Climate Hub Facebook and Instagram pages.

Public Events - The Climate Hub hosted a booth at several public events during 2024, including Earth Day, GETI Fest and the CEED Centre Block Party.

Programs

Climate Champion Awards

The Climate Champion Awards program continued in 2024. Winners were:

- Natalie and Christopher Moreno, who are building a home to Passive House standards in Whonnock

- Julie and Dave Koehn, for their lifelong waste-reduction and environmental leadership in the community
- Maple Ridge New & Used, a business that sells used and reclaimed building materials, reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that come from producing new materials.

The Climate Champion Awards are handed out as part of the annual Earth Day celebration in Maple Ridge. This provides an excellent opportunity for Climate Hub to connect with award recipients, and Earth Day ceremony attendees, and to share positive stories.

Communications & marketing

- Published three blog posts on our website
 - [Financial offers for making climate-friendly changes that benefit the planet and your pocket](#)
 - [Understanding the Zero Carbon Step Code and What It Means for the Residents of Maple Ridge](#)
 - [Protecting British Columbia's Biodiversity: A Guide for Maple Ridge Residents](#)
- Grew the number of Maple Ridge Climate News subscribers to 268
- Published and promoted five newsletters throughout the year
 - [2024-01-01](#)
 - [2024-02-02](#)
 - [2024-03-17](#)
 - [2024-05-26](#)
 - [2024-10-14](#)

Input into Public policy

In 2024 Maple Ridge Climate Hub provided input into the development of both the Urban Forest Strategy and the Climate Action Plan developed by the City of Maple Ridge.

The Maple Ridge Climate Hub played an important role in advocating to local government, and engaging the public, around the review of the Zero Carbon Step Code carried out by the City of Maple Ridge in 2024. Climate Hub communicated news of this work through our newsletter, social media channels and an editorial article in the Maple Ridge News. Climate Hub members provided feedback to the City of Maple Ridge Council and staff and encouraged the adoption of EL-3 and EL-4 levels of the Code.

The Maple Ridge Climate Hub is acknowledged as a significant interest holder by the City of Maple Ridge and by School District #42 in climate related matters.

Looking to the future

Plans for 2025 include:

- Participating in the anticipated federal election by highlighting climate and environmental issues.
- 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.
- Researching potential funding opportunities and applying for grants. Registering as a charitable society could contribute to this effort, as it would allow Climate Hub to access different funding streams.