

DAWSON CREEK, BC.

PRRRDY APPLAUDS MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP



Sally Emory, Executive Director of pRRRdy presents Mayor Calvin Kruk with a pRRRdy Partner Environment Award at Monday's Council meeting.

DAWSON CREEK, BC—The City of Dawson Creek wins a pRRRdy Partner Environment Award for its commitment to sustainability and the proactive implementation of environmental policies.

The City of Dawson Creek received a pRRRdy Partner Environment Award at Monday's Council meeting.

The award, presented by Sally Emory, Program Director of the Northern Environmental Action Team (NEAT), celebrates the leadership demonstrated by the City and its commitment to implementing sustainable practices.

“The City of Dawson Creek is definitely a deserving recipient of the pRRRdy Partner Environment Award,” says Emory. “The City has consistently demonstrated environmental practices and, by leading by example, promotes public awareness of sustainability to its residents and businesses.”

Mayor Calvin Kruk welcomed the award and NEAT's recognition of the City's accomplishments. “This reinforces our goal to be innovative and proactive with municipal policy as we work towards a sustainable Dawson Creek.”

In 2003, the City of Dawson Creek embarked on a journey towards becoming a Sustainable Community. Using the Natural Step Framework, and with the help of the Pembina Institute, the municipality began incorporating sustainability into day-to-day decision-making and the development of City policy.

In December 2004, a Community Energy Plan was completed which looked at how the City used energy and recommended ways to reduce the cost and the impact of consuming about \$1,000,000 dollars of energy per year.

As a result a series of building and equipment retrofits are underway to ensure that the existing City

infrastructure uses as little energy as possible. This will reduce energy consumption in buildings like the Kin and Memorial Arenas.

By the end of June 2006 all City owned street lights will be fitted with “dark sky friendly”, low voltage, high-pressure sodium lights that will reduce energy consumption by about 100,000 KW/h per year for a savings of approximately \$1,200 per month.

The City is also pursuing the use of renewable energy by investigating on-site wind turbines that will feed into the electrical grid with net metering. This will help defray the heavy electrical loads required for water and sewer operations.

Presently, City Hall and the Fire Hall are equipped with solar hot water systems, which provide hot water for the buildings’ needs. City Hall also serves as a demonstration and test site for the use of these systems in a northern environment.

A vehicle purchasing policy passed by Council requires the purchase of low emission vehicles, a “right size” for its vehicle fleet to the most common use of each unit, and implements an anti-idling policy together with a high maintenance standards policy.

Finally, the city is looking at developing an energy efficiency bylaw that will require energy efficiency standards for all new construction.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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