

## **Appendix A: Backgrounder on Bill 27 Requirements relating to GHG Reduction Targets**

On May 29, 2008, Bill 27, the *Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act*, was enacted by the Provincial Government. The intent of Bill 27 is to facilitate more sustainable initiatives within BC municipalities by considering climate issues and energy conservation approaches when planning and managing land-use. Through this legislation the *Local Government Act* was amended to require each municipality to establish targets, policies, and actions for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and include these in their Official Community Plans. The deadline for completing these Official Community Plan amendments is May 31, 2010.

Because BC municipalities are at different stages of implementing sustainable development policies, the legislation is designed to be flexible. This enables each municipality to decide its own approach to establishing greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and setting policies and realistic actions for meeting these.

The requirements for local governments related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in communities have been incorporated into the Local Government Act, specifically under Section 877(3), which states:

*An official community plan must include targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the area covered by the plan, and policies and actions of the local government proposed with respect to achieving those targets.*

Fulfilling this municipal mandate also involves the following:

1. establish targets for the Official Community Plan; each community will decide on their own unique greenhouse gas emission reduction targets
2. define the policies and actions that will be used to achieve those targets
3. at least one target is to be defined as an emissions reduction target

This report is the outcome of a review of existing policies and collaboration between Sustainability and Corporate Planning, and Planning staff, and consultation with the Ministry of Community Development.

### ***What Are Greenhouse Gas Emissions?***

A greenhouse gas is defined in Bill 44 as “carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride, and any other substance prescribed by regulation under the Act.” Greenhouse gases are generated by:

- electricity and fossil fuel energy use;
- transportation (such as vehicle kilometers travelled, fleet composition and fuels(s) consumed); and
- quantity and composition of waste and disposal methods.

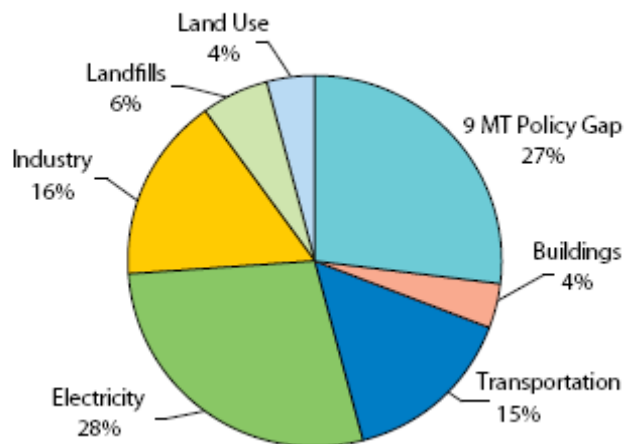
## Appendix A: Backgrounder on Bill 27 Requirements relating to GHG Reduction Targets (cont'd)

### *Province of British Columbia Emissions Reduction Target*

Through Bill 44, the Provincial government has set targets for BC to achieve a 33% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2007 levels by 2020 and by 80% below 2007 levels by 2050. The Act also requires the Provincial government and all other public sector organizations to be carbon neutral by 2010.

The reduction targets are in line with the broad scope of the Provincial government's Climate Action Plan<sup>2</sup>. The plan includes a wide range of initiatives to reduce emissions, currently estimated to achieve 73% of the 2020 goal. A 27% policy gap needs to be resolved.

### Percentage of Target Reductions Achieved by Sector



Source: BC Climate Action Plan

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<sup>2</sup> The Provincial targets are based on scientific information indicating the amount of reduction needed to counter existing trends toward climate change related impacts such as sea level rise, increased heat waves, plant and animal extinction and decreases in global food production. Information related to these impacts can be found in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s 2007 report.