



News Release – March 2, 2005

Fraser Basin Council Supports Provincial Government Decision to Green Its Fleet with Hybrid Vehicles

Vancouver BC – Fraser Basin Council Executive Director David Marshall joined Premier Campbell in Victoria today to announce that the provincial government will add up to 356 hybrid vehicles to its current fleet.

“The Fraser Basin Council and Fleet Challenge BC wholeheartedly endorse the BC government’s decision to green its provincial fleet with hybrid vehicles,” Marshall said. “This action clearly supports the Council’s own sustainability vision of social well-being supported by a strong economy and sustained by a healthy environment.”

Hybrid electric vehicles are a new technology that combines the internal combustion engine of a conventional vehicle with the battery and electric motor of an electric vehicle. The result is a vehicle that can dramatically reduce fuel consumption, greenhouse gases and smog.

“Vehicles produce almost 30% of all greenhouse gases in Canada, and are also major contributors to urban smog,” Marshall added. “Poor air quality is a top-of-mind issue for many British Columbians. It is an issue that, if not addressed effectively, can lead to respiratory illnesses and more costs to our health care system, thus affecting BC’s economy.

“The purchase of 350 new hybrid vehicles by the BC government shows strong leadership in addressing these challenges, and demonstrates its commitment to reducing vehicle emissions.”

The Fraser Basin Council’s new Fleet Challenge BC program was recently launched to provide similar leadership across all fleet sectors in the province. The goal of this exiting initiative is to reduce vehicle emissions throughout British Columbia by 15% by 2010.

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