

**GREEN CREDITS APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Property Size \_\_\_\_\_  
(acres/hectares) (dimensions)

Area used for food production \_\_\_\_\_  
(acres/hectares) (dimensions)

Type and quantity of food being produced – list in detail:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Type of water efficient irrigation system (i.e. micro-jet, drip irrigation, soaker hoses, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is separate meter **or pit meter** in place for irrigation? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If no, when will it be installed? \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby permit inspection of my property with 48 hours notice by District of Peachland official(s) in order to determine eligibility for green credits.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Name Date

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For office use only:

Application is Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_

If denied, reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Category of credit: (1 – 7) \_\_\_\_\_ Applies to: Quarter 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Y/N) (Y/N)

Date of inspection: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials of inspector: \_\_\_\_\_

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APPEAL:

If decision is appealed, indicate information below:

Date of review: \_\_\_\_\_

Decision of Appeal Committee – application approved on appeal: \_\_\_\_\_ (yes) \_\_\_\_\_ (no)

Reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Category of credit: (1 – 7) \_\_\_\_\_ Applies to Quarter 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Y/N) (Y/N)

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*The Corporation of the District of Peachland Policy*

## Green Credits Policy

Effective Date: June 26, 2012	Authorized By: Council – Regular Meeting	Replaces: June 1, 2010
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### Purpose:

The purpose of establishing a green credits policy is to provide a water consumption credit to qualifying irrigation water users, with properties between ½ and 2 acres in size (referred to as 'grey area properties') which qualify annually under certain food production criteria.

### Principles:

1. The policy is directed towards 'grey area properties', which range in size between ½ acre and 2 acres.
2. The green credits policy will apply to the growing season only, which is considered the months of April through September.
3. The amount of irrigation water needed for tree fruit/garden crop production is one inch per week during the growing season. This calculates to 1,250 cubic meters per acre per quarter.
4. The policy is directed towards producers of food for direct human consumption only (as opposed to secondary consumption, such as the growing of crops for livestock).
5. An appeal process will permit applicants a fair process to have decisions reconsidered.

### Why Grey Area Properties?

Properties to be defined as 'grey area properties' are those properties which range in size between ½ acre and 2 acres. Grey area properties are being targeted, because of the difficulty they have in qualifying for bona fide agricultural status, and the important role these properties play in local food production and reduction of greenhouse gases.

"To qualify for farm classification, there are minimum annual gross income requirements that vary with farm size as follows:

- a.) Less than 1.98 acres = \$10,000/year
- b.) Between 1.98 acres – 9.88 acres = \$2,500/year."

(Source – BC Assessment)

## Establishing Watering Requirements:

In determining the amount of irrigation water required for growing food crops in the Okanagan, information was provided by Okanagan Tree Fruits and Agriculture Canada. The amount of irrigation water needed is based on the calculation of one inch of water per week for the growing season, or 0.0024 cubic meters per week.

$$0.0024 \text{ m}^3/\text{week} \times 43,560 \text{ sq. ft/acre} \times 24 \text{ weeks} = 2,500 \text{ m}^3 \text{ per acre/growing season}$$

First Quarter – April – June - 1,250 m<sup>3</sup>/acre/quarter

Second Quarter – July – September - 1,250 m<sup>3</sup>/acre/quarter

## Policy Guidelines:

- 1.) Owners or occupiers of properties ranging in size from ½ acre to 2 acres, with a water meter, may qualify annually for a green credit towards their quarterly irrigation bill, under the following criteria:
  - a.) The area used for food production for direct human consumption is at least .25 acres;
  - b.) A water efficient system is in place to irrigate food producing areas. Water efficient systems include micro-jet or drip irrigation systems and soaker hoses. Additional water efficient systems may be approved by the Appeals Committee.
  - c.) A separate meter **or pit meter** to record irrigation consumption must be either already in place, or installed at the property owner's expense.
  - d.) For qualifying properties a \$0.15 per m<sup>3</sup> credit for irrigation water use will be provided on each of the two quarterly water bills for irrigation use up to the determined amount of water per acre (or portion thereof) as follows:

### When the area of the property that is being utilized for food production is:

#### Category:

- |   |                                                                            |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | ¼ acre x 315 m <sup>3</sup> x \$0.15/m <sup>3</sup> = \$47.25/quarter      |
| 2 | ½ acre x 630 m <sup>3</sup> x \$0.15/m <sup>3</sup> = \$94.50/quarter      |
| 3 | ¾ acre x 945 m <sup>3</sup> x \$0.15/m <sup>3</sup> = \$141.75/quarter     |
| 4 | 1 acre x 1250 m <sup>3</sup> x \$0.15/m <sup>3</sup> = \$187.50/quarter    |
| 5 | 1.25 acre x 1565 m <sup>3</sup> x \$0.15/m <sup>3</sup> = \$234.75/quarter |
| 6 | 1.50 acre x 1880 m <sup>3</sup> x \$0.15/m <sup>3</sup> = \$282.00/quarter |
| 7 | 1.75 acre x 2195 m <sup>3</sup> x \$0.15/m <sup>3</sup> = \$329.25/quarter |

- e.) Any irrigation water use beyond the allocated amount indicated in the green credit table above will be charged at the regular residential water rate of \$0.30 m<sup>3</sup>.

**Application Procedure:**

Owners or occupiers of property will be expected to make application annually, on the form marked Schedule 'A'. The District of Peachland will inspect the property for compliance to the criteria for qualification as deemed necessary. Applications must be submitted by May 30<sup>th</sup> in the year that the credit is being applied for.

The applicant will be notified of the decision. If the decision is that the property does not qualify for the green credits program, the applicant will be notified of the reasons, and will be provided with information on an appeal process.

**Appeals Committee and Process:**

An Appeals Committee shall be established by Council, which will consist of 3 members of the public at large, who will hear appeals to decisions of the green credits policy decisions. The Appeals Committee will convene to consider appeals within ten working days of an appeal being submitted, and will render a decision on an appeal within 3 days of it being heard. The applicant may make a further appeal to Council, and that decision will be considered final.