

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**G&F Financial Group achieves CLIMATE SMART certification**

Burnaby, BC – G&F Financial Group, one of the 10 largest Credit Unions in BC, is excited to announce that it achieved Climate Smart certification for 2013. A local social enterprise, Climate Smart empowers and enables organizations to reduce their carbon emissions through training, tips and software, and provides certification to organizations that take steps to reduce their emissions.

G&F Financial Group's Green Team aims to review, develop, recommend and implement green initiatives that will reduce the impact its business activities have on the environment. To this end, the Credit Union recently measured its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Greenhouse Gas emissions inventory, and took a series of actions to reduce its emissions. These actions translated into a:

- 28% reduction in emissions from garbage;
- 17% reduction in emissions from materials;
- 20% reduction in emissions from heat.

"G&F Financial Group is a community focused Credit Union," say Co-CEOs Bill Kiss and Jeff Shewfelt. "Supporting the community doesn't only mean helping people – it also means caring for the environment. We are continually working on reducing our emissions and have drafted a reductions plan for the upcoming year aimed at reducing waste, electricity, staff commuting, and paper."

"We have worked with G&F Financial Group for the past two years and are very happy with their achievements," says Climate Smart President Elizabeth Sheehan. "It's rewarding to see organizations like G&F Financial Group take action on environmental issues and act as a great example of how businesses can be a force for positive change in the community."

**About G&F Financial Group**

With over 26,000 members and \$1.3 billion in assets under administration, G&F Financial Group is one of the top 10 Credit Unions in British Columbia. The credit union's commitment to investing in its employees, members and the community is recognized by awards such as BC's Top Employer in 2012 and 2013, induction into Burnaby Board of Trade's Business Hall of Fame, and the 2012 Community Spirit Business of the Year Platinum Award from New Westminster Chamber of Commerce. For more information, please visit [www.gffg.com](http://www.gffg.com)

**About Climate Smart**

Climate Smart was founded in Vancouver in 2009 in order to help train and certify businesses in the art of carbon (or "greenhouse gas") emissions measurement and reduction. Over the past five years, Climate Smart has worked with just under 800 businesses of all shapes and sizes, across each and every industry sector - the vast majority of them in British Columbia.