

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EnCAC)

**Wednesday, October 21, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.
Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa	- Chair, City Council Member
Meesh Bono	- Community Member
Karen Crosby	- Community Member
Teresa Morton	- Representative, Local Environment Association
Patrick Parkes	- Community Member
Serena Vampa	- Representative, Local Business Association
Colleen Gillespie	- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government or Non-Profit
John Lekakis	- Representative, Local Institution (SD40)
John Ragone	- Community Member
Raunaq Singh	- Community Member
Bryanna Thiel	- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government or Non-Profit

STAFF PRESENT:

Leya Behra	- Manager, Climate Action
Nayel Halim	- Community Energy & Emissions Specialist
Jennifer Lukianchuk	- Senior Environmental Coordinator
Jennifer Miller	- Manager, Public Engagement
Jacque Killawee	- City Clerk
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Online Introductions and Icebreaker

Committee members provided various responses to Councillor Nakagawa's icebreaker question, "How are you doing and what have you been up to?"

2.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

2.1 Additions/revisions to and Adoption of the Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the October 21, 2020 Environment and Climate Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of July 15, 2020

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the July 15, 2020 Environment and Climate Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Climate Action Communication and Engagement Workshop

Jennifer Miller, Manager, Public Engagement, provided a presentation outlining City engagement related to climate action.

Committee members provided the following comments in response to questions regarding climate action communication and engagement:

What information do you and the community want/need regarding climate action work being undertaken by the City?

- What are the goals, how are residents directly affected by them, what is the City is doing to reach them and how can residents help;
- Provide information on the “big picture” before events occur;
- How does the City’s contribution fit in regionally, what is being done with other municipalities, and how does the City compare to them;
- Provide updates on the Climate Action Plan at specifically set times during the year (i.e. quarterly);
- Links to the scientific work the City uses to make decisions; and,
- How the City is prioritizing rising sea levels and anticipated flooding and what data is being referenced for these issues.

What are your preferred channels/methods for receiving information?

- Info graphics included with utility bills and property taxes, and in the New Westminster Record;
- Shareable videos on the City’s website or YouTube;
- Community events, Zoom workshops, and presentations on specific issues;
- Consideration made for those who may experience language barriers;
- Placement of temporary pop up signs on pedestrian roadway areas explaining which climate change initiative is being tackled with this initiative, etc., and move them around the City;
- Twitter, Instagram, the large billboard on the Queensborough Bridge, etc. for those who don’t visit the website; and,
- Specifically regarding the City’s website:
 - Add more references, videos, etc., but keep it interesting to entice visitors to the website;
 - Keep the website up to date and user friendly; and,
 - Have the Climate Action Plan on the first page of the website.

Ms. Miller reviewed results from the pre COVID-19 public engagements with respect to the City’s budget and the Seven Bold Steps to address the climate emergency, as well as from the recent COVID-19 recovery engagement sessions, and the 2021 budget survey results. She announced upcoming public engagement opportunities, including for the City’s Electronic Mobility Strategy.

What conversation should the City be having with residents regarding the climate?

- Find out what people need to know about specific topics to enable them to take action (i.e. solar panels, eating more sustainably, etc.);
- Talk about recent pandemic-related lifestyle changes and how they are related to climate action, including the long term benefits (i.e. less air travel), including how the changes can be continued once the pandemic is over; and,
- Find out how residents feel about possibly continuing with the bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets.

Councillor Nakagawa queried Committee members for suggestions of system changes that can be done to address the climate emergency and received the following responses:

- Ration air travel and allow each person a certain number of “free” flying kilometres, implementing a charge for anything above their ration;
- Road use charges throughout the City, including roadways belonging to other jurisdictions;

- Affordable travel options, i.e. ensure that transit costs less than travelling by car, which it often is not or free public transportation;
- Trams to connect Uptown and Downtown and along the corridor from Downtown to Royal Columbian Hospital;
- Ban single use plastics, increase parking costs, close streets temporarily, and explain the reasoning for doing so;
- Research what other cities do;
- Increase tree planting;
- Help people be greener at home and increase Energy New West staff;
- Share a picture of the City with vehicles photoshopped out to show what the City could look like;
- Provide tax breaks for those that lower greenhouse gases as opposed to just penalizing those that do not do what they should;
- Produce more products in Canada to lessen imports from other countries which would result in less ocean tanker traffic;
- Engage with youth so that they can be involved and have a voice;
- Understand and address what stops people from taking action; and,
- Focus on the three biggest contributors to greenhouse gases: transportation, heating buildings, and food intake.

4.2 Corporate Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy 2020 Updates

Leya Behra, Manager, Climate Action, shared a presentation update of the City's Corporate Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy 2020.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Behra advised:

- The report to Council includes cost comparisons and notes that most immediate actions the City is implementing have a lower cost per tonne mitigated than the carbon cost; and,
- GHG reductions may not be the only benefit realized with climate action projects.

4.3 Biodiversity Strategy Update

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Senior Environmental Coordinator, advised of the biodiversity page on the City's website which includes an interactive map and the presentation from the September 16, 2020 virtual public engagement session. She encouraged Committee members who missed the session to visit the City's website to see the presentation, noting that it has been shared with both the Environment and Climate Action Task Force and the Facilities, Infrastructure, and Public Realm Task Force for their feedback. Ms. Lukianchuk announced that the next public

engagement session, anticipated to occur in early 2021, will include Indigenous participants.

Councillor Nakagawa advised that work is underway to identify the many Indigenous nations that have claims to New Westminster to ensure full inclusion in the future.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Postponed Motion from July 15, 2020 Meeting:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee encourage New Westminster City Council to set aggressive targets for GHG emissions to at least the recommended IPCC targets by 2030, and take the actions to move towards these targets.

Postponed.

Leya Behra, Manager, Climate Action, confirmed that the City is on target to meet the goals outlined in the proposed Motion.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Motion from Committee Member

Patrick Parkes, Community Member, presented the following Motion to Committee members for their consideration:

THAT the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee recommend that Council:

- a) Work to have air quality (i.e., fine particulate matter) monitors installed within the next two years at street level in a variety of New Westminster residential areas, including those along busy roads;*
- b) Publicize the readings on a monthly basis in a variety of locations including the City's website, digital signboards, and other local media; and,*
- c) Notify the public (monthly, in the same locations indicated in "b") of air pollution sources and health risks.*

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Senior Environmental Coordinator, advised:

- A link to the City's website was included in the Agenda Package that pointed to work that was done in the City by Metro Vancouver related to air quality. The study, that was completed by Metro Vancouver, resulted in the installation of a new regional monitoring station; and,

- Metro Vancouver has expressed interest in speaking with the Committee about work they are currently doing on air quality monitoring (near-road).

Councillor Nakagawa queried if the Committee would like to consider discussing the proposed Motion after receiving related information from Metro Vancouver.

Mr. Parkes advised of the following:

- Although air quality falls under Metro Vancouver, it does not preclude New Westminster from doing its own work on this urgent matter;
- The air quality station is too far from the road and is only in one area;
- Studies have shown that residing near busy roads is connected to neurological degenerative diseases;
- Air quality should be a consideration with respect to where residential developments are built;
- Detailed air quality information will enable home buyers to make more informed decisions; and,
- During the New Westminster Pier fire, his air quality reader showed a reading of 600 and a healthy air quality reading is 12.

Discussion ensued and Committee members provided the following comments:

- The Motion is appreciated; however, a more fulsome discussion of the Motion could occur after meeting with Metro Vancouver;
- This is an important issue that many residents care about; and,
- The Motion could be powerful and should also include education and engagement to show people what they can do to reduce their contribution to the air quality problem.

In response to a comment from a Committee member, Leya Behra, Manager, Climate Action, clarified that the company IQAir sells air quality monitors which people can use to share air quality readings in their neighbourhood and that the Metro Vancouver air quality reader is located in Sapperton.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Environment & Climate Advisory Committee recommends postponing further discussion and adoption of the Motion until after receiving a presentation from Metro Vancouver regarding air quality.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

7.1 Environment Coordinator's Update

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Senior Environmental Coordinator, announced the following events:

- The Glenbrook Ravine Fall Planting Restoration event to be held on Saturday, October 24, 2020 will see over 300 trees and shrubs planted where blackberry bushes have been removed;
- A Pop-Up Recycling event will take place this Saturday, October 24, 2020 at the Starlight Casino in Queensborough; and
- The City will be holding a Spooky Tree Sale with tree pick up on Saturday, October 31, 2020 in the north parking lot at Queen's Park from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Orders must be placed in advance through the City website.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. – Location details to be confirmed

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
COUNCILLOR NADINE NAKAGAWA
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
CARILYN COOK
COMMITTEE CLERK