



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EnCAC)

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192/2020 and the
current Order of the Provincial Health Officer - *Gatherings and Events***

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa	- Chair, City Council Member
Danison Buan	- Representative, Local Business Association
Karen Crosby	- Community Member
Colleen Gillespie	- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government or Non-Profit
Teresa Morton	- Representative, Local Environment Association
Patrick Parkes	- Community Member*
John Ragone	- Community Member
Raunaq Singh	- Community Member
Bryanna Thiel	- Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government or Non-Profit

REGRETS:

Meesh Bono	- Community Member
John Lekakis	- Representative, Local Institution (SD40)

GUESTS:

Jeremy Murphy	- Sustainability Solutions Group
Terry Sidhu	- Sustainability Solutions Group
Kianna Bonnick	- Sustainability Solutions Group

STAFF PRESENT:

Jennifer Lukianchuk	- Senior Environmental Coordinator*
Ryan Coleman	- Project Coordinator
Steven Faltas	- Business Process Manager, Electrical Operations
Sadaf Ghalib	- Senior Climate Action Planner
Nayel Halim	- Community Energy and Emissions Specialist
Benjamin John	- Corporate Energy and Emissions Specialist
Erika Mashig	- Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction
Lynn Roxburgh Action Team	- Acting Supervisor, Land use Planning and Climate
Nicole Ludwig	- Assistant City Clerk*
Katie Stobbart	- Committee Clerk*

* Present in the meeting room.

The meeting convened at 5:04 p.m.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Icebreaker Question

Committee members and staff responded in turn to the icebreaker question, “What is your favourite end-of-summer treat?”

1.2 Climate Action Division Introductions

Lynn Roxburgh, Acting Supervisor, Land Use Planning and Climate Action Team, provided an introduction of the new roles in the Climate Action Division:

- Ms. Roxburgh is now Acting Supervisor of the Climate Action Team;
- Sadaf Ghalib is the new Senior Climate Action Planner;
- Nayel Halim is the Community Energy and Emissions Specialist; and
- Benjamin John is the Corporate Energy and Emissions Specialist.

2.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the September 15, 2021 Environment and Climate Advisory Committee meeting be adopted, with the addition of item 7.1: Environmental Coordinator Update.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of July 14, 2021

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the July 14, 2021 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 Community Energy and Emissions Plan 2030 Update

Terry Sidhu and Jeremy Murphy, Sustainability Solutions Group (SSG), provided a presentation on the Community Energy and Emissions Plan 2030.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Sidhu and Mr. Murphy provided the following comments:

- Under the global protocol for greenhouse gas emissions SSG uses, wood emissions equal zero; however, using wood as a fuel source is not recommended as it takes many years to grow and is consumed very quickly; and,
- The federal mandate to discontinue the sale of gas-powered cars does not currently include heavier vehicles used for commercial trips, but would include lighter vehicles such as delivery trucks.

The Committee provided the following comments on the presentation:

- Several car manufacturers are taking the lead in divesting from fossil fuel engines ahead of the 2035 federal target. It is hoped that people will follow suit; and,
- If someone's gas furnace breaks down, they should be required to convert to a renewable energy system.

The Committee was encouraged to send any further questions to Nayel Halim, Community Energy and Emissions Specialist, Climate Action.

4.2 2020 Corporate Energy and Emissions Update

Benjamin John, Corporate Energy and Emissions Specialist, presented on 2020 Corporate Energy and Emissions.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. John advised that is difficult to say at this point how 2021 emissions will compare to 2020 as there are a number of factors that may be impacted as people return to the workplace.

4.3 Biodiversity Strategy & Key Feedback from Tsleil-Waututh Nation

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Senior Environmental Coordinator, presented on the City's biodiversity strategy and key feedback from Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Lukianchuk noted that the City offered compensation to give feedback on the biodiversity strategy, and only Tsleil-Waututh Nation had the capacity to do so.

The Committee made the following comments on the presentation:

- A good example of net environmental gain is the City’s tree-planting program, which has also been a great way for people from lower-income neighbourhoods to access nature;
- The Urban Farming motion passed at the August 30, 2021 City Council meeting is a good opportunity for net environmental gain as well; however, including residential or developmental green space is a challenge as owners may choose hardscaping for less maintenance; and,
- While exploring the idea of co-managing land with local First Nations, the City should obtain clear legal guidance to navigate the realities of land claims against the Province and Canada.

Ms. Lukianchuk reviewed the next steps, which include integrating Committee feedback, awaiting further input from Tsleil-Waututh Nation in response to City responses, and updating the strategy before presenting to Council.

4.4 Energy Save New West: Program Enhancements & Awareness

Procedural Note: The Energy Save New West presentation was deferred to the next meeting.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Electrical Utility Update

Steven Faltas, Business Process Manager, Electrical Operations, provided the following updates:

- The City is proceeding with a full replacement of its aging metering infrastructure (approximately 37,000 meters) with advanced meter infrastructure. The Request for Proposals is being finalized with a target to supply and install the new meters by the end of September or early October;
- A new, third substation will be completed in November 2022, which will add 50 megawatts to the City’s capacity and prevent running out of capacity to serve new businesses and residents of New Westminster; and
- The District Energy project, located across from Royal Columbian Hospital and directly above Metro Vancouver’s sewer trunk, will extract the heat from the sewage, and put it back into the sewer trunk further downstream. This will provide heat and hot water to the immediate area as well as a second loop servicing the Braid Street area. This will offset greenhouse gas emissions by using a renewable energy source.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Faltas noted that the new substation will be located at 886 Boyd Street, which was chosen because of its proximity to BC Hydro's transmission lines at 856 Boyd Street.

6.2 Government of Canada 2 Billion Trees Commitment and the Urban Forest Management Strategy Tree Planting Plan

Karen Crosby, Community Member, advised that New Westminster may qualify for funding from the Government of Canada 2 Billion Trees Program.

Nadine Nakagawa, City Council Member, will contact the Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs for more information on the City's eligibility and approach.

6.3 Outcome of Streets for People and Cool Streets Pilot Projects

Karen Crosby, Community Member, inquired whether there was any evaluation of the Streets for People and Cool Streets pilot projects.

Councillor Nakagawa advised:

- The City received significant, mixed feedback on the projects; and
- Staff may be able to share the public engagement findings.

7.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

7.1 Environmental Coordinator Update

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Senior Environmental Coordinator, updated the Committee on two environmental bans and Ministerial Orders:

- On October 9, 2020 the City passed a motion to ban the use of rodenticides on city properties in favour of traps, and on July 21, 2021 the Minister of the Environment banned the use of anti-coagulant rodenticides for an 18-month period, pending scientific review and consultation with Indigenous Nations, governments, etc.; and
- Spurred by a letter from Council and a few other municipalities, Metro Vancouver is currently developing a recommended standard approach for single-use item reduction in the region.

In response to requests from the Committee, Ms. Lukianchuk will send further information about the ban on single-use items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa
Chair

Original Signed

Katie Stobbart
Committee Clerk