



**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Open to public attendance in Committee Room G
Lower Level, City Hall
Committee members may attend electronically**

PRESENT

Councillor Tasha Henderson	Chair
Nazli Azimikor	Community Member
Ryan Bardini	Community Member
Danison Buan*	Alternate Chair; Representative, Local Business Association
Karen Crosby	Community Member
Elsie Krebs	Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government, or Non-Profit
Alvin Kube*	Representative, Indigenous Community
John Lekakis*	Representative, Local Institution
Teresa Morton*	Representative, Local Environment Organization
Katie Stobbart	Committee Clerk

REGRETS

Colleen Gillespie	Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government, or Non-Profit
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*Denotes virtual attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Tasha Henderson opened the meeting at 5:01 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminister is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. She acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. She recognized that,

as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND ICEBREAKERS

The Committee began with a round of introductions, responding to the icebreaker question, “What is something you like to do with your family?”

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of November 16, 2022

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the November 16, 2022 Environment and Climate Advisory Committee be adopted with the following correction:

- On page 4, “plan 2,000 caliper size trees” should read “plant 2,000 caliper size trees.”

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Upcoming Changes to the Building Code

Leya Behra, Manager, Climate Action, and Penny Page-Brittin, Community Energy and Emissions Specialist, provided a presentation entitled “BC Building Code Updates – Carbon Pollution Standards.”

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Behra and Ms. Page-Brittin advised:

- It is unclear exactly when the proposed Carbon Pollution Standard will be enforceable, but staff will receive clarity soon. There is a

grace period to allow municipalities who need more time to make adjustments to do so;

- There are currently no known incentives at the Federal or Provincial level to encourage municipalities to aim higher than the standard;
- With the new updated baseline requirements of the building code, there is no shock to the New Westminster builder community, as the City has been working with them to prepare them for it;
- The building code applies to new construction—there is work being done at the provincial level on the code for retrofitting;
- The ability to incentivize the Low Carbon Energy System is available to us;
- The new step for part 3 buildings is step 2, and New West is already at step 3;
- There is some challenge with the builder community in terms of cost of development, knowledge, and materials.

The Committee had the following comments arising from discussion:

- The Committee expressed concerns about the use of renewable natural gas and a desire to reduce reliance on renewable natural gas; and
- Appreciate the work that is going into making the Energy Step Code acceleration for single detached dwellings with a step down Low Carbon Energy System option happen.

5.2 Energy Save New West Annual Update

Ryan Coleman, Program Coordinator, Energy Save New West, provided a presentation entitled “Energy Save New West: Program Update.”

Procedural Note: Teresa Morton left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Coleman advised:

- There are 34,000 utility accounts, both commercial and residential, in New Westminster;
- 1,200 people receiving a newsletter in a community our size is not bad, and the City does look at other ways to engage the community beyond the newsletter and existing programs, including social media, spring and fall campaigns to all homes, etc.;
- Regarding contractors, the province has been moving to try to make sure people who are installing heat pumps have appropriate

training and qualifications to do so, for greater consumer protection and confidence;

- Air-to-water heat pumps are more readily available and yet very much in their infancy in the market, so there are few contractors able to do that kind of work. There are efforts underway to train contractors to do this.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There were no items.

7. STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES

7.1 Environment Coordinator's Update

Procedural Note: This item was addressed before item 5.2. The minutes are recorded in numerical order.

Meghan Doyle, Environment Coordinator, provided a verbal update, noting that Recycle BC requested that the City update its contamination remediation plan, which has been submitted.

In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Doyle advised that the City has not been asked yet to do a contamination remediation for multi-family dwellings as New Westminster's contamination rate in multi-family dwellings is lower than for single-family dwellings.

The committee had the following comments:

- One committee member received a contamination notice and found it helpful and informative;
- There may be some push-and-pull when it comes to fines, as there is a potential for contaminants to be put in the recycling by people walking by the alleyway, etc.; and
- Corporations should be held accountable for coming up with more sustainable, non-plastic products.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

9. END OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6:56 p.m.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next scheduled meeting is to be determined.