

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE TASK FORCE MINUTES

**Monday, June 13, 2022
Meeting Held Electronically**

PRESENT:

Mayor Jonathan Cote, Chair
Councillor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

STAFF:

Emilie Adin, Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development
Rod Carle, General Manager, Electrical Utility
Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering Services
Lynn Roxburgh, Acting Supervisor of Land Use Planning and Climate Action
Harji Varn, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Finance
Nayal Halim, Community Energy and Emissions Specialist, Climate Action
Meredith Seeton, Policy Planner, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Corrinne Garrett, Senior Manager Recreation Facilities and Programs
Kwaku Agyare-Manu, Senior Manager, Engineering Services

ABSENT:

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administration Officer
Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation
Denise Tambellini, Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Cote opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No Items.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Environment and Climate Task Force meeting held on April 4, 2022 be adopted.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Staff and guest reports and presentations for information, discussion, and/or action

4.1 Community and Energy Emissions Plan (CEEP) Update

Nayel Halim, Community Energy and Emissions Specialist, Climate Action, gave a presentation highlighting:

- Progress Update
- Engagement Summary and Feedback
- CEEP Draft Structure
- Next Steps

Discussion continued on:

- Task Force support for the following:
 - staff targeting Fall 2022 for Council adoption of CEEP
 - community consultation Summer 2022
 - a special Environment and Climate Task Force meeting in July 2022 if required
- Adding “Part 3” referencing equity to the Draft CEEP structure
- The importance of emphasizing transportation and buildings as key action areas since they contribute the biggest sources of emissions.
- Plan to connect with the Electrical Utilities Commission

Direction/Action:

1. Provide a brief pre-draft to Task Force members for review/comment prior to community engagement

2. Present draft plan to Council (provide short report to Council if draft is not ready)
3. Summer consultation
4. Bring draft actions to the Electrical Utilities Commission for discussion

4.2 Proposed Energy Step Code Acceleration Update

Nayel Halim, Community Energy and Emissions Specialist, Climate Action, gave a presentation highlighting:

- Environment and Climate Advisory Committee Motion –proposed Energy Step Code Acceleration
- New Westminster's Step Code Requirements
- Proposed Step Code Requirements
- Considerations and Next Steps

Discussion continued on:

- Task Force support for accelerating Energy Step Code for single detached dwellings in 2023
- Feasibility to accelerate composition of renewable natural gas fast enough to meet provincial and federal climate action targets
- In response to a question from a Task Force member regarding low carbon energy system measures including cooking appliances, N. Halim responded yes, the measures encompass everything utilizing natural gas
- In response to a question from a Task Force member inquiring how to ensure the step codes will be adhered to, N. Halim responded that this connects to the building code that are anticipated to come into effect next year. The carbon metric incorporated will essentially give the municipality the ability to no longer allow natural gas connections for new construction
- In response to a question from a Task Force member on whether the building industry is ready/will this step code create significant delays in housing, N. Halim responded that housing affordability is a key consideration. The City of New Westminster will be presenting a 2 option framework providing step code options to builders to ensure there are no major delays in constructing housing. The City is also waiting for the Province's costing analysis report for review and to be included in further research. The incentive rich environment that supports building electrification has helped to minimize costs for

builders that build to the lower step option (with low carbon energy system)

- Implementation of requirements, build staff capacity, internal process and protocol –follow CEEP recommendations and adoption to stay on track for 2025-2030
- Alignment with other municipalities
- Keeping communications open with natural gas providers
- Engagement with stakeholders and builders
- Tracking metrics
- Review of Utilities Commission updates

Direction/Action:

1. Review recent discussion and action taken by the Electrical Utilities Commission

5. NEW BUSINESS

No Items.

6. END OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 2:01 p.m.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Remaining scheduled meetings for 2022, which take place at 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- November 21 **at 9:00 a.m. - Cancelled**

Original Signed

MAYOR COTE
CHAIR

Original Signed

MERSIHA BESIC
RECORDING SECRETARY