

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EnCAC)

**Wednesday, July 15, 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

MEMBERS REGRETS:

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
Ryan Coleman	- Project Coordinator, Energy Save New West
Nayel Halim	- Community Energy & Emissions Specialist
Jennifer Lukianchuk	- Senior Environmental Coordinator
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

1.0 HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Online Introductions

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, welcomed Committee members to the meeting and briefly outlined how to use the online meeting functions.

In response to Councillor Nakagawa’s icebreaker question, “What neighbourhood do you live in and why is it the best?”, Committee members shared the reasons why they enjoy living in their respective neighbourhoods.

2.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the July 15, 2020 Environment and Climate Advisory Committee meeting be adopted with the following addition:

7.2 Update on Committee motion from May 2020 meeting

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

Councillor Nakagawa acknowledged some questions that had been sent in by New Westminster Environmental Partners (NWEPP) and noted that it would be best if NWEPP formally sent these in to Mayor and Council in order to receive a formal response in writing that could be easily tracked and communicated.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of May 27, 2020

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the May 27, 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 Community Energy Emissions Plan – Buildings

Leya Behra, Climate Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation addressing the 3rd Bold Step: Carbon Free Homes and Buildings, including the following information:

- Recently compiled information about community emissions;
- Actions and strategies for reducing energy demand, increasing conservation and improving efficiency; and,
- City programs promoting and supporting community emission reduction goals.

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

- The BC Hydro 4Rs of Sustainable Community Energy Planning pyramid (as referenced in the presentation) applies to both business and residential buildings;
- A 15% reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 was the original target of the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP); however, due to the aims of the 7 Bold Steps, future direction would likely be more aggressive, and this would be determined within the CEEP refresh;
- Residents may access solar energy through the City's connection policy for renewable energy on houses and buildings, as well as the City's solar garden strategy; and,
- The Province of BC's target to reduce GHG emissions is 40% by 2030.

Committee members provided the following comments:

- Fuel switching will be important in the coming years and a newer CEEP report with updated targets would be useful; and,
- Reconciling high-density design, the provision of private outdoor spaces, and energy efficiency may become increasingly important considerations for the future, particularly as the pandemic evolves.

4.2 Energy Save New West – Program Discussion

Ryan Coleman, Program Coordinator, Energy Save New West, provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing information about the current Energy Save New West (ESNW) programs, and upcoming new initiatives.

Committee members noted the following comments in relation to the questions asked in the above-noted presentation:

Question: Do you think a neighbourhood level approach of engagement could work in New Westminster? What are your thoughts on recruiting a suitable house/participants?

- A neighbourhood level approach to engagement is an excellent idea and would likely work well in New Westminster;
- A video may be a successful tool for communicating the relevant messages to a broader audience, and would be useful for people to access at a later time, for further information;
- Case studies are helpful in understanding the program, and would be beneficial to expand upon, particularly on the subject of solar panels; and,
- More information and success stories on energy and costs saving for various types of measures and within varying types of houses would be useful.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Coleman provided the following information:

- Performance targets within the Step Code are based on three components: mechanical systems, air tightness and building envelope, and various numbers are related to these in the Step Code;
- Within the City's High Performance New Homes program, if a homeowner installed a non fossil fuel system, they would be permitted to take a step down;
- It is quite common to see renewable energy panels installed when a house contains electrical based energy, as consumption is reduced significantly; and,
- More information on Step Code levels are available on the City's website.

Question: *What are your thoughts on a relaxation for Part 9 new homes from Energy Step Code 4 to 3 if a local applicant installed a qualifying low carbon energy system?*

- If the incentive is commercially viable for builders and there is no reduction in the quality of the home overall, then it would make sense to introduce an incentive to facilitate the adoption of low-carbon technologies; and,
- The idea of providing incentives such as greater square footage in order that energy efficiency is not sacrificed would likely be most effective and bring the greatest benefit.

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.

In response to a question from the Committee, Leya Behra, Manager, Climate Action, reported that the current IPCC target for GHG reductions is 45%; therefore, the City's strategy is aligned with the IPCC's target.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- The recommendations in the current IPCC report has been passed by Council already and an action plan is already in place to meet these targets;
- Concern that a reduction in GHGs by 40% is below the recommendation from scientists if reaching 0% by 2050 is to be achievable;
- It would be important to emphasize to Council how important the reduction of GHGs is, and that the City should strive for high targets and be aggressive in its actions;

- It would be important to ensure that the City's targets are continuously updated to align with or surpass recommended targets, despite any setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic, and also to ensure that the City's goals are realistic and achievable;

The Committee agreed to postpone consideration of the motion until the next regular meeting on October 21, 2020.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Selection of Community Grant Program Committee Representative

Jennifer Lukianchuk, Senior Environmental Coordinator, discussed the re-organization of the City's grant program, noting that the environment grant program was merged into the Community Livability and Social Equity grants portfolio, and noted that a representative from the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was needed to participate in the grants review process.

Ms. Lukianchuk provided information on the term of the appointment, the time commitment required, and the process by which the grant applications are reviewed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Meesh Bono be appointed as the Environment and Climate Advisory Representative to the Community Livability and Social Equity Grant Committee.

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, noted the following and announced the following events:

- Applications to the City's grant program will be open on Aug 5th, and two information sessions would be provided during the week of July 20th;
- Staff workshops are currently being held on the opportunities or constraints to enhancing biodiversity in the City.

- Further public input on the Biodiversity Strategy, including an interactive map and a stakeholder workshop, will be forthcoming. and more information will be sent to the Committee;
- The City is holding a Pop-up Recycling event on Saturday, July 18 at the Public Works Yard, where soft plastics and other flexible plastic packaging; glass and styrofoam will be accepted. More information is available on the City’s website;
- Public engagement on the City’s Covid-19 recovery efforts have recently begun, and a survey is available on the City’s website.

Heather Corbett, Committee Clerk, reported that the motion from the May 27, 2020 ENCAC meeting would be presented to Council later in the summer and staff would report back at the October meeting.

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, October 21, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. – Details to be confirmed

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

COUNCILLOR NADINE NAKAGAWA
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED

HEATHER CORBETT
COMMITTEE CLERK