



**AGENDA**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

**ELECTRONIC MEETING**

Location for public attendance:

Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC

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Pages

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

[Note: This meeting will be live streamed and video recorded for the public.]

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:**

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

**a. Minutes**

3 - 8

Minutes from the Environment Committee Meeting held electronically on Wednesday, 2021-DEC-01, at 5:00 p.m.

**5. PRESENTATIONS:**

**a. Staff Changes and Introductions**

To be introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development and First Nation Relations.

**b. REIMAGINE Nanaimo Draft Green Policies Review**

9 - 11

To be introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development and First Nation Relations.

*Purpose: To update and involve the Environment Committee in the ongoing REIMAGINE Nanaimo policy review process, with a specific focus on draft Green Policies section of the City Plan.*

Presentation:

1. Ting Pan, Manager of Sustainability.

Recommendation: That the Environment Committee review and provide feedback on the draft Green Policies.

6. DELEGATIONS:

7. REPORTS:

- a. **Proposed Development Permit Area 1 and 2 Guideline Amendments Continued from 2021-DEC-01** 12 - 21

To be introduced by Jeremy Holm, Director, Development Approvals.

*Purpose: To continue discussion on the proposed enhancements to the City's regulatory framework for watercourse protection to the Environment Committee for consideration and recommendation to Council.*

Presentation:

1. Kevin Brydges, Environmental Protection Officer.

Recommendation: That the Environment Committee recommend that Council support the proposed enhancements to the City's regulatory framework for watercourse protection.

- b. **2022 Environment Committee Work Plan** 22 - 26

To be introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development and First Nation Relations.

*Purpose: To provide the Environment Committee with a 2022 workplan for consideration and recommendation to Council.*

Recommendation: That the Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse the 2022 Environment Committee Workplan.

- c. **BC Government Roadmap to 2030 Overview**

To be introduced by Ting Pan, Manager of Sustainability.

*Purpose: To familiarize the Environment Committee with BC government's latest CleanBC plan "Roadmap to 2030" regarding new measures to meet BC's emissions reduction targets for 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.*

*Note: Document to be distributed on the addendum.*

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

9. QUESTION PERIOD:

10. ADJOURNMENT:

**MINUTES**  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
ELECTRONIC MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 2021-DEC-01, AT 5:00 P.M.

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Present: Councillor B. Geselbracht, Chair  
Councillor D. Bonner (disconnected 6:59 p.m.)  
E. Boulanger, At Large Member  
H. DesRoches, At Large Member  
L. Frey, At Large Member  
J. Lesemann, At Large Member (disconnected 7:18 p.m.)

Absent: D. Chen, At Large Member  
L. McCunn, At Large Member  
W. Wells, At Large Member

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer  
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services  
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works  
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals  
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning  
K. Brydges, Environmental Protection Officer  
K. Macdonald, Parks and Open Spaces Planner  
D. Stewart, Social Planner  
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer  
K. Gerard, Steno, Legislative Services  
A. Mac Coll, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Environment Meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes from the Environment Committee Meeting held virtually on Wednesday, 2021-OCT-20, at 5:05 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Geselbracht introduced Dave Stewart the new Environmental Planner to the Committee.

Dave spoke regarding his experience in environmental planning, education, and background.

4. REPORTS:

(a) REIMAGINE Nanaimo Policy Update and Review

Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner, provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- The Official Community Plan (OCP) is a land use document for the City of Nanaimo (the City)
- The policies within the OCP are structured around five value statements/goals which are the following:
  - a Green Nanaimo
  - a Healthy Nanaimo
  - a Connected Nanaimo
  - an Empowered Nanaimo
  - an Enabled Nanaimo
- City staff took 40 secondary documents that Council had already approved to elevate portions of the documents and put them into the new City plan which gives a higher level of corporate guidance
- New Development Permit Areas (DPA's) under consideration are Sea Level Rise, Coal Mine Hazard, and Wildfire Interface
- Enhanced new policies are to be added to the City plan around Greenhouse Gas reductions (GHG), reconciliation, contaminated sites, and partnerships

Duncan Cavens, C2MP Collaborative Planning and Design, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- The City has more aggressive GHG reduction targets than the Province of BC
- The majority of Nanaimo GHG emissions created by residents are from transportation and buildings with a small percentage from waste in landfills
- Province updated the Clean BC road map with policies that could create funding for local governments to reduce GHG emissions
- The City has a higher influence over Municipal Infrastructure for GHG emissions and low jurisdiction over residents vehicle choice and how they travel from point A to point B
- The entire City plan will support GHG reductions and show integration of all the goals/value statements

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- United Nations Climate Change Conference 26 (COP26) and the City plan
- Proposed wording in City policies to reduce GHG emissions to Net Zero by 2050 or to reach Climate Emergency target of 107% reduction by 2050
- Interim dates and goals to be added to the policies to complete the goal of 107% reduction
- Targets need to be clearly laid out in policies with deadlines to create action without having ambiguous language
- Realistic acknowledgment that there will be emissions that need to be offset by other means

- Interim targets to be referenced in the OCP, or in lower level documents with specifics in the supporting action plan

Duncan Cavens, C2MP Collaborative Planning and Design, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- The action plan could be reviewed for targets set on a three to five year basis
- Measuring the GHG emission targets for travel is costly and has a lower value to cost when completed yearly
- Data for kilometres per year could be provided by the Province of BC in the future
- Gathering information from ICBC for types of vehicles, fuel source, and percentages of electric vehicles registered in Nanaimo

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Target dates, reviewing emissions, and adding performance indicators
- Commitment to regularly review GHG emissions embedded in the policy statement of the OCP
- Adjust the measuring intervals of GHG emissions
- Stronger statements to be implemented in the policy action plan
- Moral obligations regarding societies who have benefited from industrialization to lower carbon emissions for societies who currently cannot reduce GHG emissions

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend that Council amend the Greenhouse Gas target policy statement to read: “That the City will leverage its available resources and authority to reduce carbon emissions beyond net Zero to reach climate emergency targets of 107% reduction by 2050 and actively advocate to senior levels of government for the necessary support to achieve this.” The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend that Council add a policy statement in the Official Community Plan to commit the City to a regular review cycle of Greenhouse Gas target performance indicators necessary to evaluate whether policy actions are having the desired effect. The motion carried unanimously.

Duncan Cavens, C2MP Collaborative Planning and Design, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- The City’s projected construction emissions are 11% for 2050
- The Province of BC has committed to Net Zero GHG emissions for construction by 2030
- Energy efficiency alone will not meet the City’s GHG emissions target of zero carbon by 2030

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Accelerating building step codes and timelines
- More aggressive language to be used for construction GHG emissions

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend that zero carbon and energy efficiency building design practices be accelerated for all new construction before 2030. The motion carried unanimously.

Duncan Cavens, C2MP Collaborative Planning and Design, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- Municipalities to acquire a moratorium on new natural gas connections by advocating to the Province of BC
- Creating a strong position with the Province of BC to ban the use of natural gas
- Clean BC roadmap states by 2030 all new heating and hot water equipment need to meet the highest standard for efficiency

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend that Council advocate to the Provincial government for a moratorium on all new natural gas connections. The motion carried unanimously.

Duncan Cavens, C2MP Collaborative Planning and Design, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- Currently 65% of the building stock in the City will still exist in 2050, and it makes up 39% of the GHG emissions in Nanaimo
- There is limited authority for municipal governments to mandate building stock
- Retrofit codes are to be mandated by the Province of BC when implemented
- The City currently tops up the Clean BC Incentive by \$200 for upgrading households to low carbon
- Collectively work towards reaching net zero emissions by 2050 for existing buildings in the City
- Heat pumps that are 300% efficient with low carbon emissions have comparable fees to natural gas
- Increase City incentives with targets, policy, and funds to eliminate oil heating by 2030

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Interim targets are critical to reaching City targets in the OCP
- Use other municipal government strategies and frameworks to realize the City's goals and achieve a higher uptake of retrofit
- Look into program designs for incentivizing retrofits, and review the program through a budgetary process

Duncan Cavens, C2MP Collaborative Planning and Design, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- Reducing business travel 29% per person by 2041 and prioritizing alternative transportation modes
- Look at the action plan for active transportation regarding underground parking versus surface level parking
- Less than 1% of vehicles in Nanaimo are electric

- Personal vehicles are 80% of the GHG emissions for transportation
- City policy currently states 100% of new developments must have parking pre wired for electric vehicles
- Propose all citizens have access to electric vehicle charging stations using Provincial grants to fund them, and strategizing where to place them
- The life-cycle of materials for GHG emissions in construction projects

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Electric vehicles are pivotal to reduce emissions from travel
- Low carbon non-single occupancy modes of transportation
- Creating more alternative transportation routes
- Timeline to construct primary active transportation routes by 2030
- Language in the action plan having results using “to do” rather than consider
- Shared bicycle networks in Nanaimo
- Creating strategies for better parking for electric bikes

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend that Council change the policy statement regarding Solid Waste to eliminate organic matter sent to landfill by 2030. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse the approach for policy development in regards to greenhouse gas reduction with the inclusion of stronger language. The motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Bonner disconnected from the Environment Committee meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Lisa Bhopalsingh Manager, Community Planning, advised the committee that they may not have time to review the action policy until after the Phase 3 of REIMAGINE Nanaimo process is launched. All prior feedback received will be included in the City plan for Phase 3, and additional feedback would be during the Phase 3 engagement process with draft policies provided to the Committee.

(b) Proposed Development Permit Area 1 and 2 Guideline Amendments

Kevin Brydges, Environmental Protection Officer, provided a summary report.

- Purpose is to outline watercourse protection and support enhancements for a recommendation to Council
- How principles and concepts integrate into the DPA process
- Incorporate improvements by February using different wording for the DPA's
- To ensure environmental protection, avoidance is key regarding new development/Greenfield development in environmentally sensitive areas
- Internal DPA review process is completed when it is unavoidable to develop near environmentally sensitive areas
- In practice the City reviews many factors where the site of building the environment of the site environment professional inputs and are not highlighted in the DPA guide line
- Including clear ideas so it is apparent which biological aspects have been looked at

- DPA 1 currently considers fish habitat only, but it can be improved with additional detailed assessments for ecological forms and functions with riparian set backs
- Encroachments are completed through the DPA process and the intent is to mitigate any impacts
- Current no net loss policy and revisions could be updated to include the net gain of functional habitat
- How can the City restore and increase the amount of functional habitat through the DPA process
- Definition of net gain and how to calculate net gain of a functional habitat
- Including standardized methodology for types and density of plants
- Adding requirements of a DPA to monitor and report post development effects of the development using industry professionals

J. Lesemann disconnected from the Environment Committee Meeting at 7:18 pm. and the meeting lost quorum.

General member discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Biological assessments, the determination of a functional habitat, and water bound assessments
- Watershed issues related to hydrology and water balance
- Hydrology of sites and considerations of the assessment of the riparian
- Square footage of permeable soil, biological activity drainage, and filtration

Kevin Brydges, Environmental Protection Officer, advised the Committee that:

- Hydrology and water balance are not currently included in the DPA process and it is challenging to measure
- Drainage and filtration are currently included in the DPA process
- Mechanisms are needed to be put in place if goals are not met
- Longer maintenance periods could be attached to applications as a requirement

6. QUESTION PERIOD:

There was no one in attendance to ask questions.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CORPORATE OFFICER






# REIMAGINE GREEN POLICIES


2022-JAN-26  
ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE

1

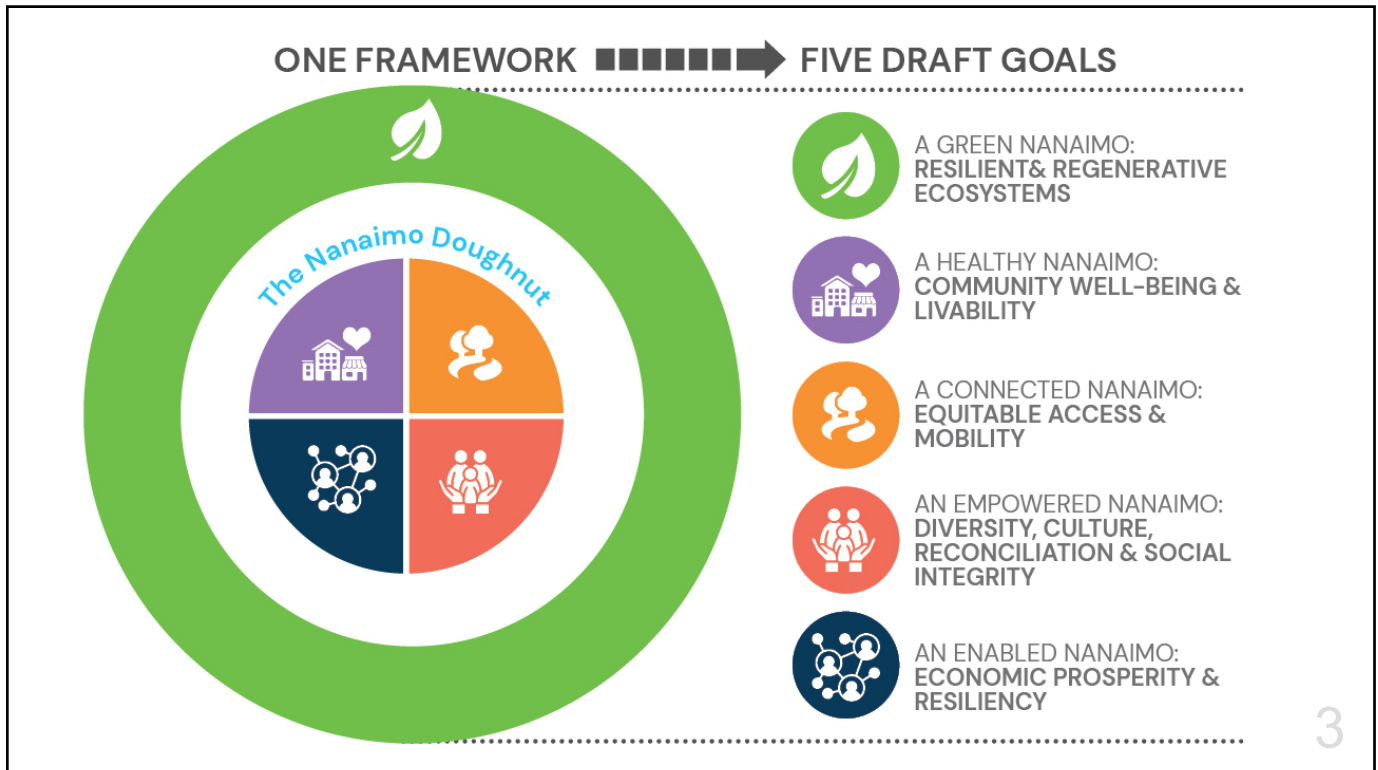
## Background



- Committee received 4 previous REIMAGINE presentations - focus on GHG policy (July and December 2021)
- Moving into Phase 3 - Developing Plans
- Includes new policy and policies from existing plans (Climate Sustainability Action Plan, Climate Change Resiliency Strategy)
- 5 draft goals - sustainability lens included in all goals
- Draft Green policies presented for Committee review







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## 7 Green Topics



-  Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction and Green Building
-  Climate Adaptation and Hazard Management
-  Urban Forest, Natural Areas and Greenways
-  Healthy Watersheds
-  Contaminated & Brownfield Sites
-  Green and Affordable Water, Sewer and Storm Water Services
-  Solid Waste Management



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## Key Questions



1. Overall, do the language and the policies in the draft Green Policies chapter adequately reflect the level of commitment Council and the community have towards environmental sustainability?
2. More specifically, what aspects of the current draft are of great value and should not be changed?
3. What aspects of the current draft or policies need further refinement or are missing?



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## Hay cep q'a Siem



DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 26, 2022

AUTHORED BY KEVIN BRYDGES, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER

**SUBJECT PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREA 1 AND 2 GUIDELINE AMENDMENTS**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To present proposed enhancements to the City's regulatory framework for watercourse protection to the Environment Committee for consideration and recommendation to Council.

### **Recommendation**

That the Environment Committee recommend that Council support the proposed enhancements to the City's regulatory framework for watercourse protection.

## **BACKGROUND**

During the Regular Council Meeting of 2020-NOV-16, Council passed the following resolution:

*That the City's regulatory framework for watercourses be revised as part of the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process in order to improve the protection of city watercourse riparian areas for the full range of the important environmental and community benefits they provide.*

At its meetings of 2021-OCT-20 and 2021-DEC-01, the Environment Committee received a presentation regarding the City's current regulatory framework for watercourse protection and potential enhancements to the current framework that have been identified through the Relmagine Nanaimo process.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff have reviewed the current Development Permit Area (DPA) 1 and 2 Guidelines, policies, practices and procedures; as well as legislation and guiding documents, such as the recently revised Green Bylaws Toolkit for Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure. Enhancements to the City's current watercourse regulatory framework that have been identified for the Committee's consideration and recommendation to Council. The proposed enhancements are summarized as follows and are presented in greater detail on Attachment A to this report:

1. Avoidance Prioritized:

Although avoidance of encroachment into watercourse setbacks is currently prioritized when development proposals are reviewed, it is not explicitly stated in the DPA Guidelines. It is proposed that this prioritized approach of DPA 1 and 2 avoidance as a priority will be clearly communicated in the updated DPA Guidelines. If encroachment into the DPA cannot be avoided then mitigation and/or compensation will be considered and trigger the need for a development permit.

2. DP Application Review:

If avoiding development within the DPA is not possible, a Development Permit (DP) will be required. When a DP application to reduce a bylaw setback requirement is received, an internal review process is initiated and takes many factors into consideration. Although this is currently in practice, this process and specific considerations are not reflected in the DPA Guidelines. It is proposed that this process and specific considerations be clearly defined within the DPA guidelines.

3. Biological Assessment:

Currently when considering a variance within DPA 1, only a Riparian Area Protection Regulation Detailed Assessment is required and only considers the potential impact on fish habitat. It is proposed that a biological assessment for DPA 1 include considerations of wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors, and ecological form and function in addition to the Detailed RAPR assessment.

4. Mitigation/Compensation:

Through the review of a DP application many factors are considered. One of which is the impact to the riparian area that a DP application is proposing be mitigated. Currently the DPA Guidelines reference a “no net loss” of habitat principle. It is proposed that this principle be changed to “net gain” of functional habitat. This change will require applicants to provide restoration that improves the form and function of the habitat.

5. Restoration:

Currently Staff rely on Qualified Environmental Professionals (QEP) to specify restoration and vegetation management plans to variable standards. It is proposed that detailed riparian restoration planting and maintenance standards be included in the DPA Guidelines.

6. Monitoring and Reporting:

Currently it is not required within most DPs that the QEP monitor the development and restoration and complete a post construction report. It is proposed, as DP Conditions, that the DPA Guidelines require QEP monitoring, a post development inspection, and reporting. By requiring monitoring and reporting, it will confirm that the conditions of the DP and the habitat net gain were met. This requirement also follows the Legislated Riparian Assessments in BC Professional Practice Guidelines.



Should the proposed enhancements to the City's regulatory framework for watercourse protection be supported, Staff will incorporate the details of the enhancements into the updated development permit area guidelines and prepare them for consideration through the ReImagine Nanaimo OCP update.

### **OPTIONS**

1. That the Environment Committee recommend that Council support the proposed enhancements to the City's regulatory framework for watercourse protection.
  - Advantages: By supporting the proposed enhancements to the City's regulatory framework for watercourse protection riparian protection will be improved.
  - Disadvantages of this option: None identified.
  - Financial Implications: None identified.
2. That the Environment Committee recommend that Council not support the proposed enhancements to the City's regulatory framework for watercourse protection.
  - Advantages of this option: Maintain the status quo which is an acceptable level of watercourse and riparian protection.
  - Disadvantages of this option: Will not improve the level of protection for watercourses and riparian.
  - Financial Implications: None.

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Proposed enhancements to the City's regulatory framework for watercourse protection are proposed to better protect the watercourses and their riparian areas within the City of Nanaimo.
- Should the proposed enhancements to the City's regulatory framework for watercourse protection be supported, Staff will incorporate the details of the enhancements into the updated development permit area guidelines and prepare them for consideration through the ReImagine Nanaimo OCP update.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: Development Permit Area (DPA) Guidelines |

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Brydges  
Environmental Protection Officer

**Concurrence by:**

Jeremy Holm  
Director, Development Approvals

Dale Lindsay  
General Manager  
Development Services/Deputy CAO

## ATTACHMENT A

### Development Permit Area (DPA) Guidelines

#	CURRENT	PROPOSED
1. Avoidance Prioritized		<p>Priority approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Avoid</li> <li>2. Mitigate</li> <li>3. Compensate</li> </ol>
2. DP Application Review		<p>Add wording to DPA Guidelines that identifies considerations and process for DPA to be approved.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development within DPA 1 and 2 will usually be considered only if historical subdivision or construction of structures has occurred before the designation of DPAs and if:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The DPA takes up so much of a pre-existing lot that it makes the lot undevelopable for the use permitted under its existing zoning; or</li> <li>b. Due to topographic, natural hazard, or other environmental constraints on the lot, there is no acceptable building site outside the DPA; and</li> <li>c. All opportunities to relax other development requirements (such as yard setbacks, minimum lot size, parking, etc.) have been exhausted.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. The onus lies with the applicant to demonstrate that encroaching into the DPA is necessary due to</li> </ol>



		<p>the above circumstances, in order to allow the use of a site as otherwise permitted under existing zoning.</p> <p>3. To determine whether a proposed development is inside the DPA, two things need to be done.</p> <p>a. Locate the DPA boundaries on the ground; on any given site, this means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Locating the watercourse or sensitive ecosystem relative to the property lines;</li> <li>ii. Locating the top-of-bank (for creeks, streams, and rivers) or the natural boundary (for wetlands, ponds, lakes, and terrestrial sensitive ecosystems); and</li> <li>iii. Measuring the applicable leave strip or distance from that top-of-bank or natural boundary (see Schedule [ ] of the Official Community Plan to determine if this distance is 15 or 30 meters).</li> </ul> <p>Unless all development activities will be clearly outside the DPA, these determinations usually need to be made by a B.C. Land Surveyor (BCLS). However, they can be incorporated into the BCLS-certified site plan that is a standard requirement of any development proposal.</p> <p>b. Locate the proposed development relative to the DPA boundaries; this means locating</p>
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		<p>where proposed structures will be built and where soil or vegetation will be disturbed for yards, driveways, patios, walkways, etc. relative to the DPA boundaries.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. In considering how much encroachment into a DPA should be allowed, the [local government] will weigh the applicant's need to encroach upon the watercourse leave strip or sensitive ecosystem against the potential impacts of the encroachment on the habitat.</li> <li>5. The applicant and [local government] will seek to vary other land use requirements under the Zoning Bylaw before, or where necessary along with, encroaching into the leave strip in order to minimize the encroachment. One or more of the following variances from existing Zoning Bylaw requirements may be applied: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Front and/or rear-yard setback reductions.</li> <li>b. Site coverage increased by up to 50% of maximum.</li> <li>c. Maximum height increased by up to 3 metres.</li> <li>d. Parking requirement reductions.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Retain mature vegetation wherever possible and incorporate it into the design of the project.</li> <li>7. Demonstrate that a diligent effort has been made in site design to:</li> </ol>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Preserve both the natural vegetation and tree cover; or</li> <li>b. Restore historical forest densities and grasslands habitat for conservation and fire hazard purposes.</li> </ul> <p>8. Incorporate wildlife and fish corridors to provide continuity between important habitats and leave areas.</p> <p>9. Link the DPAs and other sensitive ecosystems to develop a continuous network of ecosystems.</p>
<b>3. Biological Assessment</b>	Only Detailed RAPR required currently.	<p>Including wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors and ecological function in the biological assessment for DPA1 in addition to the Detailed RAPR assessment - there is concern that setbacks on fish bearing creeks could be less than setbacks on non-fish bearing (non RAPR) creeks if only RAPR is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An environmental impact assessment prepared by a qualified environmental professional that conforms with the [local government] Terms of Reference, including: a description of the existing conditions of the site and an analysis of any adverse impacts of the proposed work on the environment during and after the work, having regard to such matters as the location of and topography of the work site and surrounding area, and the effects on the stream corridor or waterfront, including effects on: water quality and quantity; hydrology; fisheries; wildlife, tree and vegetation</li> </ul>

		<p>inventory; soils; climate; land use; recreation; aesthetics; and, human interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that all adverse environmental impacts during and after the work and once in operation will be insignificant or mitigated to insignificant levels by the work methods, design, and mitigation measures that will be used or incorporated into the work.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Mitigation/ Compensation</b></p>	<p>Where a Riparian Leave Strip is determined in accordance with 2(b) above, its boundary will also be established with consideration for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City staff and the applicant have held a pre-application meeting and have reviewed and revised the development proposal as much as reasonably possible to avoid encroaching into the Riparian Leave Strip on the property;</li> <li>• There is no reduction in the quality of the fish and wildlife habitat provided by the Riparian Leave Strip;</li> <li>• Terrain stability is not compromised;</li> <li>• The principle of 'No Net Loss' will be followed;</li> <li>• Any new areas added to the Riparian Leave Strip to replace those removed are contiguous with the original Riparian Leave Strip and located as close to the watercourse as possible; and</li> </ul>	<p>Where a Riparian Leave Strip is determined in accordance with 2(b) above, its boundary will also be established with consideration for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City staff and the applicant have held a pre-application meeting and have reviewed and revised the development proposal as much as reasonably possible to avoid encroaching into the Riparian Leave Strip on the property;</li> <li>• There is no reduction in the quality of the fish and wildlife habitat provided by the Riparian Leave Strip;</li> <li>• Terrain stability is not compromised;</li> <li>• The principle of "<b>net gain</b>" will be followed;</li> <li>• Any new areas added to the Riparian Leave Strip to replace those removed are contiguous with the original Riparian Leave Strip and located as close to the watercourse as possible; and</li> <li>• The developer shall retain a QEP to ensure measures recommended through a RAR detailed assessment and any additional</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developer shall retain a QEP to ensure measures recommended through a RAR detailed assessment and any additional development approval information requirements are implemented as recommended.</li> </ul>	development approval information requirements are implemented as recommended.
<b>5. Restoration</b>	Rely on QEP to specify restoration and vegetation management plans to variable standards.	<p>Include detailed riparian restoration standard requirements in the DPA Guidelines that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native plant species</li> <li>Plant densities</li> <li>Maintenance requirements</li> <li>Maintenance term</li> </ul>
<b>6. Monitoring and Reporting</b>	Currently it is not required within most DPs that the QEP monitor the development and complete a post construction report.	Require QEP monitoring, post development inspection and reporting as DP conditions and included in guidelines. By requiring the monitoring and reporting it will confirm that the conditions of the DP were met and that habitat net gain was met. This requirement also follows in the Legislated Riparian Assessments in BC Professional Practice Guidelines.

# Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING January 26, 2022

AUTHORED BY DAVID STEWART, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

SUBJECT 2022 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Environment Committee with a 2022 workplan for consideration and recommendation to Council.

### **Recommendation**

That the Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse the 2022 Environment Committee Workplan.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Nanaimo Environment Committee mandate includes items such as; offering innovative ideas, providing advice and information, options and recommendations to Council on climate change, green technology, energy efficiency, urban forestry, and other topics associated with environmental sustainability for the City of Nanaimo.

On 2021-JAN-27, the Environment Committee endorsed a 2021 workplan. The following summarizes the 2021 workplan items and actions taken that year:

Topic	Project Lead	Overview (as included on 2021 workplan)	2021 Actions Taken
<b>REIMAGINE Nanaimo:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doughnut Economics Environmental Indicators</li> <li>Phase 2 Environmental Policy Options</li> <li>Climate Action Plan Review and Update</li> </ul>	Community Planning	<p>The Environment Committee will be providing Staff with input and comment on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying Environmental Indicators to be used for developing the 'City Portrait' that will make up a framework for REIMAGINE Nanaimo</li> <li>Review and provide comment on environmental policy revisions that will be developed in Phase 2 of REIMAGINE Nanaimo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2021-JAN-27: reviewed list of environmental indicators to be included in REIMAGINE Nanaimo process</li> <li>2021-JUL-14: GHG emerging options discussion</li> <li>2021-OCT-20: Environmental Policies Update and discussion</li> <li>2021-DEC-01: GHG policy and goal setting</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff to provide an update on the implementation of the 2012 Community Sustainability Action Plan</li> <li>• Review and provide comment on the Climate Action Plan update</li> </ul>	
Solid Waste Education	Engineering and Public Works	Provide comment and input on City's waste reduction and diversion education program.	2021-MAY-12: Presentation on waste diversion and upcoming plastic bag ban. Bag ban implemented on 2021-JUL-01.
Step Code Acceleration Options Review	Development Approvals	Work with the local building community and local energy experts and report with options to accelerate implementation of the Energy Step Code.	Step Code Rezoning policy came into effect on 2021-JUN-29. The committee received a report on the BC Energy Step Code acceleration review. The 2022 draft work plan includes further Step Code acceleration and low carbon energy efforts.
Home Energy Retrofit Program	Development Approvals	Coordinate with the Regional District of Nanaimo to establish a regional Home Energy Building Retrofit Program.	The City currently offers a \$150 rebate to homeowners that complete a home energy assessment. An additional \$200 is available for follow-up energy improvements. The City will continue to work with the RDN and the Environment Committee in 2022 to further develop a home energy retrofit program.
Comprehensive Soils Bylaw	Development Engineering and Environmental Protection	Receive updates and provide input as the City completes a review and update of its Erosion and Sediment Control Bylaws.	No action taken. Moved to 2022 workplan.

In addition to the above, the Committee also received presentations and provided feedback on a regulatory framework for watercourse protection and the Water Supply Plan.

Of the 2021 workplan items, REIMAGINE Nanaimo, Step Code Acceleration, Home Energy Retrofit Program, and the Comprehensive Soils Bylaw have been carried forward into the proposed 2022 workplan. The Home Energy Retrofit program will be included as part of the

broader Community Mobilization on Sustainability work proposed for 2022 and Step Code Acceleration will be included within the Climate Leadership discussion.

## **DISCUSSION**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead Department</b>	<b>Overview</b>
REIMAGINE Nanaimo	Community Development	Continue to participate in the engagement process for REIMAGINE Nanaimo. Review proposed Sustainability and Climate Resiliency policies in the draft City Plan and Action Plan during Phase 3. Ensure an overall sustainability lens is applied to the integrated City Plan so that the document serves as the City's Sustainability and Climate Action plans.
Community Watershed Restoration Grant Program	Sustainability/ Finance/ Development Engineering and Environmental Protection / Parks, Recreation and Culture	On 2020-JUL-15, Council directed Staff to prepare a business case for an annual community watercourse restoration grant. On 2020-DEC-04 Council approved the business case and allocated funding of \$20,000/year to be used for a grant program available to community organizations, environmental non-profits or individual residents with approved environmental project ideas that educate the public or address environmental issues focusing on: urban stream and riparian restoration enhancement and/or climate change adaptation solutions. Committee to review grant and evaluation criteria for Council endorsement.
Community Mobilization on Sustainability	Sustainability	Provide input, feedback and ideas on initiatives (education, incentives etc.) that aim to mobilize the community (residents, business community and other organizations) to take effective sustainability actions to help achieve the City's priority sustainability goals.
Climate Leadership Projects	Sustainability	Provide input into initiatives, pilot projects, and activities the City could lead or participate in to show leadership in promoting energy efficiency, green technology, reducing GHG emissions, and adapting to a changing climate. This may include implementing BC Energy Step Code requirements and incentives to support low GHG energy systems.



Comprehensive Soils Bylaw	Development Engineering and Environmental Protection	Receive updates and provide input as the City completes a review and updates its draft of the proposed Comprehensive Soils Bylaw.
Management and Protection, and Trees Bylaw Review/Update	Development Engineering and Environmental Protection	Receive updates and provide input as the City completes a review and updates its Management and Protection, and Trees Bylaw.
Corporate Green Building and Energy Management	Facility Asset Planning	Review proposed changes to Green Building Policy and Energy Conservation and Management Policy (for City buildings and infrastructure) to reflect current initiatives, REIMAGINE policies, and Council direction. Review planned City building and infrastructure projects for energy conservation and GHG reduction.
Projects as referred by Council and/or Staff for Review and Input	Legislative Services	Review and provide input into existing and future projects and plans as directed.

The above workplan table provides a list of projects that fall within the mandate of the Environment Committee. Council may also approve the addition of other workplan items over the course of the year.

## **OPTIONS**

1. That the Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse the 2022 Environment Committee Workplan.
  - The advantages of this option: The recommended workplan options are consistent with prior Council direction including goals and policies in the existing 2008 Official Community Plan, 2020 Climate Resilience Strategy and the draft directions in the REIMAGINE City Plan Green Nanaimo Goal. Should Council approve this recommendation, the Environment Committee can proceed with immediate implementation of the workplan. This will help staff get faster guidance from the Committee on several workplan projects.
  - The disadvantages of this option: The proposed workplan is ambitious and some items may not actually be included on a 2022 committee agenda or be completed within the year.
  - Financial Implications: There are items on the workplan that will have financial implications if endorsed and implemented by Council. Other items are either ongoing projects that have already received Council approval, or Staff policy and regulatory updates that will be presented to Council for adoption at a future date.
2. That the Environment Committee recommend that Council does not endorse the 2022 Environment Committee Workplan.

- The advantages of this option: Would allow the Committee to make revisions to the workplan as presented.
- The disadvantages of this option: Progress on some of the listed initiatives/projects may be delayed. Review of additional workplan items or revisions may require further staff time.
- Financial Implications: None identified.

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Staff are providing the Environment Committee with a 2022 workplan for consideration and recommendation to Council.
- Over the course of the year, Council may add additional items to the workplan.
- The proposed workplan includes items carried over from the 2021 workplan and a number of new environmental projects proposed for 2022 that are consistent with the Committee's mandate.
- The workplan will inform the Committee's meeting agendas for 2022.

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