



**AGENDA**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 25, 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 - 9

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held electronically on  
Wednesday, 2022-MAR-30, at 5:01 p.m.

**5. PRESENTATIONS:**

**a. "Management and Protection of Trees Bylaw 2013 No. 7126" - Amendment Process**

10 - 11

Dean Mousseau, Manager, Development Engineering and Environment Protection, to provide the Environment Committee with a PowerPoint presentation regarding amendments to the "Management and Protection of Trees Bylaw 2013 No. 7126".

**b. Update re: Tree Voucher Program**

Dean Mousseau, Manager, Development Engineering and Environment Protection, to provide the Environment Committee with a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Tree Voucher Program.

**c. Circular Cities and Regions Initiative Project Update**

12 - 17

To be introduced by Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works.

Presentation:

1. Taaj Daliran, Manager, Sanitation, Recycling and Cemeteries, Jesse Eckert, Zero Waste Coordinator, and Amrit Manhas, Economic Development Officer.

**d. Update on Community Engagement and Outreach on Climate and Sustainability**

18 - 24

To be introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development.

Presentation:

1. Ting Pan, Manager, Sustainability, and Lisa Frey and Lindsay McCunn, Environment Committee Members.

**6. DELEGATIONS:**

**7. REPORTS:**

**a. Community Watershed Restoration Grant**

25 - 32

To be introduced by Ting Pan, Manager, Sustainability.

*Purpose: To provide the Environment Committee with Guidelines and Criteria for a Community Watershed Restoration Grant Program, for their consideration and recommendation to Council.*

Recommendation: That the Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse the Community Watershed Restoration Planning Grant Guidelines and Criteria as included in Attachment A to the 2022-MAY-25 report by David Stewart, Environmental Planner.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**a. Option to Return to In Person Meetings**

To be introduced by Sky Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer.

**9. QUESTION PERIOD:**

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MINUTES**  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
ELECTRONIC MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 2022-MAR-30, AT 5:01 P.M.

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Present: Councillor B. Geselbracht, Chair  
Councillor D. Bonner  
E. Boulanger, At Large Member  
H. DesRoches, At Large Member (joined electronically 5:10 p.m.)  
L. Frey, At Large Member  
J. Lesemann, At Large Member (vacated 6:24 p.m.)  
L. McCunn, At Large Member (vacated 7:05 p.m.)  
W. Wells, At Large Member

Absent: D. Chen, At Large Member

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer  
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture  
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works  
L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development  
T. Pan, Manager, Sustainability  
M. Elliott, Project Manager, Engineering  
D. Beck, Parks and Open Space Planner  
K. MacDonald, Park and Open Space Planner  
D. Stewart, Environmental Planner  
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer  
A. Mac Coll, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Environment Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:01 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 of the Special Environment Committee Meeting held electronically Wednesday, 2022-MAR-09 at 5:01 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) CleanBC Roadmap to 2030

Presentation:

1. Ting Pan, Manager Sustainability, provided a presentation. Highlights included:
  - The CleanBC plan was launched in 2018 and it was recognized this plan would only get three quarters of the way to the 2030 climate change targets set by the Province and this project is to close the gap
  - There are 8 pathways across BC's economy where the province can find solutions to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions
  - Examples of pathways that have mature technologies and a ready market are transportation and building sectors for reduction of GHG emissions
  - Pathways with the most impact on local governments are transportation, building, low-carbon energy and community
  - The Province has committed to stronger pricing on carbon pollution
  - New legislation is being developed to cap natural gas utility customers in BC which includes Fortis BC and Pacific Northern Gas
  - Zero carbon new buildings will have an impact on local governments as they are under municipal jurisdiction
  - The Province will provide increased funds to local governments for the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program to support local climate action plans
  - BC's transportation policy proposals align with the City of Nanaimo's (City) plan direction with focusing on land use and reducing residents necessity to drive
  - Go Electric program in BC and the "right to charge" legislation will support low and medium income residents
  - The BC building code and the BC energy step code focus on energy efficiency with the new standards focused toward reducing pollution
  - Local governments do not have a lot of tools to influence the existing housing market
  - The Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program will be created to help residents achieve energy efficiency and remove the barrier of upfront investments
  - PACE will create enabling legislation for local governments to aide residents through a property tax mechanism to reduce costs
  - The BC Roadmap to 2030 was developed with indigenous engagement and the policies are designed to support reconciliation outcomes

H. DesRoches joined the electronic meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The wording "near elimination" used by the Province and the City's ability to use similar language in the City Plan to strengthen it
- Language is important to reflect the community and Council's direction in the City Plan

- The *Local Government Act* is clear that land use has to be consistent with zoning but city plans do not tie local governments to completing all of the policies
- The baseline measurement for GHG emissions in BC are the 2007 levels, the pandemic raised GHG emissions
- 40% below the 2007 baseline is the target for 2030 with the Province using the Clean BC Roadmap to close the emissions gap
- Stopping and reducing coal powered energy is captured in the low carbon energy policies
- Lowering accepted imports of coal powered energy
- Numbers should be included in the City plan when discussing GHG reductions and emissions

(b) REIMAGINE Policy Review and Update

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development.

Presentation:

1. Ting Pan, Manager Sustainability, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Policy actions are hard to place in the City Plan as they might meet multiple objectives at once using the doughnut concept framework
- Policy actions will be referenced in each chapter by directing readers to where else it would be included in the City Plan
- Integrated Policy Areas (IPA) are noted at the bottom of each chapter to show related policies
- Some actions designated in a Connected Nanaimo support emission reductions in the transportation section, so it is referenced in the IPA to show the relationship between both
- Staff have added an extra layer of communication for the community by using visual layers and representation to be accessible in an intuitive way
- Staff are encouraging feedback and opinion from residents and ask that Committee members share the link with their networks
- Phase 3 Draft City Plan Review survey closes April 8, 2022 and public engagement will end
- Staff are encouraging feedback and opinions from residents and asked Committee members to share the survey with their networks
- The special public hearing has to be determined by Council, and Staff are aiming for Council to adopt the plan in July
- The public can formally submit their opinion to Council at the special public hearing
- Staff are aiming for 500 participants for the statistically valid survey for the Phase 3 Draft City Plan Review

Committee and Staff discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Engagement was completed with neighbourhood associations

- Staff have been using distribution lists for contacting service clubs, Lions, Rotaries, Newcomers Club and others in Nanaimo and have also presented in person to receive feedback
- Vancouver Island University and School District 68 (SD68) received presentations in some classes about REIMAGINE NANAIMO

Committee and Staff discussion took place on feedback received regarding the Phase 3 Draft Plan structure. Highlights included:

- Wording of policies in the Plan should be edited to clarify policies and actions
- Many policy statements in the Plan contain actions or can be considered actions
- The aim of the policy and its intention could become a structural error in the plan if it is not clearly defined
- Supreme court of Canada has a current case that could have policy implications for municipalities
- Overarching goals are set by Council based on doughnut economics, desired outcomes (objectives), and strategies (policies)
- Policies that may seem like an action are broad in their direction and specific actions would be listed in the action plan
- Staff hosted a target and indicators workshop for Committee members in 2021 to frame and monitor success in meeting the Plan's goals
- The Draft City Plan Phase 3 is currently with the solicitor for review as it must meet a number of tests
- Staff will be doing an overall edit of the entire document using verbatim comments from the steering committee
- Staff will present policies and actions to Council who have the ability to prioritize actions in the plan as they review each year
- Every action should be tied back to a policy
- The strategic document is adopted by bylaw with the actions separated out from it, allowing Council to pivot easily instead of changing the bylaw each year
- The integration of a City plan of this magnitude is likely the first time it has been attempted in Canada
- Language used by each department can have different meanings or definitions based on the use in their department

J. Lesemann disconnected from the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

By unanimous consent, the Environment Committee agreed to move Agenda Item 5(d) Community Engagement and Outreach on Climate and Sustainability to precede Agenda Item 5(C) Public Engagement Summary and Phased Concept Plan for Westwood Lake Park Amenity Improvement Implementation.

(c) Community Engagement and Outreach on Climate and Sustainability

Introduced by Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development.

Presentation:

1. Ting Pan, Manager, Sustainability, provided a presentation. Highlights included:
  - Engagement is important for the Draft City Plan to achieve and meet the City's goals
  - Canada project supports climate and sustainability projects with federal funding to support local governments initiatives through the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
  - Agents of change is a program under ICLEI to support local volunteer programs for climate change mitigation
  - The City has partnered with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and has submitted a successful application
  - 6 volunteer organizations in Nanaimo are in support of this application with the project to continue until 2023
  - Cool it! Program will create the opportunity for climate education workshops in Nanaimo for grades 4-7 and grades 8-12 with a contest for an incentive
  - Ecohack is an Earth Day Canada program that runs Earth Day celebrations as well as unique initiatives like public panel events and leadership training
  - Engagement ideas were requested from each member on how to engage the community on environmental sustainability

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- SD68 has an environmentally focused committee meeting where programs and initiatives could be discussed
- SD68 has a full-time learning coordinator that has an environmental piece in their portfolio, and they could be invited to a meeting with City staff
- Collecting empirical data on the families and children in the Cool it! Program to see if there is statistical change to measure behaviour
- BC Sustainable Energy Association has estimates on their expectations of lower GHG emissions from the program
- The Rotary Club cleans up the City on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of each month with a large Clean-up event on April 23, 2022
- The City could have someone do a social media take over of the City of Nanaimo social accounts showing effective environmental changes that are low barrier, easy to do and accessible
- The City could have a contest for residents to reward good environmental behaviours to provide an incentive
- Asset management must be done with resiliency and climate change in mind
- The power of visual communicative arts and visual signs make it easy and accessible for people to see the impacts of climate change in the community
- Personalizing stories so that residents can relate to them and relate to climate change

- Bringing awareness to how messages are framed and using the guidance of social psychology when speaking about climate change, literature can be provided

(d) Public Engagement Summary and Phased Concept Plan for Westwood Lake Park Amenity Improvement Implementation

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.  
Highlights included:

- Westwood Lake Park has not been updated since the 1950's and is a popular recreation area for many user groups
- The proposed beach enhancement will bring the cars farther away from the beach front and enhance the trail around the beach
- An engagement update was undertaken from summer 2020 until fall 2021
- 600 responses were received through the engagement
- Feedback and outreach was also received through REIMAGINE phase 1
- Current design impacts 36 trees and only 1 significant tree with Staff planting trees in a 4 to 1 ratio
- Parking in the concept plan is in the already disturbed areas of the park and will increase the total stalls to 95
- The ability to encourage buses to use the loop at Westwood Lake by creating a larger area for the bus to drop off and turn around

L. McCunn disconnected from the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

- Permeable parking areas, although environmentally friendly, won't allow Staff to plow in a timely manner due to the surface type
- Not putting any lights at the park and keeping with the dark skies goals in the REIMAGINE NANAIMO City Plan
- The conduit for the bathroom will purposefully not have lights to encourage the park to be shut down at dark creating a dawn to dusk park area
- The Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI) has reviewed different accessibility stall formats as well as updating the ramps for access into the water to meet all abilities in the community
- Phase two of the Westwood Lake update will address beachfront and how to add more vegetation as well as a new bathroom featuring environmental attributes when built, such as a green roof
- This project will be the first to use the REIMAGINE NANAIMO's process
- Designs for Phase two will be completed in the spring or summer of 2022

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Council has asked Staff to show how each new project going forward fits into the REIMAGINE Plan
- Consideration of adding glow stones on the pathways at the park
- Invasive plant canisters along the trail for residents to help remove invasive plants from the trail



5. QUESTION PERIOD:

There were no members of the public in attendance to ask questions.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 7:14 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

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

## Management & Protection of Trees Bylaw 2013 No. 7126 – Amendment Process

- Stage 1 – “Housekeeping” Amendments (In-Progress)
  - Provide clarity and address known issues / inconsistency
  - Improve administrative efficiency
- Stage 2 – Comprehensive Amendments (Scheduled Q4 2022 / Q1 2023)
  - To be informed by Benchmarking Study
  - Requires Stakeholder consultation
  - Ensure bylaw alignment with Community expectations

## Tree Voucher Program

- First introduced at Earth Day 2017
- Available to Nanaimo residents only
- Funded by cash-in-lieu contributions from developer's and fines from bylaw enforcement
- 1,610 Vouchers sold between 2017 and start of COVID-19
- Non-Contact electronic application / redemption process introduced September 2020 and 141 Vouchers sold
- 1,339 Vouchers sold in 2021
- 516 Voucher applications received as of April 30, 2022
- Over 3,500 Vouchers provided since program inception

## Tree Voucher Program Continued

- Vouchers currently worth \$90; however, average redemption cost ranges between \$38 and \$90 (Average per April 2022 invoice = \$55.62)
- Redemption exclusively at Green Thumb Garden Centre since introduction
- Currently soliciting interest from other garden centres to increase opportunities for residents to purchase from their preferred garden centre

# Circular Cities and Regions Initiative Project Update

(March 2021 to April 2022)

Taaj Daliran, Manager, Sanitation, Recycling & Cemeteries  
Jesse Eckert, Zero Waste Coordinator

## What is the Circular Economy?

September 2021 – Council passed a motion requesting the development of a Zero Waste and Circular Economy Strategy...why do we need one and what could this look like ?



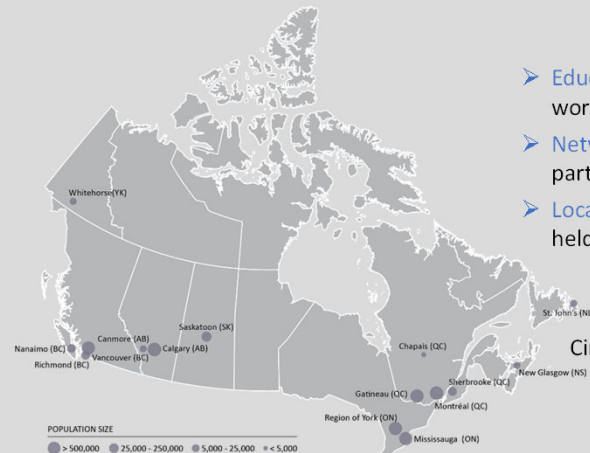
## Brief Summary of CCRI



**Purpose** - advance knowledge sharing and capacity building on circular economic principles among local governments in Canada

### HOW?

- **Education** - City/RDN participated in workshops and webinars
- **Network** - 14 other municipalities participated
- **Local Focus** - 2 half-day workshops were held with City/RDN



Circular Economy "Roadmap" created

## Examples of workshops and webinars that were held:

2021-MAR-18	Webinar: Advancing Circular Economy in Canadian Cities
2021-JUN-09	CCRI kickoff P2P network meeting
2021-JUN-15 and 2021-JUL-15	Webinar: Building Your Local Government's Circular Economy Strategy
2021-OCT-06	Webinar: Circular Economy Measurements in Cities and Regions
2021-OCT-07	Workshop: The changing conversation - how to go from measuring solid waste to a much broader, more holistic conversation on circular economy measurement and evaluation.
2021-NOV-04	Workshop: Strategies and Tactics to Support Your Local Business Community
2021-NOV-18	Workshop: Circular Economy Citizen Support
2022-JAN-20	Workshop: City and RDN – roadmap development
2022-JAN-27	Workshop: City-led CE Strategies and Approaches For The Built Environment
2022-MAR-10	Workshop: Circular Procurement
2022-MAY-05	Webinar: Exploring Circularity in Canadian Communities

## CCRI Roadmap has 2 focus areas



### **BUILT ENVIRONMENT:**

- Set a strong strategic direction in planning documents
- Incentivize circular business practices within the construction industry
- Prioritize land development in proximity to established transportation & transit corridors

### **INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION :**

- Promote awareness and a circular economy brand for Nanaimo
- Explore opportunities to support circular innovation
- Create policies that facilitate the circular economy

*\*Roadmap was created by Dillon Consulting with input from select Staff/Council\**

## Next Steps



1. Several policies that support the Roadmap recommendations have already been incorporated into the draft City Plan
2. Review of Roadmap recommendations to identify priority actions for inclusion in the Integrated Action Plan
3. Share Roadmap with Staff that participated in the workshops
4. Continue collaboration with the RDN
5. Consider establishing a multiyear Circular Economy Working Group to manage the Roadmap, identify responsibility for actions, and develop next steps
6. Collaborate with the RDN to hold additional workshops to expand on other highlighted areas of interest

*Thank you!*

Questions?

## **Circular Economy Accelerator Project Update**

Amrit Manhas, Economic Development Officer

## Circular Economy Accelerator Project



**What:** looking to empower and enable businesses to adopt circular economy practices.

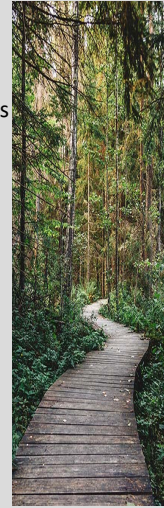
**Why:** Innovation in the circular economy leads to new jobs, innovative products and services, and supports climate targets and regional waste diversion goals.

Businesses need hands-on support to develop circular plans and assess their specific opportunities.

- Business motivations for circular solutions
- Overall benefits of a circular economy.

**Who & Where:** VICEDA - Communities North of the Malahat and Sunshine Coast. Synergy foundation to deliver the program. The program could be scalable in future years with the ability to reach more businesses in both rural and urban areas.

**When:** Project to run Spring 2022 to Spring 2023

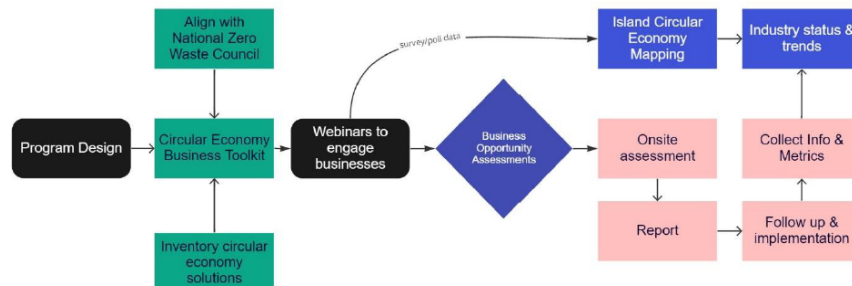


## Circular Economy Accelerator Project



**How:** The budget for this project is \$126,000. Member communities minimum contribution \$64,000, each participating business \$500. ICET \$42,000.

### Project Flow:





## Circular Economy Accelerator Project



Free resources will be made available to other businesses seeking circular solutions once project is complete.

- Self-assessment tool for businesses to determine circular opportunities
- Waste audit tool
- Case studies, featuring pilot participants
- Circular solutions for businesses







CITY OF NANAIMO  
THE HARBOUR CITY

## Update on Community Engagement Partnerships Projects



ICLEI  
Local Governments for Sustainability  
CANADA

- ICLEI Canada - Agents of Change
- BC Sustainable Energy Association - Cool It! Climate Leadership Program
- Earth Day Canada – EcoHack a City initiative



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Sustainable Energy  
ASSOCIATION



EARTH  
DAY  
.CA

## Agents of Change

### Supported by:

- ICLEI - Canada Project to support municipal/volunteer climate action projects
- Kick off meeting held on 2022-APR-12
- City/RDN meeting with ICLEI staff and with other municipal participants to learn from best practices
- City/RDN also meeting with the Nanaimo Climate Action Hub to develop a volunteer program idea to support climate mitigation



## Cool It! Program

- Climate education workshops and contest for both elementary (grades 4-7) and high school (grades 8-12) classes
- Coordinated with Lisa Frey and SD68 Communications Team
- Free for schools to participate
- Empowering and action-focused



**COOL IT!**  
BC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION



## Elementary workshops and challenge

- Interactive in-class workshops (currently virtual due to COVID-19)
- 4-week take home climate challenge to be completed with family
- 20 page guidebook with extra activities, information, and local resources
- Wrap up session with GHG impact, prizes, and local Council engagement

**CLIMATE BINGO**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>1.1 TASTY LEFTOVERS</b> Make a delicious meal from leftovers.	<b>1.2 CAR SMART</b> Check your car's oil and tires.	<b>1.3 GO BIO</b> Make a bio-product from a natural material.	<b>1.4 GAMING FOR NATURE</b> Play a board game that teaches about nature.	<b>1.5 CLIMATE ACTION</b> Research your city and the province about climate change. Write a letter to your MP about it.
<b>1.6 COMMUNITY EXPLORATION</b> Find out what your community is doing to reduce its carbon footprint.	<b>1.7 GREEN YARD CARE</b> Plant a tree or shrub in your yard.	<b>1.8 REUSE AND REPAIR</b> Repair something that is broken instead of throwing it away.	<b>1.9 LOCAL ACTION</b> Find out what your local government is doing to reduce its carbon footprint.	<b>1.10 COOL LAUNDRY</b> Wash clothes in cold water.
<b>1.11 GROW YOUR OWN</b> Grow a vegetable, fruit, or herb in your yard or on a balcony.	<b>1.12 DRY CRAFTING</b> Make something from recycled paper or cardboard.	<b>1.13 FOOTPRINT</b> Find out what your carbon footprint is.	<b>1.14 MEATLESS MONDAYS</b> Eat a meatless meal.	<b>1.15 EARTH HOUR</b> Turn off all non-essential lights and electronics for one hour.
<b>1.16 CLIMATE REFLECTION</b> Write a letter to your future self about what you have learned about climate change.	<b>1.17 COOL DRIVER</b> Check your car's air filter.	<b>1.18 STAY SMART</b> Find out what your local government is doing to reduce its carbon footprint.	<b>1.19 TRAVEL SMART</b> Use public transit or carpool.	<b>1.20 LOVE VEGGIES</b> Eat a vegetable every day.
<b>1.21 SHORTER SHOWERS</b> Take a shorter shower.	<b>1.22 YOUR OWN IDEA</b> Come up with your own idea to reduce your carbon footprint.	<b>1.23 LIFE CYCLES</b> Find out what your local government is doing to reduce its carbon footprint.	<b>1.24 HOME WASTE</b> Recycle your waste.	<b>1.25 ENERGY SOURCES</b> Find out what your local government is doing to reduce its carbon footprint.

## High school workshops and challenge

- Curriculum of 3 in-class workshops (currently virtual due to COVID-19)
- 4-week climate challenge completed via interactive web platform
- 20 page guidebook with extra activities, information, and local resources
- Wrap up session with GHG impact, prizes, and off boarding to local organizations and youth groups

**Climate Challenge**

Take the four week Climate Challenge to reduce your carbon footprint.

How it works: Your four week challenge is to complete a series of activities and your mission is to reduce your carbon footprint.

Remember: Don't forget to be proud of the actions you take. You are making a difference and your actions can help the world.

Let's get going!

**FOOD CHOICES**

**Meat-Free**

Meat-free is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint. Meat is a major source of greenhouse gases. By choosing meat-free options, you can help reduce your carbon footprint.

Here are some ideas for meat-free meals:

- Veggie burger
- Lentil soup
- Chickpea curry
- Tofu stir-fry
- Bean chili
- Mushroom pizza
- Quinoa salad
- Sweet potato fries
- Avocado toast
- Apple and banana smoothie

**FOOD CHOICES Climate Action Tip**

Apples are a great choice for a snack. They are low in fat and high in fiber. They also contain antioxidants that can help protect your heart. Try eating an apple every day.

If you eat meat, choose a leaner cut of meat. Trim the fat off the meat. Cook the meat without adding oil. Use a meat thermometer to make sure the meat is cooked thoroughly.

## Scheduled classes in Spring 2022

Teacher	School	Grade
Deborah Keenleyside	Mountain View Elementary School	5/6
Ulrika Spence	Mountain View Elementary School	5/6
Donna Gannon	Pleasant Valley Elementary	5/6
Jennifer McNevin	Uplands Park Elementary	5/6
Stacy Aitken	Departure Bay Eco School	5/6
Jennifer MacGregor	Pleasant Valley (onsite Rutherford Elementary)	4/5
Chris Creighton	Georgia Avenue	4/5
Jill Christie	Rock City Elementary	5/6
Sarah Leveque	Park Avenue Elementary	4/5
Kathleena East	Randerson Ridge Elementary	5
Sterling Jamont	Nisaika Kumtuks/Bayview Elementary	4 - 7
Lanny Cronan	Mountain View Elementary School	5/6
Kim Dawson	McGirr Elementary	4/5
Judy Jordan	Uplands Park Elementary	5

### Expected results from these classes:

- Engage **250-300** elementary students
- Encourage **1,000-1,500** climate actions
- Avoid **50-75** tonnes of GHG emissions

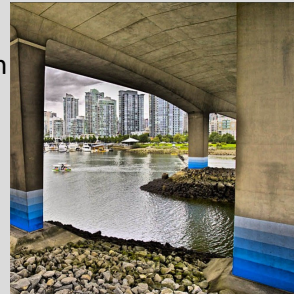
## EcoHack a City

- Public panel event and leadership training for local change makers
- Funding no longer available for 2022
- EarthDay looking for more funding for 2022  
Nanaimo on list for future participation



## What We Heard

- SD68 has an environmentally focused committee where programs and initiatives could be discussed. SD68 also has a learning coordinator with an environmental portfolio.
- “Social media take over” to provide education on low-barrier, effective environmental changes
- City could host a contest for residents to reward good environmental behaviors
- Consider power of art and visual signs to show impacts of climate change in the community
- Bring awareness to how messages are framed using the guidance of social psychology when speaking about climate change



## Other Engagement Updates





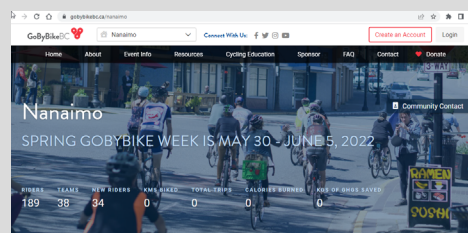
## April 2022 Earth Day/ Water to Earth Month

- Community tree plant with Nanaimo Green Faith Circle
- Social media posts leading up to Earth Day
- Hosted Natural Landscaping for Climate Change and Edible Weeds workshops on Earth Day
- Invasive plants and litter clean up work parties



## GoByBike Week

- Kick off event May 29 at Maffeo Sutton
- May 30 to June 5
- Prizes and goodies available
- Residents encouraged to register their rides as an individual or part of a team at [gobybike.ca](https://gobybike.ca)



### CELEBRATION STATION SCHEDULE

Monday, May 30th	Tuesday, May 31st	Wednesday, June 1st	Thursday, June 2nd	Friday, June 3rd
Island Hwy S & Maki 3pm-5pm	Island Hwy N & Jingle Pot 7am-9am	Wesley Square 12pm-2pm	Wakesiah & Fourth 3pm-5pm	NRGH (Dufferin) 7am-9am

## Environmental Accomplishments

- Staff working on Environmental Accomplishments and infographic to share on website
- Highlights include:
  - 189 energy and emission saving corporate initiatives (1,171 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/  
\$1,110,850 in energy costs saved)
  - 86 home energy audit applications processed since 2018 (year program started)
  - Over 3,090 tree vouchers sold since program started in 2019
  - 13 EV chargers added at City facilities since 2012
  - 481,068 pedestrian and cyclist trips on the E&N trail since 2017
  - City has over 170kms of off-road recreational and commuter trails-equivalent distance from Duke Point to Campbell River

**Thank you!**

**Questions?**



DATE OF MEETING May 25, 2022

AUTHORED BY DAVID STEWART, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

**SUBJECT COMMUNITY WATERSHED RESTORATION GRANT**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Environment Committee with Guidelines and Criteria for a Community Watershed Restoration Grant Program, for their consideration and recommendation to Council.

### **Recommendation**

That the Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse the Community Watershed Restoration Planning Grant Guidelines and Criteria as included in Attachment A to the 2022-MAY-25 report by David Stewart, Environmental Planner.

## **BACKGROUND**

On 2020-JUL-15, Council directed Staff to prepare a business case to establish an annual Community Watershed Restoration Grant. The Grant, once established, would be available to community organizations, environmental non-profits, or individual residents that aim to carry out watershed restoration projects focusing on urban stream and riparian restoration enhancement, natural environment protection, and climate change adaptation solutions. The intent of the grant was to support community groups and individuals undertaking restoration projects and looking to leverage other funding sources.

A budget of \$20,000 for the proposed grant was added to the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Special Initiatives Reserve in 2021 and 2022 to support the annual grant.

The City works with a broad range of volunteers, both individuals and organizations that are interested in environmental stewardship in the City. City staff are often involved in providing training, material support and oversight for the restoration work.

Council has historically allocated funding to specific restoration and enhancement projects on a case-by-case basis, such as a recent 3-year \$69,000 commitment to the Watercourse Restoration and Enhancement Program, which included a salmon side channel feasibility study within East Wellington Park, and riparian restoration and hydrological study within the Buttertubs Marsh Conservation Area.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Community Watershed Restoration Grant, as proposed, is supported by the Climate Change Resiliency Strategy and the Green Goals of the draft City Plan that highlight the

importance of reaching out to build capacity with residents and neighbourhood groups to support environmental restoration.

The proposed grant will support community restoration projects such as invasive species removal, watercourse restoration, and native planting within riparian areas. Funding will be used to provide financial support for restoration planning and design studies, material purchase, invasive plants disposal, equipment rental and labour.

While staff will continue to bring forward requests to fund specific restoration projects for consideration, the establishment of an annual grant will allow the City to be more nimble and flexible in providing support to community members and groups to carry out restoration projects.

### **Grant Criteria**

Grant guidelines and criteria will be used to inform prospective grant applicants of the intent of the grant, who is eligible to apply, how much funding is available and how the applications will be evaluated. Proposed grant criteria are strategically aligned with the Green Goals in the draft City Plan. The criteria will support Staff in evaluating grant applications when making recommendations to Council. The draft guidelines and criteria (Attachment A), including the application review criteria were developed based on similar existing cultural and social planning grant guidelines and criteria.

### **Grant Timeline**

The proposed grant timeline, attached as Attachment B, includes establishing the grant and grant criteria as well as launching the grant and receiving and awarding applications. The grant launch and review timelines align with timelines for other City grant applications.

## **OPTIONS**

1. That the Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse the Community Watershed Restoration Grant Guidelines and Criteria as included in Attachment A.
  - The advantages of this option: The proposed option is consistent with Council direction and budget allocation. Establishing a Community Watershed Restoration Grant will: harness the energy of local volunteers; offer a consistent funding source for community restoration projects; support environmental stewardship volunteers (both individuals and groups) to carry out restoration projects and leverage other funding sources; and allow the City to build stronger partnerships with community groups and individuals interested in climate resiliency and environmental stewardship work.
  - The disadvantages of this option: The Community Watershed Restoration Grant, as proposed, is limited to community watershed restoration project costs and will not be available for other environmental initiatives.
  - Financial Implications: Funding for the grant has been approved and included in the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan. If the grant timeline is endorsed as presented, the first grants could be considered and potentially be awarded in 2023.
2. That the Environment Committee provide alternate recommendation to Council.

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- On 2020-DEC-14, Council allocated \$20,000 per year within the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan to support an annual Community Watershed Restoration Grant.
- The grant will support community environmental restoration projects focusing on urban stream and riparian restoration enhancement, natural environment protection, and climate change adaptation solutions.
- Staff have prepared draft guidelines and criteria to be used to inform prospective grant applicants and help Staff and Council evaluate future applications.
- If approved, the 2023 grant will be launched in the early fall of 2022 and be awarded in early 2023.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: Community Watershed Restoration Grant Program – Guidelines and Criteria

Attachment B: Grant Timeline

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# **ATTACHMENT A**

**City of Nanaimo- Community Watershed Restoration Grant Program**

**Guidelines and Criteria**

**2023**

## **Community Watershed Restoration Grant — Guidelines and Criteria**

### **Introduction**

On 2020-DEC-14, Council allocated \$20,000 to support a 'Community Watershed Restoration Grant Program'. The program is available to community organizations, environmental non-profits, or individual residents in order to provide financial support for community watershed restoration projects.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Community Watershed Restoration Grant is to assist property owners and organizations in supporting the City of Nanaimo's Environmental Responsibility objectives by providing annual funding to support community restoration projects.

### **Ineligible Projects**

Funds from the Community Watershed Restoration Grants may not be used for the following purposes:

- Ongoing operational expenses incurred during the normal course of business;
- Projects occurring outside the City of Nanaimo;
- Projects that would not be in compliance with Federal and/or Provincial law or City of Nanaimo Bylaws;
- Payment of pre-existing debts; and
- Proposed development projects that require environmental restoration as a condition of development approval.

### **Eligible Project Expenses:**

Grant funding may be used to support the following project expenses:

- Project planning and design studies completed by a qualified professional including but not limited environmental assessments, restoration plans, site plan or surveys, landscape plans, slope/erosion stabilization study and/or an archeological assessment.
- Plant and landscape material purchase and installation
- Disposal costs (e.g. bins to store and dispose of invasive material, waste removal, landfill fees)
- Construction equipment rental and labor costs

### **Project Criteria:**

- Where the proposed project is on land not owned by the applicant, landowner permission is required. This includes property owned by the City of Nanaimo and other levels of government.
- All proposed expenses must be used to support a proposed community environmental restoration project.

### **Eligible Applicant Criteria**

Organizations and individuals applying for funding must be based in Nanaimo and/or be proposing a project that primarily serves Nanaimo residents. Eligible applicants include:

- Individual property owners (proof of ownership required) who own property that includes or is adjacent to a watercourse or other environmentally sensitive area where they wish to do

environmental restoration or enhancement work that is not required as a condition of a development approval;

- A non-profit society incorporated under the BC Provincial Societies Act or federally designated as a registered charity;
- A recognized religious group with ongoing activities and a congregation; and
- A neighbourhood association recognized by the City of Nanaimo.

### **Ineligible Applicants**

- Groups, organizations, or individuals with outstanding balances owed to the City of Nanaimo.
- Groups, organizations, or individuals that are subject to active enforcement with the City of Nanaimo or not in good standing with the City of Nanaimo, Federal, or Provincial Governments.
- Organizations or individuals may not be eligible for Community Environment Grant funding if they have received other funding assistance through the City of Nanaimo within the same grant year period.

### **Funding amount**

A total of \$20,000 in funding is available. Individual applications for up to \$20,000 in funding will be accepted; however, funding of less than \$20,000 may also be split between more than one successful applicant.

### **Strategic Priorities**

The City's strategic funding priorities for the Community Watershed Restoration Grant are as follows and are aligned with the Green Goals in the draft City Plan – Nanaimo Reimagined as follows:

- Watershed Protection (e.g. projects that protect/enhance or restore the riparian environments, sustainably manage stormwater (including daylighting piped systems), recognize the natural capital value of a wetland, river or other watercourses, and/or improve the water quality and fish habitats in City rivers, lakes, and wetlands).
- Urban Tree Canopy, Natural Areas, and Greenways (e.g. projects that protect and/or enhance the City's natural environment including the urban tree canopy, marine foreshore, environmentally sensitive areas, nature parks, and green corridors).
- Climate Adaptation (e.g. projects that support people, the environment, buildings, and/or infrastructure adapting to the impacts of climate change).

Project proposals should respond to one or more of the above categories. Overall projects should support the "Environmental Responsibility" theme within the City's Strategic Plan including projects that "will protect and enhance Nanaimo's natural environment by looking after the community's biological diversity and adapt the way we live, work, recreate, and move."

## **Application Review Criteria:**

### **30% - Merit**

- What is the overall quality of the proposal?
- Is the project aligned with the applicant organization's mandate and/or individual stewardship goals?
- Is there any community support and partnership with other organizations, including First Nations?
- Has the applicant shown a commitment and history of environmental restoration and/or land stewardship?

### **40% - Relevance/Feasibility**

- Does the project reflect the City's identified strategic priorities and Green and Blue Network objectives as identified within the draft City Plan?
- Is the project supported by the City's Environmental Responsibility theme with the City's Strategic Plan?
- Does the project potentially impact Snuneymuxw First Nation interests? If so, would it be supported by Snuneymuxw?
- What is the capacity and demonstrated ability of the applicant?
- Does the applicant have the budget and capacity to carry out the project? Have the applicants' partners and/or consultants been identified?
- Has the applicant leveraged other funding sources available?

### **30% - Potential Impact**

- What area will be impacted?
- How great is the impact?
- Is the anticipated impact measureable?
- How critical is the issue being addressed?

## **Grant Process**

Applications will be received by the City of Nanaimo, and reviewed by a cross section of Staff from a number of relevant departments. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Finance and Audit Committee and then to Nanaimo's City Council for approval. Once disbursed, funding must be spent within the next twelve (12) months and a report (including copies of studies and reports funded by the grant) must be provided at project completion or at the end of the twelve-month period, whichever comes first. If the applicant chooses to submit an application for the following year, a report regarding the previous project-funding grant must be received prior to the submission of the new grant.

## ATTACHMENT B

**2023**

### TIMELINE FOR Community Watershed Restoration Grant Program

Environment Committee Meeting	May 25, 2022
Council Meeting	Monday, June 20, 2022
News Release	Week of June 21 to 24, 2022
Begin advertising	Summer 2022
Applications due	Monday, October 17, 2022 (4:00 pm)
Prepare binders	October 17, 2022
Distribute binders to participating staff	October 18, 2022
Staff Review and Evaluation	November 2022
Finance and Audit Meeting	December 14, 2022
Forward a copy of the F&A agenda to all grant applicants (via email) as heads up that their recommendation is going forward	Upon publication of December 14 F&A Meeting Agenda
Staff to inform recipients of F&A's recommendations (in case of appeal) 10 days minimum notice	December 15, 2022 (immediately following meeting)
<b><u>COUNCIL APPROVAL</u></b> F&A recommendations sent to Council for final approval (motion only – no report required – Leg Services will auto-roll the December F&A motion to next available Council Date)	<b>First meeting in January 2023</b> (meeting dates to be announced – we must ensure we leave at least 10 working days between the December 14 F&A approval and Council's approval – taking into consideration the Christmas holidays)
Staff prepare and issue cheque payments	Upon approval - immediately following the January 2023 Council Meeting