

Subject: Climate Change Emergency Resolution and Accompanying Motions

Respectfully Submitted by Councillor Brown

Intention

1. To provide City of Nanaimo staff with a clear mandate to develop the policies necessary to support a local response to the climate change emergency; and
2. To provide initial actions to respond locally to the climate change emergency.

Background

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C was released in October of 2018. The report highlights that limiting global warming to 1.5° C still may be possible if ambitious and unprecedented action occurs by all levels of government, civil society and the private sector. Further, the report describes the serious negative impacts that will result from 1.5° C warming, and the more severe impacts from 2.0° C warming. Current global warming trends, based on existing reduction efforts, will result in 3.0°+ C of warming by the year 2100 (see Figure 1). In response to the report, cities across Canada and the world have been showing leadership, by declaring climate emergencies to highlight the importance of the issue, and proceeding with policy changes and actions in an attempt to decrease global warming emissions.

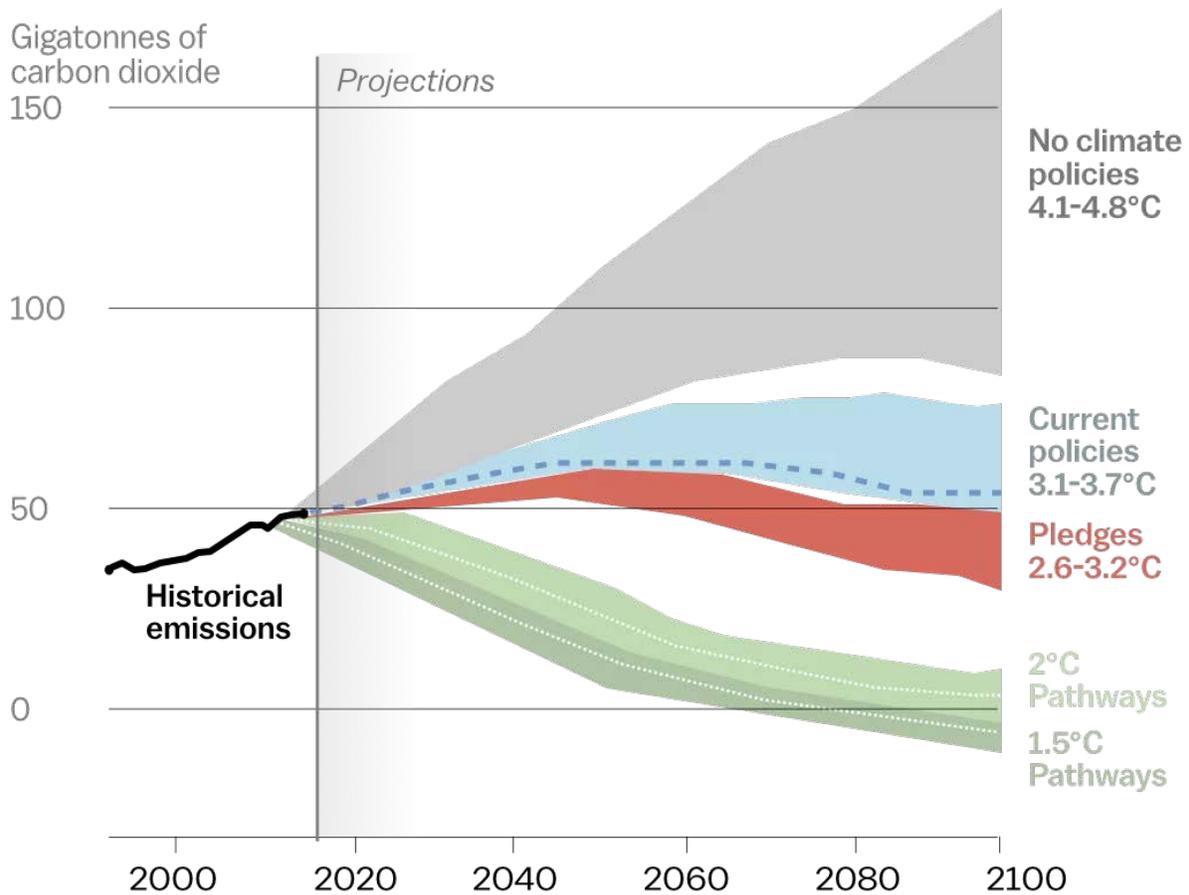
Local governments have a critical role to play in responding to the climate change (global warming) crisis. Land use, transit and mobility options, and building regulations are all significant factors that can impact global warming emissions (Section C.2, Page 17 of Attachment 1) and which fall within the jurisdiction of local government in British Columbia and elsewhere.

Climate Emergency Resolution

The current global warming emissions trajectory puts the planet on a course to reach 3°C of warming by 2100. This is the case even in the event that every country meets its Paris Agreement goals. The impacts of such global warming cannot be understated: they will be devastating; resulting in ecological collapse, severe impacts to local and global economies, and harm to human populations. For background information, The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's most recent summary for policy makers is included as Attachment 1. The need for a global emergency response that includes all levels of government is clear. Current policies do not provide the necessary scope to make the changes to limit global warming to 1.5° C (see Figure 1 and Attachment 1).

Effect of current pledges and policies

Global greenhouse gas emissions



Source: Carbon Action Tracker

Vox

Image 1: Effect of current pledges and policies.

Regional Emissions Reduction Reserve

The City of Nanaimo Regional Emissions Reduction Reserve Fund was established in conjunction with a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Regional District of Nanaimo and member municipalities for the purpose of collaborating on projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The MOA was signed in 2012 and had a 5 year term, which was not renewed. Further, no projects have been completed. As of 2018, \$549,218 is contained in the reserve with \$85,111 to be added in the 2019 budget. These funds are not earmarked for any existing purpose. Therefore, it is proposed that this reserve fund be closed and a new City of Nanaimo reserve fund be established for the purpose of supporting plans, projects and

initiatives to reduce the City of Nanaimo's impacts on climate change, including global warming emissions. This could include updating the City of Nanaimo Community Sustainability Action Plan.

City of Nanaimo Community Sustainability Action Plan

The City of Nanaimo Community Sustainability Action Plan, dated November 2012, is intended to implement the direction of the Official Community Plan by addressing climate change and ensuring a sustainable Nanaimo for future generations. Due to the age of the document, the reduction targets are significantly out of date. For example, it sets an emission reduction target of 80% by 2050, whereas 100% is now required to limit global warming to 1.5° C. Of concern, municipalities in Canada have not made the necessary changes to realize the outdated reduction targets. In general, global warming emissions in Canada have increased. As such, the document is in urgent need of an update that includes meaningful measures, concrete timelines and performance indicators.

The most compelling evidence we now have shows that global warming will have the greatest impact on our society, economies and our survival. This evidence is what must drive our policies and actions at all levels. Therefore, the Official Community Plan and the Community Sustainability Action Plan must, now more than ever, be more closely linked, with the Community Sustainability Action Plan providing the evidence and lens to support decision making, including in the Official Community Plan.

Increase in Public Transit Hours

The Regional District of Nanaimo's conventional public transit system provides approximately 127,000 hours of annual service for the City of Nanaimo. Automobile use is a significant contributing factor to climate change emissions. As such, the City of Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan supports a shift to more sustainable modes of transportation, which includes public transit. The Transportation Master Plan contains specific policies around the implementation of frequent and rapid bus transit, more frequent service on local lines, and stronger integration with regional connections; all of which require additional hours to be added to the system. An addition of at least 20,000 annual transit hours would result in significant improvements to transit service delivery in Nanaimo and help to realize the direction of the Transportation Master Plan. For the purpose of providing examples, Attachment 4 shows potential transit expansions identified in 2014. The RDN is currently completing studies of southern and northern service delivery areas which will provide more current information on potential expansion options. A request for additional transit service hours now would make them available in 2020 at the earliest.

Community Energy and Emissions Inventory Reports

The Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) was generated by the province and provided an inventory of energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and supporting indicators at the community level. Tracking community indicators is crucial for monitoring progress on global warming emissions reduction activities. The last inventory reports were completed in 2012. Therefore, it is proposed that a letter be sent to the Province requesting they reinstate the CEEIs or provide grant funding for communities in British Columbia to complete their own.

Attachments:

- 1. Global Warming of 1.5° C - Summary for Policy Makers**
- 2. City of Nanaimo Bylaw No. 7184 - Regional Emission Reduction Reserve Fund**
- 3. Regional Emission Reductions for Carbon Neutral Operations Memorandum of Agreement**
- 4. Regional District of Nanaimo Service Expansion Priorities**