

DATE OF MEETING | MAY 13, 2019 |

AUTHORED BY | ROB LAWRENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT |

SUBJECT | **OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY OF NANAIMO** |

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with an overview of environmental practices within the City of Nanaimo.

Recommendation

That the Governance and Priorities Committee receive the report titled “Overview of Climate Action and Environmental Management in the City of Nanaimo” dated 2019-MAY-13, and accompanying presentation, for information.

DISCUSSION

At the Council Meeting held 2019-APR-29, Council passed a motion officially declaring a climate emergency “for the purposes of identifying and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our ecosystems, and our community from Global Warming.” Declaring a climate emergency will support the community and the organization to redouble efforts and remain focussed on building a resilient community. At that same meeting, Council initiated four actions in support of this motion that include:

- Moving funds from the Regional Emissions Reduction Reserve to a new reserve fund for the purpose of supporting projects, plans and initiatives that reduce the City of Nanaimo’s community wide CO2 emissions;
- Updating the City’s Community Sustainability Action Plan to reflect the target goals identified in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report;
- Requesting the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) add an additional 20,000 annual public transit hours; and,
- Requesting the Provincial government reinstate the production of the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory Reports.

Environmental management practices are employed across the organization in multiple functions across several departments.

There are several programs underway incorporating environmental policies addressing several different areas. Some of these areas include:

- solid waste and recycling;
- water conservation;
- rainwater management;
- transportation;
- building and vehicle energy efficiency;
- urban forestry;
- environmental bylaw compliance;
- environmental and climate action policy developments; and,
- ecological restoration and stewardship.

Staff engage with a broad spectrum of projects, often in partnership with other governments, community groups, and consultants.

Community involvement to promote environmental stewardship is through rebate programs and community programming. Volunteers work on the City's parkland to control the spread of invasive species and improve the protection of sensitive ecosystems. Other community supports the City provides include the Declaration of Climate Emergency which will elevate Staff's focus on projects and initiatives related to environmental policies.

CLIMATE ACTION

The City's efforts on Climate Action has been multi-faceted. Corporately, the City has focussed on improving energy efficiency of its buildings and infrastructure and in greening the City vehicle fleet. On the community side, focus has been on improvements to transportation and mobility choice throughout the City. Ongoing education and financial incentives have been available to encourage more home energy efficiency retrofits, since 2012.

The attached presentation (Attachment A) is intended to provide an overview of current Climate Action and Environmental Management policies and processes in the City of Nanaimo in order to provide the Committee with an opportunity to further its understanding of the roles and responsibilities of these functions. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- Implementation of the City of Nanaimo's environmental policies and programs is being done across the organization.
- Environmental measures cover elements such as solid waste and recycling; water conservation; rainwater management; transportation; building and vehicle energy efficiency; urban forestry; and ecological restoration and stewardship.
- Community stewardship is an important element of implementing the environmental management practices.
- Council's declaration of a climate emergency lends additional impetus to existing and future efforts in building a resilient community. |

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Overview of Climate Action and Environmental Management in the City of Nanaimo presentation |

Submitted by:

Rob Lawrance
Environmental Planner |

Concurrence by:

Dale Lindsay
Director, Community Development |

Concurrence by:

Richard Harding
Director, Parks and Recreation |

Concurrence by:

Bill Sims
Director, Public Works |