

DATE OF MEETING | NOVEMBER 20, 2019 |

AUTHORED BY | ROB LAWRANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER |

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

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

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

That the Environment Committee receive the report and presentation titled “Overview of Climate Action and Environmental Management in the City of Nanaimo” dated 2019-NOV-20, for information.

BACKGROUND

At the Council Meeting held 2019-APR-29, Council passed a motion officially declaring a climate emergency “for the purpose of identifying and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our ecosystems, and our community from Global Warming.” On May 13th, the Governance and Priorities Committees received a staff presentation on the City’s climate and environmental programs and projects.

DISCUSSION

Declaring a climate emergency will challenge the City to do more to support the community to lower Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and prepare for a changing climate. Council identified four actions in support of the motion that include updating the City’s Community Sustainability Action Plan and revising the City’s GHG reduction targets to reflect the target goals identified in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.

To provide better context for the Environment Committee members, it is important to understand the range of environmental management practices currently employed across the organization. There are several programs underway incorporating environmental policies addressing several different areas that have both direct and indirect impacts on the City’s response to our climate emergency declaration. Some of these practices 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 development
- Ecological restoration and stewardship

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

Climate Action

The City of Nanaimo efforts on Climate Action has been multi-faceted. Corporately, the City has focussed on improving energy efficiency of its buildings, infrastructure and green fleet vehicles. On the community side, focus has been on improvements to transportation through the Complete Streets program, allowing for greater mobility choice throughout the City. Ongoing education and financial incentives have been available to encourage more home energy retrofits, since 2012.

The attached presentation (Attachment A), is intended to provide a high-level overview of current Climate Action and Environmental Management policies and processes in the City of Nanaimo in order to provide the Committee with an overview of the City's various Climate Action and environmental management initiatives.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The City of Nanaimo environmental policies and programs are being implemented across the organization.
- Environmental practice in the City includes solid waste and recycling, water conservation, rainwater management, transportation, building and vehicle energy efficiency, urban forestry, and ecological restoration and stewardship.
- Declaring a climate emergency will challenge the City to do more to support the community to lower GHG and prepare for a changing climate.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Presentation Slides on Environmental Roles and responsibilities |

Submitted by:

Rob Lawrance
Environmental Planner |

Concurrence by:

Jeremy Holm
Director, Development Approvals

|
Dale Lindsay
General Manager, Development Services