

DATE OF MEETING | December 2, 2019 |

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**SUBJECT GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS CANADA AND SHOWCASE
CITIES PILOT PROJECT**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present options and recommendations to participate in the Global Covenant of Mayors Canada Showcase Cities pilot project and endorse the Mayor's Letter of Commitment. |

Recommendation

That Council support participation in the Global Covenant of Mayors Canada Showcase Cities pilot project and endorse the Mayor's Letter of Commitment.

BACKGROUND

An application was submitted to the Global Covenant of Mayors Canada (GCoM) on 2019-SEP-13. The City was notified in October 2019 that it has been accepted to participate in the pilot project, along with 24 other cities across Canada.

The GCoM is a collaboration between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Canada, the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat, and the International Urban Cooperation Project, supported by funding from the European Union.

The GCoM has initiated a pilot program that provides technical support and expertise to help each city reach ambitious greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction targets that collectively help meet the national GHG reduction commitments, under the Paris Agreement.

The FCM's Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) is a national program that guides local governments through five key milestones to achieve and implement a climate mitigation plan. ICLEI's and Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) program focuses on community resiliency and adaptation and has participating local governments work through several milestones to develop and implement a community climate resiliency plan. The PCP and BARC are being used for this pilot project, and participants are requested to follow and meet the key milestones of both programs.

DISCUSSION

The GCoM provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with other communities across Canada in setting ambitious GHG reduction targets for the City. The pilot program provides an opportunity for sharing expertise and knowledge in defining actions that can best meet the City's

efforts to reset its GHG reduction targets to meet the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recommendations to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

As part of Council's Climate Emergency Declaration, the framework, strategies, and actions of the City's Community Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) are to be reviewed and updated to reflect a revised GHG emission reduction target of reducing community-wide emissions to 50 - 58% below 2010 levels by 2030, and between 94 -107% below 2010 levels by 2050.

A Climate Resiliency Strategy for the City is currently in the process of being prepared for Council's endorsement. The strategy's objective is to identify localized climate impacts and vulnerabilities within the city and recommend specific actions to protect residents and municipal assets. A sea level rise mapping and impact assessment was completed as part of this work. The expertise and input provided by the GCoM pilot project will add value to the final resiliency strategy.

The first step in this process is for the City to commit to become a Global Covenant of Mayors signatory and sign the attached document (Attachment A). The Global Covenant of Mayors Canada Letter of Commitment commits the City of Nanaimo to develop, adopt, use, and regularly report on the following within three years:

- A community-scale GHG emissions inventory, following the recommended guidance of the GCoM;
- An assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities;
- Ambitious, measurable, and time-bound targets to reduce / avoid GHG emissions;
- Ambitious climate change adaptation vision and goals, based on quantified scientific evidence when possible, to increase local resilience to climate change;
- An ambitious and just goal to improve access to secure, sustainable, and affordable energy, and
- A formally adopted plan(s) addressing climate change mitigation / low emission development, climate resilience and adaptation, and access to sustainable energy.

Staff recommend revising the template letter of commitment to include recognition that any commitments by the City remain within the context of its regulatory mandate and fiscal capacity. This recommended addition to the template letter is highlighted on Attachment A.

OPTIONS

1. That Council support participation in the Global Covenant of Mayors Canada Showcase Cities pilot project and endorse the Mayor's Letter of Commitment.
 - Advantages: The City will participate in an innovative process and demonstrate climate leadership in setting and implementing ambitious Climate Action targets that meet the direction set by Council in declaring a climate emergency. The GCoM process will support and align well with current plans to review and update the CSAP and complete the City's Climate Resiliency Strategy, and is well-timed given the global issues.
 - Disadvantages: There are yet to be determined cost implications in meeting the IPCC GHG reduction targets, which are not well defined at this point. However, the City has already committed to the International Panel on Climate Change's GHG reduction targets through Council's Climate Emergency Declaration.

- Financial Implications: A limited amount of Staff time will be required to participate in the GCoM process and report on progress going forward. Council has already committed resources to a Climate Resiliency Strategy and CSAP, which would be required to meet the GCoM commitments. Broader financial implications of GHG reduction commitments are unknown at this time; however, the City has already committed to meeting the IPCC targets. It is anticipated the financial implications of these GHG reduction commitments will be explored through the CSAP review and update.
2. That Council deny participation in the Global Covenant of Mayors Canada Showcase Cities pilot project and not endorse the Mayor's Letter of Commitment.
- Advantages: The City will avoid additional costs derived from further commitments by the GCoM process.
 - Disadvantages: The City will not participate in this innovative process and demonstrate climate leadership through this program.
 - Financial Implications: No additional Staff time will be required to continue with the GCoM process and report on progress going forward. Council has already committed resources to a Climate Resiliency Strategy and CSAP, which would be required to meet the GCoM commitments. Broader financial implications of GHG reduction commitments are unknown at this time; however, the City has already committed to meeting the IPCC targets. It is anticipated the financial implications of these GHG reduction commitments will be explored through the CSAP review and update.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The GCoM is a collaboration between the FCM, ICLEI, the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat and the International Urban Cooperation Project, supported by funding from the European Union.
- The GCoM has initiated a pilot project that provides technical support and expertise to help each city reach ambitious GHG reduction targets that collectively help meet the national GHG reduction commitments, under the Paris Agreement.
- The GCoM aligns well with the City's CSAP and Climate Resiliency Strategy process and supports the City's GHG reduction commitments.

ATTACHMENT

ATTACHMENT A: Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy Commitment Letter

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