

DATE OF MEETING November 9, 2020

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SUBJECT REIMAGINE NANAIMO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To provide information to the Governance and Priorities Committee on the REIMAGINE Nanaimo Climate Action Plan Update.

BACKGROUND

At the Council Meeting on 2019-APR-29, the City of Nanaimo officially declared 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 the climate emergency challenges the City to lower Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHG) between 50% and 58% below 2010 levels by 2030, and between 94% and 107% below 2010 levels by 2050. The motion included completing a review and update to the City's Sustainability Action Plan (Climate Action Plan).

The REIMAGINE Nanaimo process involves a comprehensive planning policy review and update of key strategic planning policy documents for the City. Central to this is an update of Nanaimo's 2008 Official Community Plan (OCP); the 2005 Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan; and the creation of the City's first Active Transportation Plan.

The process includes public engagement for these plans as part of a broader process that involves coordinated engagement and review of other key strategic plans, including the Economic Development Strategy, Water Supply Strategic Plan, and the Climate Action Plan.

By combining the review and update of these policy documents, the City can maximize community participation and engagement on these interrelated policy documents. This approach ensures consistency between the plans and efficient resource use, and prevents public confusion and potential engagement fatigue from multiple overlapping planning processes. The process also provides an opportunity to consider combining several plans into one document.

The Climate Action Plan update includes a review and update of the City's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions profile. The profile identifies the City's GHG emissions levels since 2012 and provides a set of projections for anticipated fossil fuel use for 2030 and 2050, with options and recommendations on how the City can best meet its GHG reduction targets.

DISCUSSION

As part of the background preparation for the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process, environmental 'Technical Backgrounders' have been prepared for the following three core topic areas: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Mitigation, Climate and Hazard Adaptation, and Green Infrastructure / Nature.

These documents build on the more general 'Public Backgrounders' that are on the REIMAGINE Nanaimo website. They are aimed at a professional and technical stakeholder audience. Their main purpose is to summarize Nanaimo's progress in these core topic areas and compare that to what other leading jurisdictions have done, with a focus on the Pacific Northwest and jurisdictions with similar goals and objectives.

While the presentation to the Governance and Priorities Committee accompanying this report touches on climate and hazard adaption and green infrastructure/nature, its main focus is on GHG mitigation, including a review of the City of Nanaimo's GHG emissions profile and projections for GHG emissions to 2050. A review of the City's climate actions to date is compared with other communities in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia.

CONCLUSION

This report and presentation provides the Committee with a progress update on the City's Climate Action Plan review, including the role of Regional Growth Strategy and OCP in meeting the City's climate action goals. The presentation also highlights where the Climate Action Plan update fits within the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process and the opportunity that provides for the City to consider further climate action initiatives within the context of a comprehensive policy review.

SUMMARY POINTS

- As part of the background preparation for the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process, environmental 'Technical Backgrounders' have been prepared for the following three core topic areas: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Mitigation, Climate and Hazard Adaptation, and Green Infrastructure / Nature.
- The Climate Action Plan update includes a review and update of the City's GHG emissions profile. The profile identifies the City's GHG emissions levels since 2012 and provides a set of projections for anticipated fossil fuel use for 2030 and 2050, with options and recommendations on how the City can best meet its GHG reduction targets.
- The presentation also highlights where the Climate Action Plan update fits within the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process and the opportunity that provides for the City to consider further climate action initiatives within the context of a comprehensive policy review.

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