

# Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING January 26, 2022

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SUBJECT 2022 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Environment Committee with a 2022 workplan for consideration and recommendation to Council.

### **Recommendation**

That the Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse the 2022 Environment Committee Workplan.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Nanaimo Environment Committee mandate includes items such as; offering innovative ideas, providing advice and information, options and recommendations to Council on climate change, green technology, energy efficiency, urban forestry, and other topics associated with environmental sustainability for the City of Nanaimo.

On 2021-JAN-27, the Environment Committee endorsed a 2021 workplan. The following summarizes the 2021 workplan items and actions taken that year:

| Topic  | Project Lead       | Overview (as included on 2021 workplan)   | 2021 Actions Taken  |
|--|--------------------|---|---|
| <b>REIMAGINE Nanaimo:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doughnut Economics Environmental Indicators</li> <li>Phase 2 Environmental Policy Options</li> <li>Climate Action Plan Review and Update</li> </ul> | Community Planning | <p>The Environment Committee will be providing Staff with input and comment on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying Environmental Indicators to be used for developing the 'City Portrait' that will make up a framework for REIMAGINE Nanaimo</li> <li>Review and provide comment on environmental policy revisions that will be developed in Phase 2 of REIMAGINE Nanaimo</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2021-JAN-27: reviewed list of environmental indicators to be included in REIMAGINE Nanaimo process</li> <li>2021-JUL-14: GHG emerging options discussion</li> <li>2021-OCT-20: Environmental Policies Update and discussion</li> <li>2021-DEC-01: GHG policy and goal setting</li> </ul> |

|                                       |  |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
|                                       |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff to provide an update on the implementation of the 2012 Community Sustainability Action Plan</li> <li>Review and provide comment on the Climate Action Plan update</li> </ul> |   |
| Solid Waste Education                 | Engineering and Public Works                         | Provide comment and input on City's waste reduction and diversion education program.  | 2021-MAY-12: Presentation on waste diversion and upcoming plastic bag ban. Bag ban implemented on 2021-JUL-01.  |
| Step Code Acceleration Options Review | Development Approvals                                | Work with the local building community and local energy experts and report with options to accelerate implementation of the Energy Step Code.   | Step Code Rezoning policy came into effect on 2021-JUN-29. The committee received a report on the BC Energy Step Code acceleration review. The 2022 draft work plan includes further Step Code acceleration and low carbon energy efforts.  |
| Home Energy Retrofit Program          | Development Approvals                                | Coordinate with the Regional District of Nanaimo to establish a regional Home Energy Building Retrofit Program.   | The City currently offers a \$150 rebate to homeowners that complete a home energy assessment. An additional \$200 is available for follow-up energy improvements. The City will continue to work with the RDN and the Environment Committee in 2022 to further develop a home energy retrofit program. |
| Comprehensive Soils Bylaw             | Development Engineering and Environmental Protection | Receive updates and provide input as the City completes a review and update of its Erosion and Sediment Control Bylaws.   | No action taken. Moved to 2022 workplan.  |

In addition to the above, the Committee also received presentations and provided feedback on a regulatory framework for watercourse protection and the Water Supply Plan.

Of the 2021 workplan items, REIMAGINE Nanaimo, Step Code Acceleration, Home Energy Retrofit Program, and the Comprehensive Soils Bylaw have been carried forward into the proposed 2022 workplan. The Home Energy Retrofit program will be included as part of the

broader Community Mobilization on Sustainability work proposed for 2022 and Step Code Acceleration will be included within the Climate Leadership discussion.

## **DISCUSSION**

| <b>Topic</b>                                  | <b>Lead Department</b>  | <b>Overview</b>  |
|---|---|--|
| REIMAGINE Nanaimo                             | Community Development   | Continue to participate in the engagement process for REIMAGINE Nanaimo. Review proposed Sustainability and Climate Resiliency policies in the draft City Plan and Action Plan during Phase 3. Ensure an overall sustainability lens is applied to the integrated City Plan so that the document serves as the City's Sustainability and Climate Action plans.   |
| Community Watershed Restoration Grant Program | Sustainability/ Finance/ Development Engineering and Environmental Protection / Parks, Recreation and Culture | On 2020-JUL-15, Council directed Staff to prepare a business case for an annual community watercourse restoration grant. On 2020-DEC-04 Council approved the business case and allocated funding of \$20,000/year to be used for a grant program available to community organizations, environmental non-profits or individual residents with approved environmental project ideas that educate the public or address environmental issues focusing on: urban stream and riparian restoration enhancement and/or climate change adaptation solutions. Committee to review grant and evaluation criteria for Council endorsement. |
| Community Mobilization on Sustainability      | Sustainability  | Provide input, feedback and ideas on initiatives (education, incentives etc.) that aim to mobilize the community (residents, business community and other organizations) to take effective sustainability actions to help achieve the City's priority sustainability goals.  |
| Climate Leadership Projects                   | Sustainability  | Provide input into initiatives, pilot projects, and activities the City could lead or participate in to show leadership in promoting energy efficiency, green technology, reducing GHG emissions, and adapting to a changing climate. This may include implementing BC Energy Step Code requirements and incentives to support low GHG energy systems.   |

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|---|--|---|
| Comprehensive Soils Bylaw   | Development Engineering and Environmental Protection | Receive updates and provide input as the City completes a review and updates its draft of the proposed Comprehensive Soils Bylaw.   |
| Management and Protection, and Trees Bylaw Review/Update          | Development Engineering and Environmental Protection | Receive updates and provide input as the City completes a review and updates its Management and Protection, and Trees Bylaw.  |
| Corporate Green Building and Energy Management                    | Facility Asset Planning                              | Review proposed changes to Green Building Policy and Energy Conservation and Management Policy (for City buildings and infrastructure) to reflect current initiatives, REIMAGINE policies, and Council direction. Review planned City building and infrastructure projects for energy conservation and GHG reduction. |
| Projects as referred by Council and/or Staff for Review and Input | Legislative Services                                 | Review and provide input into existing and future projects and plans as directed.   |

The above workplan table provides a list of projects that fall within the mandate of the Environment Committee. Council may also approve the addition of other workplan items over the course of the year.

## **OPTIONS**

1. That the Environment Committee recommend that Council endorse the 2022 Environment Committee Workplan.

- The advantages of this option: The recommended workplan options are consistent with prior Council direction including goals and policies in the existing 2008 Official Community Plan, 2020 Climate Resilience Strategy and the draft directions in the REIMAGINE City Plan Green Nanaimo Goal. Should Council approve this recommendation, the Environment Committee can proceed with immediate implementation of the workplan. This will help staff get faster guidance from the Committee on several workplan projects.
- The disadvantages of this option: The proposed workplan is ambitious and some items may not actually be included on a 2022 committee agenda or be completed within the year.
- Financial Implications: There are items on the workplan that will have financial implications if endorsed and implemented by Council. Other items are either ongoing projects that have already received Council approval, or Staff policy and regulatory updates that will be presented to Council for adoption at a future date.

2. That the Environment Committee recommend that Council does not endorse the 2022 Environment Committee Workplan.

- The advantages of this option: Would allow the Committee to make revisions to the workplan as presented.
- The disadvantages of this option: Progress on some of the listed initiatives/projects may be delayed. Review of additional workplan items or revisions may require further staff time.
- Financial Implications: None identified.

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Staff are providing the Environment Committee with a 2022 workplan for consideration and recommendation to Council.
- Over the course of the year, Council may add additional items to the workplan.
- The proposed workplan includes items carried over from the 2021 workplan and a number of new environmental projects proposed for 2022 that are consistent with the Committee's mandate.
- The workplan will inform the Committee's meeting agendas for 2022.

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