

DATE OF MEETING January 26, 2022
AUTHORED BY DAVID STEWART, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
SUBJECT DRAFT GREEN NANAIMO POLICIES

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To inform the Environment Committee of proposed “Green” policies to be included within the draft City Plan.

BACKGROUND

Since the fall of 2019, the City has been working towards a comprehensive update of a number of key strategic planning policy documents through the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process. This involves the creation of one comprehensive City Plan. The draft City Plan integrates and serves as the City’s Official Community Plan, Parks Recreation and Culture Master Plan, Active and Sustainable Transportation Plan and Climate Action Plan. This process includes elevating, updating, and reinforcing numerous environmental policies and actions including those in the 2012 Community Sustainability Action Plan and the 2020 Climate Change Resilience Strategy. Staff have met with the Environment Committee on four separate occasions in 2021 to present and discuss REIMAGINE Nanaimo, including a discussion on environmental policies (October), environmental indicators (January) and two meetings focused on community green house gas (GHG) emissions.

The REIMAGINE Nanaimo process is now moving into Phase 3 of the project, developing plans. Through this phase, high-level policy is being incorporated into a draft City Plan, which will replace or supersede a number of existing policy documents and provide overall citywide policy direction. Secondary policies and action-oriented items related to achieving Green goals will be included within a secondary Integrated Actions Plan document.

In addition to land use policy, the City Plan includes the following five goals:

1. Green Nanaimo- Resilient and Regenerative Ecosystems
2. Healthy Nanaimo- Community Well-being and Livability
3. Connected Nanaimo- Equitable access and Mobility
4. Empowered Nanaimo- Diversity, Culture, Reconciliation and Social Integrity
5. Prosperous Nanaimo- Economic Prosperity and Resiliency

While sustainability and climate change directions are embedded throughout the draft City Plan, specific focus on environmental policies are included in the ‘Green Nanaimo’ policy section.

DISCUSSION

The Draft Green policies are now available for the Environment Committee's information (Attachment A). Policies are grouped within the following eight topic areas:

1. Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction and Green Building
2. Climate Adaptation and Hazard Management
3. Urban Tree Canopy, Natural Areas and Greenways
4. Healthy Watersheds
5. Brownfield Sites
6. Green and Affordable Water, Sewer and Stormwater Services
7. Solid Waste Management
8. Balanced Lighting and Preservation of Dark Skies

Each section includes desired outcomes (objectives) and policies to help the City achieve these objectives. While some policies are carried forward from existing City documents, others are new and intended to reflect emerging directions and what was heard through community and stakeholder engagement. |

NEXT STEPS

Public engagement with respect to the draft City Plan policies is expected to launch in February and be completed by the end of March. The Environment Committee will receive the full draft document after Council has received it in February. Following public engagement during Phase 3, Staff anticipate presenting a final version of City Plan and the Integrated Actions Plan to Council for their consideration in May. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- The REIMAGINE Nanaimo process is now moving into Phase 3 of the project, developing plans. The REIMAGINE team is now developing draft policies within five different goal areas.
- While sustainability and climate change directions are embedded throughout the draft City Plan, specific focus on environmental policies are included in the 'Green Nanaimo' policy section.
- The Draft Green policies are now available for the Environment Committee's information.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: DRAFT GREEN NANAIMO CITY PLAN POLICIES |

Submitted by:

Ting Pan
Manager, Sustainability

Concurrence by:

Lisa Bhopalsingh
Director, Community Development

Dale Lindsay
General Manager, Development
Services/Deputy CAO