

Attachment 1  
*Staff Memo*

## **MEMORANDUM**

### ***Climate Action, Planning and Development***

**To:** Emilie K Adin, MCIP  
Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development      **Date:** July 11, 2022

**From:** John Stark, Supervisor of Community Planning      **File:** 09.1740.02

**Subject:** **Att 1 - CEEP Staff Memo.docx**

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Director forward this memo and the following resolution to Council for consideration:

**THAT** Council support in principle the draft Community Energy and Emissions Plan as a basis for public consultation over summer 2022.

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#### **PURPOSE**

This report presents the draft Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP), created to guide the City towards achieving its ambitious climate emergency greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets. Before finalizing the Plan, staff proposes consulting the community and industry representatives through the summer of 2022 to gather input on the draft.

#### **SUMMARY**

This report presents the draft Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP), which would guide the City towards achieving its ambitious climate emergency greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets (45% reduction by 2030, 65% by 2040, and net zero by 2050).

The final CEEP, once adopted, will be the overarching plan for the community's energy

and emissions reduction efforts. The Plan will:

1. directly support the implementation of the Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action through the identification of energy and emissions reduction opportunities, strategies, and actions.
2. inform climate action related to the following areas over the next 30 years:
  - a. land use planning and development,
  - b. sustainable transportation,
  - c. waste management,
  - d. natural areas and green infrastructure, and
  - e. energy infrastructure and utility systems..
3. advance the City's equity goals and efforts to ensure the transition to a low carbon future is equitable.

The draft CEEP is based on community and industry engagement, industry best practices, the latest climate research, and emissions modelling. The CEEP includes five key action areas and 55 actions to help reduce community-wide emissions and build a more climate-resilient, energy-conscious, and low carbon community.

Staff recommends that Council endorse undertaking community consultation over the summer of 2022 to gather final input on the draft CEEP. Final revisions would be made to the document based on staff, community, industry, and Council feedback. It is anticipated that the final document would be presented to Council for adoption in Fall 2022.

## **BACKGROUND**

To support the objectives established by Council's 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration and the Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action, the City worked with a consultant, Sustainably Solutions Group (SSG), to develop the new Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP).

The draft CEEP builds on the City's achievements of the 2011 CEEP. Since 2011, the climate crisis has grown more urgent and there has also been a rapid evolution of low carbon technologies and climate policy options. The draft CEEP considers this changed context in charting the path to more ambitious emissions reduction targets. The CEEP also builds on climate actions already taken by the City, and directions established in the City's Master Transportation Plan and Official Community Plan, as well as other subject area plans.

## **PLAN PROCESS & ENGAGEMENT**

The draft CEEP was developed through various phases:

- Phase 1: Data Collection and Emissions Modelling
- Phase 2: Developing Low Carbon Scenario and Initial Engagement
- Phase 3: Review of the Draft

## **Phase 1: Data Collection and Emissions Modelling**

This phase was conducted over the summer of 2021. The CEEP was informed by the collection of emissions-related data that helped define the City's current energy and emissions profile. This was used to forecast future emissions trends by source, fuel type, and by sector. The forecast considers projected population and employment growth, land use patterns, anticipated climate trends, and other relevant parameters over the next 30 years to 2050.

## **Phase 2: Developing Low Carbon Scenario and Initial Engagement**

The next phase involved developing the City's Low Carbon Scenario, which is the pathway that would see the City implement low carbon actions in order to achieve its ambitious emissions reduction targets. It also involved gathering input from community and industry representatives on specific actions and opportunities that could help reduce GHG emissions. Engagement activities included:

- online workshops with community members, industry representatives and with equity-denied community members to gather input on CEEP actions and priority areas; and
- an online community survey to gather feedback on low carbon actions.

Attachment 2 provides a summary of engagement findings.

## **Phase 3: Review of the Draft**

In March of 2021, an initial draft CEEP was received. Staff consulted extensively with interdepartmental staff. In response to the feedback received, revisions were made to the draft in order to better convey the call to action for the community, the private sector and other actors to collaborate on climate action and help achieve the City's emissions reduction targets together. Revisions also resulted in more clearly identifying key action areas and opportunities that yield the greatest GHG emissions reduction impacts, and help ensure that the actions are achievable within the City's jurisdiction (leveraging partnerships and advocating to senior government where necessary) and are New Westminster specific.

In advance of the revised draft being created, staff updated the Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, the Environment and Climate Task Force, and the New Westminster Utility Commission. The Task Force expressed support for staff bringing the revised draft to Council and undertaking a final round of consultation through the summer of 2022.

## **DRAFT CEEP SUMMARY**

The draft CEEP, provided as Attachment 3, conveys the urgency of taking bold climate action steps, and charts a pathway for the City, in partnership with other levels of

government, the community and the private sector, to approach net zero emissions by 2050.

The Plan includes five key action areas, targets for each area, and 55 specific implementation actions. These are categorized and summarized as follows:

- Transportation – low carbon mobility and supporting active transportation;
- Buildings – retrofitting existing buildings and requiring new buildings to be built to high performance standards;
- Waste – reducing waste and embracing circular economy<sup>1</sup> principles;
- Energy – supporting energy conservation, district energy, and renewable energy; and
- Natural areas and green infrastructure – preserving and enhancing natural areas and the urban tree canopy, and increasing the use of green infrastructure.

The CEEP makes it clear that the most significant potential gains are in transportation – both through a mode shift and electrification – as well as building efficiency improvements and electrification. Achieving the ambitious targets in these two sectors would require particular focus and continued nimbleness as new legislative tools and technologies come online.

The CEEP would be a living document that will need to be updated regularly through evaluation and monitoring. It would also need to allow for flexibility to take advantage of emerging opportunities, technological advancements and innovation in order to ensure that it is future-proof and stands the test of time.

### **CEEP and the Seven Bold Steps**

The approach taken in developing the CEEP was to allow emissions modelling and community and industry input to drive the action areas and targets identified. As such, these are an adjustment from the Seven Bold Steps. Many of the Bold Step targets are embedded in the Plan, some are adjusted based on data availability, and all are extended from 2030 to 2050. When a final version of the CEEP is brought forward for Council consideration, staff anticipates providing options for adjusting the Seven Bold Steps to better align with the CEEP.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Before finalizing the CEEP, staff proposes consulting the community and industry representatives through the summer of 2022 to gather input. Consultation activities are anticipated to include:

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<sup>1</sup> A circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves reusing, sharing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible.

- Posting the draft on the Be Heard New West page, and soliciting feedback through a forum discussion;
- Advertising through social media and Citypage;
- Outreach to community and industry representatives who participated in earlier consultation activities for their feedback; and
- Promoting the input opportunity at pop-up engagement events through the summer.

Staff also anticipate bringing the draft to the July 20, 2022 Environment and Climate Advisory Committee meeting for feedback. The revised draft will also be circulated to interdepartmental staff for final review.

Input gathered on the draft will inform final revisions to the CEEP, which could then be brought for Council consideration in fall of 2022.

Implementation of the Plan would include prioritizing actions based on urgency, financial implications, GHG emissions reductions and additional benefits, and current and future capital and infrastructure planning processes.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON**

Staff from various divisions have provided input during the CEEP development and commented on the initial draft, including senior staff from Finance, Engineering Services and Parks and Recreation. The Utility Commission and the Environment and Climate Task Force were engaged during this Plan development.

### **OPTIONS**

The following options are provided for Council's consideration:

1. THAT Council support in principle the draft Community Energy and Emissions Plan as a basis for public consultation over summer 2022; or
2. THAT Council provide staff with alternative direction.

Staff recommends Option 1.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 2 – CEEP Engagement Summary  
Attachment 3 – Draft Community Energy and Emissions Plan

### **APPROVALS**

This memo was prepared by:  
Nayel Halim, Community Energy and Emissions Specialist

This memo was reviewed by:  
Meredith Seeton, Policy Planner  
Lynn Roxburgh, Supervisor of Land Use Planning and Acting Supervisor of Climate Action

This memo was approved by:  
John Stark, Supervisor of Community Planning