



**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 20, 2022**

**Open to public attendance in Committee Room G**

**Lower Level, City Hall**

**Committee members may attend electronically**

**PRESENT**

Danison Buan\*

Alternate Chair; Representative, Local Business Association

Nazli Azimikor

Community Member

Ryan Bardini

Community Member

Karen Crosby\*

Community Member

Colleen Gillespie

Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government, or Non-Profit

Teresa Morton

Representative, Local Environment Organization

**REGRETS**

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

Chair

Farbod Behshad

Community Member

Elsie Krebs

Representative, Professional in Environment or Climate Field, Business, Government, or Non-Profit

Alvin Kube

Representative, Indigenous Community

John Lekakis

Representative, Local Institution

**GUESTS**

John Lindner

Metro Vancouver

**STAFF PRESENT**

Nell Gasiewicz

Parks and Open Space Planner

Nayel Halim

Community Energy and Emissions Specialist

Matthew Pilfold

Arborist Technician

Lynn Roxburgh

Acting Supervisor, Land Use Planning and Climate Action

Meredith Seeton

Policy Planner

Katie Stobbart

Committee Clerk

\*Denotes electronic attendance

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Karen Crosby opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. She acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. She recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS AND ICEBREAKERS**

Committee members and staff responded in turn to the icebreaker question, "How are you getting outside to appreciate the longer days?"

**Procedural Note:** Quorum was achieved at 5:05 p.m. when Danison Buan joined the meeting.

**3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**4.1 Minutes of March 16, 2022**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the March 16, 2022 Environment and Climate Advisory Committee be adopted.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

#### **4.2 Minutes of May 18, 2022**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the May 18, 2022 Environment and Climate Advisory Committee be adopted, with the following correction:

- Under item 5.3, plant survival at five years is 60%, not 50%.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

### **5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

#### **5.1 Clean Air Plan 2021**

John Lindner, Metro Vancouver, provided a presentation entitled “Metro Vancouver’s Clean Air Plan: Overview, Actions and Potential Impacts.”

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Lindner advised:

- Buildings put fine particulate matter into the air mainly from wood fires, and to a lesser extent from natural gas boilers;
- Wood burning in buildings is not very common, but there is enough to have a significant impact. Metro Vancouver passed a regulation two years ago which, over the next six years, will mandate burning wood in a stove that reduces particulate matter;
- Older people, the young, and people with preexisting health conditions tend to experience the worst impacts from air contaminants;
- Reducing health-harming air contaminants will result in health benefits;
- Nitrogen oxides are a particular type of contaminant which is an air quality issue, not a greenhouse gas. Nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas;
- Some actions in the plan will be implemented by Metro Vancouver under the authority it has been given by the Provincial Government. Others will be worked on with other governments and partners, for example through advocacy to higher levels of government;
- There were a number of meetings with the BC Trucking Association, who provided good input on that aspect of the plan. There are challenges with the supply chain;

- There was a discussion with Fraser Basin Council about companies purchasing new cleaner vehicles, and they want to do it but need the vehicles now, not in future, which is a challenge; and
- There will be pushback as we try to push ahead to reduce emissions and balance fairness and cost concerns, but if we do not reduce those emissions, there will be other consequences in the form of climate impacts.

## 5.2 CEEP 2050 Update

Nayel Halim, Community Energy and Emissions Specialist, provided a presentation entitled “Environment and Climate Advisory Committee – Draft Community & Energy Emissions Plan.”

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Halim advised that plans for active and public transportation are in the Master Transportation Plan.

The Committee had the following comments arising from discussion:

- Supportive of the focus on retrofitting and the focus that it can make a big difference to retrofit an old building rather than demolishing and replacing it with something brand new;
- Excited by car-free zones, zero-emission zones, and car-free days;
- Under new buildings, implore the CEEP to go further and include the recent motion regarding Step Code, as provincial legislation can be quite slow;
- Would like to see no fossil fuel partners (such as Fortis BC) on Energy Save New West or anything our City promotes;
- Pleased to see that training of local builders, etc. will be explored;
- Incorporate visuals that encourage people to use alternate modes of transport like biking; and
- Pleased to see the support for TransLink’s Transit 2050 Plan and how that could really change things for a lot of people in New Westminster.

### **5.3 Queensborough Ecological Restoration**

Nell Gasiewicz, Parks and Open Space Planner, provided a presentation entitled “Queensborough Ecological Restoration.”

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Gasiewicz advised that the project has evolved since its conception in 2020, and that while Ryall Park interacts with the shoreline, actual interventions along the shore would be minimal, as it is a sensitive ecosystem.

The Committee noted that while interpretive signage is appealing as a visible form of education, wayfinding signage works better in destination parks rather than parks that will mainly draw local residents, and encouraged finding other ways to educate the community about these spaces.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **6.1 High-performance Buildings**

Nazli Azimikor, Community Member, introduced the topic of enabling and incentivizing the construction and occupancy of more high-performance buildings, inspired from her personal observations in the engineering community. She provided a presentation entitled “High-performance Buildings: Identifying Gaps.”

The Committee and staff were asked to consider what the City of New Westminster can do to address this. The following comments arose from discussion:

- Often, durability and serviceability is not addressed when it comes to high-performance buildings. Step Code is a narrow policy tool. There are a few emerging codes and standards being adopted in California, such as the natural step, which is a more holistic way of looking at buildings;
- The City of New Westminster might consider having a centralized place for information, so that whether a builder, developer, or ordinary person wants to make an improvement, there is one source to find everything they need; and
- There is room for improvement on Energy Save New West to accomplish this and other goals.

## **7. STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES**

### **7.1 General Updates**

Lynn Roxburgh, Acting Supervisor, Land Use Planning and Climate Action, provided an update, noting the following:

- The eMobility Strategy has been successfully adopted;
- The City is welcoming Divya Gupta to the staff team as Energy and Emissions Specialist;
- Staff took a report on behalf of the committee to the Environment and Climate Task Force and to Council recommending the City advance and support this committee's motion regarding Step Code. Staff are already starting to think about it in our building department so that when the enactment date hits in 2023, we have done the right lead-up to that process; and
- Nayel Halim is leaving the City. Acknowledged the great work he has been doing in New Westminster.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Invitation to Present to Council**

Karen Crosby, Community Member, advised that a small community group will speak to a motion by Councillor Nakagawa at the City Council meeting on August 29, 2022. The delegation will speak about strengthening the language for the same motion this committee passed. If any committee members are interested in joining the delegation, they are asked to contact Ms. Crosby.

## **9. END OF MEETING**

ON MOTION, the meeting ended at 6:54 p.m.

## **10. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Remaining scheduled meetings, which take place at 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- November 16