

REPORT

Climate Action, Planning and Development

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: August 28, 2023

From: Serena Trachta,
Acting Director of Climate Action,
Planning and Development
File: 09.1742.02

Item #: 2023-527

Subject: **Accelerating Climate Action: Four Year Workplan to Meet Targets and Address Extreme Heat**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse in principle, the outlined accelerated climate action workplan to meet climate emergency targets and address extreme heat, subject to approval of required resources.

THAT Council direct staff to report back on resource requirements to support the proposed workplan to meet climate emergency targets and address extreme heat for consideration.

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement, in principle, on the proposed accelerated climate action workplan to meet climate emergency targets and address extreme heat, and to seek Council direction for Staff to report back on resource requirements to support the accelerated climate action workplan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration, the City committed to reducing corporate and community carbon pollution to net zero by 2050. To support the City in advancing towards the climate action targets, the Climate Action Team (CAT) developed three action plans that identify 124 implementation actions to achieve the City's targets. Of the identified implementation actions, 66 will be lead by, or require significant contributions from, the Climate Action Team.

At the June 26, 2023 Regular Council meeting, staff presented Council with a report on the City's Extreme Heat Response Plan with two working streams: 1) near term emergency response, and 2) long term root cause solutions. Council directed staff regarding the work of Stream 1, and staff committed to providing Council with a workplan and budget to accelerate Climate Action team Stream 2 actions.

The current CAT four year workplan is developed based on the existing staff resource capacity. Although this work advances climate action, it is insufficient to meet the City's carbon emission reduction targets and to implement Stream 2 Extreme Heat Response. The City needs to accelerate work on the existing actions across the entire CAT workplan, as well add those addressing extreme heat. The proposed accelerated four year CAT workplan is detailed in attachment 4.

BACKGROUND

Climate Action

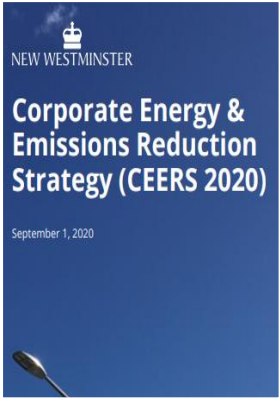
With the 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration, the City committed to meet the following greenhouse gas (carbon pollution) reduction targets as compared to 2010 baseline year:

- 45% by 2030
- 65% by 2040
- 100% by 2050

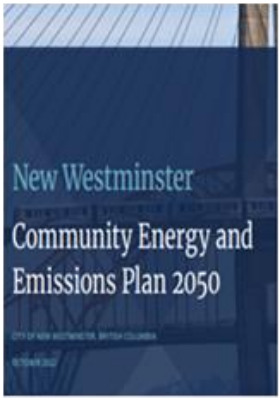
The City's commitment to these targets was further solidified through the development of the 7 Bold Steps framework, which identify goals for each bold step (details of the goals in Attachment 1).

To support the City in advancing carbon pollution reduction, the City created the Climate Action Team (CAT), within the Climate Action, Planning and Development Department. The team's mandate is to develop climate action related policies, strategies, and tools and to support technical reporting. The team has developed/updated three key City climate action policies which identify 124 implementation actions that are required to achieve the City's Climate Emergency Declaration targets: Corporate Energy & Emissions Reduction Strategy (September 2020), eMobility Strategy (June 2022), and Community Energy and Emissions Plan 2050 (October 2022).

Existing Climate Action Strategies



• **CEERS**
• **25** Actions



• **CEEP**
• **63** Actions



eMobility Strategy
Supporting New Westminster's Bold Steps for Climate Action
• **eMobility**
• **36** Actions

Extreme Heat Response

At the June 26, 2023 Regular Council meeting, staff presented Council with a report on the City's Extreme Heat Response Plan (attachment 2). Two streams of work were identified:

- **Stream 1** – focus on the need to keep people alive, focus efforts on targeted buildings and focus on people that are at the highest risk.
- **Stream 2** – longer term to build resiliency and put policies and protocols in place to enhance building envelopes to minimize the demand for fuel to heat and cool. Policies shall incentivize passive cooling techniques, building envelope upgrades, installation of centralized and high efficiency cooling systems, tree planting and use of portable AC as a temporary measure in the most difficult areas.

Council directed staff regarding the work of Stream 1, and staff committed to providing Council with a workplan and budget to accelerate “Stream 2 Climate Action team” actions, including exploring building and business licensing regulations aimed at removing barriers to the installation of air conditioners in units.

DISCUSSION

Need to Accelerate Climate Action Team (CAT) Workplan

The CAT formed in early 2020 and has been focused on developing the climate action strategies and implementation actions required to meet the City's climate action targets. To date, the team has achieved the following:

- Completed CEERS, eMobility Strategy, and CEEP2050. The team identified, developed calculation models for, and compiled regulatory reports, such as corporate emission reporting to provincial programs, and low carbon fuel credits.
- Conducted research on local energy poverty, rental building retrofit policy tools, and heat pump concierge program design.
- Delivered equity focused initiatives such as providing energy bill and conservation program workshops in languages spoken at home, introduced electric vehicle (EV) charging user fees, and personalized support for residents seeking energy and emission retrofit incentives.
- Implemented the BC Energy Step Code and a high performance home incentive program while supporting local builders with technical training to achieve compliance.

Of the 124 identified implementation actions, 66 will be lead by, or require significant contributions from, the CAT (attachment 3). The current CAT four year workplan (attachment 4) has been developed based on the existing staff resource capacity and initiates work on 19 implementation actions; all of which require ongoing implementation support. Although this work advances climate action, it is insufficient to meet the City's carbon emission reduction targets and to implement Stream 2 Extreme Heat Response. The City needs to accelerate work on the existing actions across the entire CAT workplan, as well as add those addressing extreme heat.

Proposed Accelerated CAT Workplan

To accelerate the workplan and extreme heat response (detailed accelerated workplan in attachment 4), staff would work on the following initiatives:

1. *Addressing Buildings Vulnerable to Extreme Heat*
 - *Building Retrofit Requirements Advocacy:* Proactively advocate for building retrofit requirements for protection from extreme heat events.
 - *Building Stock Analysis:* Expand the Emergency Management Office's (EMO) existing vulnerable building assessment to include specific building features (i.e. construction, mechanical system, wall assembly, etc.) contributing to risk of overheating.
 - *Vulnerability Assessment:* Conduct research to understand the intersection of building and resident vulnerability.

- *Needs Assessment:* The combined outcomes of initiatives 2 and 3 will inform a needs assessment which will define retrofit program energy efficiency measures, objectives and targets.
 - *Program Design:* Develop program plan, including aspects such as monitoring and data collection plan, education and training needs, customer journey and eligibility criteria, education and awareness campaigns, and budget.
 - *Program Implementation:* Deliver on critical aspects of the program design, with increased need for customer service, technical support, data collection, education and awareness, active marketing, quality control, budget tracking and measurement and verification.
2. *Climate Adaptation and Resilience:* Develop a climate adaptation and resilience plan which will include creating a climate hazard and risk register, identify gaps in existing adaptation and resilience efforts, and create a roadmap to resilience.
 3. *EV Fleet and Charging Implementation:* Align electrical capacity of relevant civic facilities, fleet vehicle replacement plans, and projected EV charging needs to create an actionable implementation schedule for electrical infrastructure upgrades.
 4. *eMobility Strategy Implementation:* Remove barriers to EV charging retrofits in multi-unit residential building, improve access to public EV charging, establish best practice guidelines for accessible EV charging, proactively support electrical utility planning with updates on EV uptake and growth projections, and develop programs to incentivize expansion of existing bike parking.
 5. *Education and Awareness:* deliver concurrent, ongoing and consistent communication, education and awareness components to the community to inform on progress and foster community support.

Projects that would not be advanced at this time are listed in the CAT Implementation Action four year accelerated workplan (attachment 4).

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Should Council endorse in principle the accelerated CAT workplan, staff will report back regarding resources required to achieve the workplan.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

Preliminary conversations were carried out with senior staff from Engineering, Finance, Parks and Recreation and Electrical Utility regarding the proposed workplan.

OPTIONS

There are three options for consideration:

1. That Council endorse in principle, the outlined accelerated climate action workplan to meet climate emergency targets and address extreme heat, subject to approval of required resources.
2. That Council direct staff to report back on resource requirements to support the proposed workplan to meet climate emergency targets and address extreme heat for consideration.
3. That Council provide staff with other direction.

Staff recommends options 1 and 2.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 7 Bold Steps

Attachment 2 – July 26th report on Extreme Heat Response

Attachment 3 – Climate Strategy Implementation Actions

Attachment 4 – CAT Current Four Year Workplan and Proposed Accelerated Four Year Workplan

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

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