

REPORT

Climate Action, Planning and Development

To: Community Heritage Commission **Date:** January 3, 2024
From: Judith Mosley, Senior Heritage Planner **File:** 13.2605.01-2023
Item #: 2024-9
Subject: Heritage and Climate Action

PURPOSE

To provide information on heritage and climate action initiatives and seek feedback from the Community Heritage Commission (CHC).

SUMMARY

In alignment with City priorities and plans related to climate action, two initiatives have been developed to support owners and residents of heritage homes and buildings in taking climate action and implementing energy retrofits:

- Heritage and Climate Action webpage, launched August 2023.
- Guide: Energy Retrofits for Heritage Homes, for publication in early 2024.

Heritage conservation contributes to sustainable communities, with environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits. However, all buildings, including heritage buildings, need to reduce carbon emissions and overall energy demand. Retaining and retrofitting heritage buildings in New Westminster can help in achieving the City's climate action goals and advancing climate resilience.

The CHC is asked to review these two information resources and provide feedback.

GUIDING POLICY AND REGULATIONS

Climate action is a City priority as identified in recent Council policies and initiatives including the declaration of a climate emergency and the Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action (2019), the adoption of the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) 2050 and most recently the Council Strategic Priorities Plan 2023-2026. In October 2022,

Council endorsed the CEEP 2050. The plan builds on the Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action to further chart a path to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45% by 2030 (from 2010 level) and to achieve net-zero by 2050.

The Council Strategic Priorities Plan 2023-2026 identifies Climate Action and Environment as one of the key contexts within which the plan's focus areas will be advanced. Climate action is noted as the efforts and measures taken to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Both reducing emissions and increasing resilience are important.

Buildings contribute 45% of New Westminster's GHG emissions (2016) and offer one of the largest opportunities to move towards net-zero emissions. The City's targets for 2030 and 2050 include retrofits of existing buildings to reduce heating demand and switch space and water heating to electric. Heritage related actions include continuing to pursue heritage retention and adapting retrofit strategies to work with heritage and character buildings.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Staff have developed two resources to support owners and residents of heritage buildings in taking climate action and implementing energy retrofits:

Heritage and Climate Action webpage

Launched in August 2023, this new webpage highlights the importance and opportunities for heritage conservation in climate action, and introduces key information for New Westminster residents and property owners. It is anticipated that this webpage will grow as a resource. The webpage is available at:

www.newwestcity.ca/heritage/heritage-and-climate-action

Guide: Energy Retrofits for Heritage Homes

This publication aims to provide practical guidance to owners and residents of heritage homes. It was initially developed through a UBC Sustainability Scholars project and was previously shared with the CHC for input in 2021. It has been updated and refined to be ready for publication this winter on the *Heritage and Climate Action* webpage.

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMISSION

The Community Heritage Commission is being asked to review these two new resources and provide feedback to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Guide: Energy Retrofits for Heritage Homes

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by
Judith Mosley, Senior Heritage Planner

This report was reviewed by
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