

Attachment 2

*2025 Budget Departmental Memo -
Energy and Climate Action*



NEW WESTMINSTER

Memorandum

To: Lisa Spitale
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: November 25, 2024

From: Marc Rutishauser
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File: 2606046

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Subject: Energy and Climate Action

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Electric Utility

The Electric Utility accomplished several goals and milestones in 2024 that helped energize major new developments and prepared the Electric Utility for future growth and electrification. The 2024 highlights are:

- All Queensborough electrical customers have been fully connected to the new Queensborough Substation, and the station is fully commissioned.
- Energized multiple new service connections, including 660 and 680 Quayside Drive.
- Initiated the 50 year Distribution System Plan, with the 10 year Distribution System Plan progressing through its first phases.
- The AMI project progressed through all design and validation phases, and progressed to mass deployment of AMI meters. Deployment is approximately 15% complete through November 2024.
- Recruitment and retention of new metering staff to enable AMI deployment and sustainment, and recruitment of additional Powerline Technicians.

Electric Utility staff continued to work on asset maintenance and replacement, and focused on service delivery to ensure that customers continued to have reliable electrical service.



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Climate Action

As identified in the August 28, 2023, and September 11, 2023 council reports on climate action work plan acceleration and resulting financial implications, respectively, both the size and structure of the Climate Action Team (CAT) required augmentation in order to achieve the City's emission reduction targets. The September 11, 2023 council report outlined a multi-year staffing plan to meet the work plan delivery objectives that were approved by Council.

From the accelerated work plan (August 28, 2024 council report), the CAT has successfully completed or initiated 80% of the 2024 accelerated work plan, while meeting all annual regulatory reporting requirements. Delayed initiation on the remaining initiatives is related to recruitment timelines. Overall the work plan is considered to be on track. The 2024 highlights are:

- As of November 2024, the CAT successfully completed recruitment of the approved 2024 service enhancements.
- Adoption and pilot stage implementation of the Climate Action Decision Making Framework
- Implementation of the Building Bylaw the Energy Step Code and Zero Carbon Step Code, to reach the highest levels of both by 2027 through a phased approach, which supports meeting Actions 6 and 8 of the Buildings Sector in the City's Community Energy and Emissions Plan 2050.
- Delivery of regulatory reports were completed on time: Local Government Climate Action Program and Low Carbon Fuels Act
- Initiated scope of work for an Adaptation and Resilience Plan
- Initiated the vulnerable building assessment as part of the Stream 2 Extreme Heat Response data collection and scope of work development
- Brought forward the proposed zoning bylaw amendments to include non-residential electric vehicle ready requirements in new construction.

2025 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Electric Utility

The 2025 Electric Utility capital budget supports projects that will further the City's goals of continuing to provide reliable power, meeting growth targets, and supporting climate action through electrification. Priorities for 2025 are:

- New service connections to all new developments.
- Beginning the multi-year plan of converting parts of the City's distribution system to 25kV to increase distribution system capacity.



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- Complete deployment of AMI meters and completion of the AMI project.
- Completing the 10 year Distribution System plan, and progressing through to the 50 year Distribution System Plan.
- Land purchase for improvements to RO2 substation or possible construction of new RO3 substation.
- Initiating studies for N-1 supply at Queensborough substation.

Looking forward, an enhancement for a manager of Capital Projects and Program Delivery is anticipated to be required to help progress strategic projects such as District Energy. This position is funded from the Utility reserve. The District Energy project has been moved back in the Capital Plan until the department is able to hire staff to direct and oversee the work of consultants.

Climate Action

The Climate Action 2025 proposed capital budget of \$0.87M has been developed to support ongoing delivery of the accelerated climate action work plan (August 28, 2023 Council report). This updated budget is fully funded through carryforward funds that had been approved and allocated in 2024. Commitment of funds in 2024 was delayed due to staff recruitment, which is now completed. Through preliminary testing of the draft Climate Action Decision Making Framework, climate policy, planning and incentive projects included in this capital budget are eligible to be considered for funding through the Climate Action Reserve Fund.

Priority projects in the 2025 capital budget are:

- Initiate the Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Plan development
- Advancement of the Stream 2 Extreme Heat Response:
 - Conclude the climate vulnerable building assessment
 - Identify resilience and adaptation measures to support residential buildings through climate change driven extreme weather events
 - Assess technical feasibility of cooling measures based on building assessment
 - Develop a pilot program for adaptation focused multi-unit residential building retrofits for rental buildings

Through 2025, the Electrical and Climate Action Department will continue to assess and identify shared priorities and work plan alignment between the department divisions.