

COUNCIL AGENDA/INFORMATION

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 Reg. Council  
 Supplemental

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DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER  
750 – 17<sup>TH</sup> STREET, WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7V 3T3

ON-TABLE

## COUNCIL REPORT

Date: November 22, 2009 File: 2190-01-01  
From: Stephen Jenkins, Manager Sustainability and Healthy Communities  
Subject: **Status Report on the Progress of the Climate Action Working Group**

### RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. The report from the Manager of Sustainability titled "Status Report on the Progress of the Climate Action Working Group," dated November 22, 2009 be received for information.
2. The greenhouse gas reduction targets of at least a 33% reduction below 2007 levels by 2020 and at least an 80% reduction by 2050, as proposed by the province, be considered by the Climate Action Working Group to determine how they can be achieved in West Vancouver ; and
3. Staff, in collaboration with the Climate Action Working Group, consult with the community on these proposed targets prior to preparing and presenting a proposed Official Community Plan amendment on targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and policies and actions proposed with respect to achieving the targets, as required under the Local Government Act, Section 877(3), known as Bill 27.

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the status of the Climate Action Working Group, and to outline the working group's next steps.

### 1.0 Background

#### 1.1 Prior Resolutions

On July 20, 2009 Council meeting "THAT Council receive the Climate Action Working Group's Interim Draft Plan and instruct District staff to consider the Action recommendations within and collaborate with the Working Group regarding an implementation plan in alignment with the District's forth coming strategic plan."

On July 14, 2008, Council unanimously agreed to become a signatory to the British Columbia Climate Action Charter. It calls on BC communities to find ways to tackle the challenges posed by climate change, and to pledge to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2012 through the reductions of corporate emissions. In support of the Charter's aims, Council directed:

- Staff to continue exploring and implementing projects to mitigate the effects of climate change in the District;
- The Community Engagement Committee to implement a Climate Action Working Group.

The Working Group is guided by, however not restricted to, the findings and recommendations of The BC Climate Action Charter, Green Communities legislation, the BC Climate Action Team's "Meeting BC's Targets"; and The Progress Report of the Environmental Strategy and Implementation Working Group (ESWIG).

The challenge is the successful implementation of climate action initiatives by identifying and initiating an adoptable set of programs and projects where identifiable reductions take place. West Vancouver has produced an inventory of the District's GHG emissions, which shows that residents are responsible for 98% of emissions. Therefore, meaningful reductions will require modifying the behavior and life-styles of residents.

## **2.0 Analysis**

### 2.1 Discussion

#### Working Group

The Working Group has been conducting monthly meetings since July and increased this to biweekly meetings since September in an attempt to complete their task by the end of 2009. The focus of the meetings was on gaining a full understanding regarding the magnitude of changes required in order to achieve targets set out by the province for Greenhouse Gas (GHG's) reductions. This included reviewing an extensive amount of material from other municipalities and regional districts.

In addition to regular meetings, sub groups have been formed to look at the metrics, measurement tools and reporting practices. Another sub group is looking at education and awareness opportunities with respect to climate change issues.

The Working Group now realizes that more work is required in order to meet targets and is working on the "how to" part of the challenge. These details will be

provided in the draft action plan that the group anticipates will be ready for Council consideration in the spring of 2010.

### Accomplishments

The Working Group has been working extremely hard and highlights have included:

- Agreeing that the community should **consider** the same targets as the Province of BC and they are; at least a 33% reduction of emissions by 2020 and at least an 80% reduction of emissions by 2050 (Emissions are from a 2007 baseline);
- Establishing an online Community Forum for discussion and debate on climate change issues;
- Developing the a table of actionable items that will be considered by council along with the final report;
- Presenting climate change issues at "West Vancouver Community Days and a North Shore Workshop on climate change in October of 2009.

### Preliminary Findings of CAWG

While the Working Group has not completed the final Climate Action Plan for Council consideration the group has considered numerous approaches to addressing climate change issues.

The Working Group has noted particular issues that are currently being reviewed by its sub-groups so that a practical, pragmatic approach to dealing with climate change issues in West Vancouver is taken, this includes:

- Targets and measurement tools for proposed reductions strategies are an integral component of the plan.
- The 80% target by 2050 as set out by the Province is potentially achievable though the ways and means must be identified before Council will be asked to adopt these targets for West Vancouver's.
- Bill 27 work being commenced by the Planning Department, including the public participation requirements for changes required to the OCP, can be supported by this Working Group.
- Although effects of education and awareness are not easily quantifiable they do make up an important part of the plan, and therefore collaborating on work through the first quarter of 2010 is advisable.

### Next Steps


The Group will continue to refine the details of the plan including the measurement and reporting tools required to meet the targets as proposed. The Group will also work with the Planning Department to ensure the plan is consistent with proposed changes to the OCP and the goal of being compliant with Provincial Bill 27.

## **3.0 Options**

### 3.1 Council may:

- (a) receive the report from the; Manager of Sustainability titled "Status Report on the Progress of the Climate Action Working Group," dated November 18, 2009, or;
- (b) request further information on alternative targets for GHG reductions.

Author:



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