
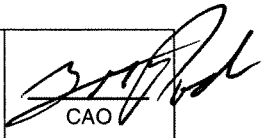


COUNCIL AGENDA/INFORMATION

<input type="checkbox"/> Closed	Date: _____	Item # _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg. Council	Date: <u>Dec 7, 09</u>	Item # <u>6</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental	Date: _____	Item # _____

 Director	 CAO
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DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER

750 – 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7V 3T3

COUNCIL REPORT

Date: November 27, 2009 File: 1610-10-4625
From: Wendy LeBreton, Community Planner
Subject: **Process for Including Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets and Policies in the Official Community Plan (Bill 27 Requirement)**

RECOMMENDED THAT:

The process for including greenhouse gas reduction targets and policies in the Official Community Plan, including a proposed public consultation program, as set out in the November 27, 2009 report from the Community Planner be approved.

Purpose

To provide Council with a proposed process including a public consultation program that will lead to an OCP amendment that sets out greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets and policies, as per the provincially legislated requirements of Bill 27.

1.0 Background

1.1 Prior Resolutions

On July 20, 2009 Council received the Climate Action Working Group (CAWG)'s Interim Draft Plan and instructed District staff to consider the Action recommendations within and collaborate with the Working Group regarding an implementation plan. One of these Action recommendations was "re-examine the OCP to determine how the land use policy framework can be revised to make it climate change resilient".

On July 14, 2008, Council unanimously agreed to become a Signatory of the British Columbia Climate Action Charter.

2.0 Policy

2.1 Policy

As part of its Climate Action Plan, the Province enacted *Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act* ("Bill 27"). Under this legislation, local governments are required to include greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets in their Official Community Plan (OCP) along with supporting policies and actions, by May 31,

2010. While the District's current OCP contains many policies that support GHG reductions over time, the new provincial requirements include specific, numerical targets that are linked to specific policies.

It should be noted that the Bill 27 requirement is *not* equivalent to the District's commitments as a signatory of the Climate Action Charter. The Climate Action Charter commits signatories to achieve carbon-neutral *corporate* operations (e.g. District-operated buildings, facilities, and fleet) by 2012. Bill 27 legislation adds a requirement for *community-wide* GHG reductions from both the private and public sector sources.

3.0 **Analysis**

3.1 Discussion

Scope of OCP Amendment: An OCP is a provincially mandated, legal document that guides local government decision-making. The District's OCP was adopted in mid-2004 and already contains many progressive policies that support action to reduce community GHGs. Staff proposes to conduct a "Gap Analysis", which is a comprehensive review of the OCP, that:

- Highlights existing policies that support climate action;
- Flags policies that, with edits, would support climate action; and
- Proposes new climate action policies (including actual GHG reduction targets).

The following diagram depicts how land use / transport strategies, such as those found in typical OCPs can contribute to climate action.

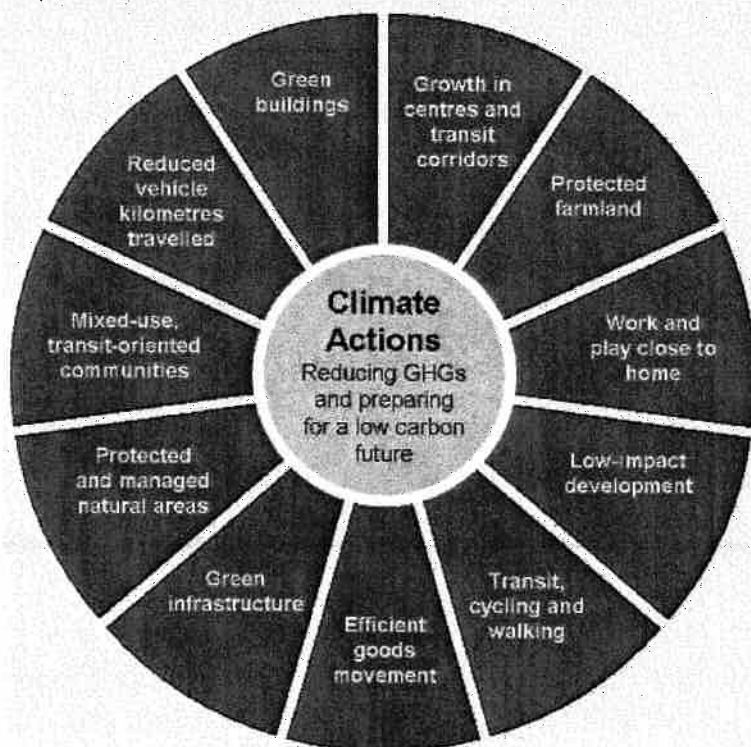


Figure 1: How Land Use and Transportation Strategies Contribute to Climate Action
(Source: Metro Vancouver Draft Regional Growth Strategy)

Proposed Bill 27 OCP Amendment Process: The Local Government Act Section 879 requires that one or more opportunities be provided for appropriate consultation with persons, organizations and authorities Council considers will be affected by an OCP amendment. The process shown in Table 1 is proposed. It also takes into consideration the 2010 Olympics, during which many West Vancouver schools have scheduled two weeks vacation.

Table 1: Proposed Bill 27 OCP Amendment Process

OCP Amendment Bylaw Preparation	
Nov / Dec	<p>OCP Review & Gap Analysis: Staff works with CAWG to review OCP's existing policies. The Gap Analysis will outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing policies that support climate action, - Existing policies that, with edits, would support climate action, and - Suggested new OCP policies to support climate action (including the actual GHG reduction targets)
January	<p>Community Meeting #1: Issues & Opportunities Objective: To conduct a dialogue with West Vancouver residents about issues of climate change and to seek community input on the proposed GHG reduction targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff will work with CAWG to prepare information boards that illustrate climate change urgency; what it means for West Vancouver residents; and our proposed community GHG reduction targets. - Community meeting to be organized for late January
February	Staff and CAWG review comments received at the Community Meeting and prepare a draft amendment bylaw.
March	<p>Community Meeting #2: Policies & Actions Objective: Building on the dialogue started in meeting #1, work with the CAWG and introduce proposed OCP climate action policies for public comment and feedback.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Similar format to Community Meeting #1 - Target late March - Present proposed policies for the OCP that will enable our community to achieve our GHG reduction targets.
Finalize Proposed OCP Amendment Bylaw	
OCP Amendment Statutory Process	
April	OCP Amendment Bylaw First Reading
April (late)	Statutory Public Hearing
May	OCP Amendment Bylaw 2 nd & 3 rd Reading
May	OCP Amendment Bylaw Adoption

Also, during the period of January through April, staff and the CAWG will explore other opportunities for community engagement and awareness-building. At a minimum, information boards from the community meetings will be posted to the District website, along with a summary of the results of the meetings.

3.2 Sustainability

Setting community-wide GHG reduction targets, as well as crafting policies that support climate action is paramount to the District's commitments to addressing climate change. Our local policies will directly affect our community's GHG performance and hence our journey to community sustainability.

3.3 Consultation


Public consultation is a critical piece to the OCP amendment bylaw's development, refinement, and subsequent presentation for Council consideration. Staff is proposing a process leading to an OCP amendment that includes significant community consultation for Council endorsement. It is the intent of the CAWG and staff that this public engagement will constitute only the beginning of a longer term community educational dialogue on climate change issues and opportunities in West Vancouver.

4.0 Options

4.1 The following options are available to Council:

- (a) Approve the proposed process to amend the OCP as per Bill 27's requirements (recommended); or
- (b) Approve the proposed process with changes.

Author:



Concurrence

