

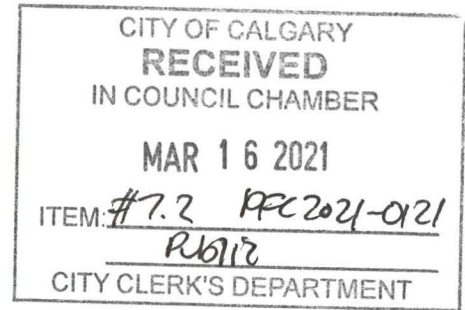
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I have read and understand that my name and comments will be made publicly available in the Council agenda. My email address will not be included in the public record.

First name (required) Mike  
 Last name (required) Mellross  
 What do you want to do? (required) Submit a comment



Public hearing item (required - max 75 characters) ITEM 7.2 Growth and Development Climate Framework Priorities&Finance Comm.  
 Date of meeting Mar 16, 2021

Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Alberta Ecotrust is a member of the Low Carbon Cities Canada (or LC3) network. With an over \$40 million dollar endowment, provided in 2020 by the federal government, we deploy funds and low carbon financing to the Calgary community to assist the city achieve its climate goals. Alberta Ecotrust Foundation supports the city in moving forward with the Growth and Development Climate Framework outlined in Attachment 2 and 3 of the report provided as Item 7.2 (Growth and Development Climate Framework). Specifically, we support the development of a local carbon budget as a metric to track climate action in Calgary. What a carbon budget can do is position climate action in terms of its urgency, reflecting the magnitude of the challenge while giving an easily understandable metric to track against. The development of a local carbon budget is a good start; however, the only way to actualize that carbon budget is to account for carbon in the budget. This requires the development and implementation of a carbon accounting framework. One that is presented in concert with the City's financial budget. Just as a fiscal budget sets a limit on how much money a city can spend, a carbon budget sets a limit on the emissions it can produce. This ongoing, formalized, accounting ensures that carbon is quantified and highlighted in the decision making process alongside dollars and cents. Other cities have developed local carbon budgets including the City of Edmonton who recently became one of the first municipalities in North America to adopt the carbon budget as an integral component of its municipal development plan. As the report shows, these other cities have come to the stark realization that at current emissions levels, the carbon budgets will be exceeded in ten

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years or less. That is because a Carbon Budget is not for a year or a decade, but for a city's entire future. But this should not deter the City of Calgary from developing out this important metric and creating a supporting carbon accounting framework. Significant analysis has been done around the globe that suggests reducing emissions can concurrently happen while creating a diverse, prosperous economy. Investments in climate-friendly infrastructure, including public transit and green space, and low-carbon industries, such as green construction and renewable energy, can create tens of thousands of jobs.