

## **Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans Annual Report 2020**

### **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Standing Policy Committee on Utilities & Corporate Services recommend that Council:  
1. Direct Administration to return to Council in 2022 with an updated Climate Strategy.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the progress made in 2020 to implement the Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans, approved by Council in June 2018 (UCS 2018-0688). This is the second annual progress report, as required by the Calgary City Charter (Section 615.4(2)) and directed by Council. Two years into implementation, most actions are underway, with many actions now embedded into business processes and programs. Out of a total of 244 actions, 41 actions are complete, 162 actions are in progress, and 41 actions were not yet started.
- What does this mean for Calgarians? Climate Change is impacting Calgary and cities around the world are transitioning to a low carbon economy. All Calgarians will be impacted by the effects of climate change, and will be impacted by the pace and scale of societal shift needed to limit global climate change to 1.5 degrees below pre-industrial levels.
- Why does this matter? It demonstrates the City of Calgary's commitment to taking action on climate change, identifies successes and where progress is needed. Calgary is part of the economic shift and could capitalize on this opportunity by taking a leadership position on climate change action while attracting investment in clean technologies and increasing the city's reputation.
- In partnership with internal business units and community partners, the reported 2020 actions include efforts to establish climate change governance; integrate and align climate change considerations and practices into City services, policies and processes; implement outreach and education programs; reduce community and City greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (climate mitigation); and reduce climate-related risk (climate adaptation).
- In 2020, Calgary's city-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were 15.73 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). This is a decrease of 14 per cent compared to 2019, an unprecedented change. The decrease in emissions can be attributed to COVID-19 restrictions impacting energy use across all sectors, the provincial electricity supply becoming cleaner, and warmer-than-usual weather reducing the demand for heating. Even given this large decrease in 2020, Calgary's emissions were only 0.4 per cent below 2005 levels, indicating we are not yet on track to meet the target.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A healthy and green city
- The Annual Report is summarized in Attachment 1. The Calgary Climate Panel, an external advisory network made up of representatives from 22 stakeholder organizations in the community, has provided their annual report including recommendations in Attachment 2.

### **DISCUSSION**

The key target in the Climate Mitigation Action Plan is The City of Calgary's target to reduce city-wide GHG emissions by 80 per cent below 2005 levels by 2050. This target requires an overall reduction in emissions even as we expect the population and economy to continue to grow. Calgary is not currently on track to meet its 2050 emissions target.

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The Adaptation Action Plan currently has no defined targets as adaptation cannot be measured by a specific reduction target. This challenge is not unique to The City of Calgary, as many municipalities in Canada and around the globe are still working on benchmarking corporate and community climate-related risk, defining the boundaries of climate risk assessment, and developing the appropriate indicators and performance measures to assess adaptation progress. A climate risk and adaptation measurement framework for Calgary is currently being developed.

Implementation of the Calgary Resilience Strategy and Action Plans is intended to help do Calgary's part to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and help reduce Calgary's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. To continue the momentum in 2020, key projects will be advanced in 2021 and include:

- Formalizing Climate Change Governance at the City of Calgary, in line with the administrative realignment.
- Updating the Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans to consider the resources and effort needed to achieve the 2050 Net Zero target.
- Further developing and implementing the Growth and Development Climate Framework to integrate climate considerations throughout the Planning Approvals continuum.
- Exploring the integration of Climate Related Financial Disclosure into The City's Annual Financial Reporting utilizing the TCFD framework.
- Updating the Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans will be brought forward to ELT and Council in 2022.

Improving City climate resilience requires collaboration with other levels of government, industry, academia, environmental organizations, and citizens. Success of the strategy is dependent on active prioritization by Administration, including supportive funding and resourcing. Continued measurement, verification of targets, identification of external impacts and feedback-loops on Calgary's Climate Strategy are required to ensure Calgary stays on track to meeting its obligations.

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)**

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

There is a variety of public and stakeholder engagement needs for the projects reported on in the annual report. For the development of the Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans Annual Report itself, direct public engagement was not undertaken or required at this stage.

This report is a compilation of the climate work being done across The Corporation. Fifty-two staff from 22 business units directly contributed to the development of the content for this report.

The Calgary Climate Panel was kept informed throughout 2020 through quarterly panel meetings and advised Administration on key projects. The Climate Panel provided an independent report as an attachment to this report with recommendations pertaining to its governance, alignment to new targets and more.

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In the City of Calgary's Fall 2020 Citizen Satisfaction and Quality of Life Survey, of a representative sample of 2,500 Calgarians, 80 percent stated that they are "concerned about climate change" (up from 76 percent in 2019) and 79 percent agreed with the statement "I think we need to act now to address climate change" (up from 77 percent in 2019). This is an indication of increased awareness and concern for climate action amongst Calgarians.

Collaborations were sought with other organizations to bring energy and climate risk information to Calgarians, a key strategy in both the mitigation and adaptation plans. These included a Fall webinar series, updated webpages and Calgary Climate Panel sessions. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, outreach activities had to move to online platforms.

In addition, internal engagement provided an opportunity to develop climate education for business units to apply climate tools in their service to Calgarians, including offering climate change training for all business units in planning and development and a webinar series offered to all staff.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Social**

The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that global warming is becoming irreversible. While it is still possible to limit global warming to the critical threshold of a 1.5C increase, meaningful climate action is urgently needed around the world.

The detrimental impacts of climate change are socially inequitable at both the global and local scale, as the most vulnerable communities often lack the resources to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change. Climate change also brings serious concerns around intergenerational equity. The current Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans were not written with an equity lens; however, we intend to use equity as a guiding principle in the 2022 update to the Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans.

#### **Environmental**

Climate change also impacts the natural environment. Alberta has already experienced an annual mean temperature increase of 1.4 degrees Celsius. This has an impact on Alberta's ecosystems, and the pace and scale of the climactic changes make it difficult (or sometimes impossible) for the natural environment to adapt. The Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans are intended to do our part to reduce Calgary's GHG emissions to help avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, as well as reduce climate related risks.

#### **Economic**

Many of the climate change solutions proposed in the Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans will help transition Calgary to a low carbon economy, while reducing the detrimental and costly impacts to Calgary's socio-economic system from acute and chronic climate-related events. Investment in carbon reductions and energy management creates jobs in the trades, energy and technology sectors. Preparing the Calgary market for this investment opportunity is critical to attract jobs and associated economic development. An example is the Federal Government's announcement of several billion dollars in post-COVID recovery funds – a large portion going to programs such as building retrofits which is a key feature in GHG reductions.

\$2.6 billion is spent on energy each year in Calgary. By 2030 this could rise to \$6 billion through expected increases in energy prices and the growth of economic activity. Reducing carbon

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emissions directly translates to reduced energy use and energy bills across the city. Residents and businesses within Calgary will enhance their energy security through investments in energy efficiency and low carbon options. Additionally, recovery from the impacts of climate change (such as the \$1.3 billion in insurance claims from the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 severe hail storm) will continue to be costly, and will put a financial strain on citizens and The City.

### **Service and Financial Implications**

#### **No anticipated financial impact**

There are no operating budget impacts associated with the preparation and distribution of this report and on-going annual reporting. The preparation of subsequent actions may require continued funding.

There are no capital budget impacts associated with the preparation and distribution of this report and on-going reporting. The facilitation of infrastructure investment may require capital funding to serve as seed funding and attract additional investment from other level of government or the private sector.

### **RISK**

The City of Calgary is required by the Calgary City Charter (Part 16.1) and by City Council to report progress annually for both climate mitigation and climate adaptation plans. It ensures accountability and transparency as The City works towards achieving the objectives of the Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans.

Municipalities taking ambitious action on climate change is now an expectation of citizens, the international business community and other orders of government. This creates reputational, economic and political risks if Calgary does not take appropriate action. Investment from other levels of government and the private sector are increasingly requiring that cities have established climate action plans with clear targets, and that cities demonstrate progress in implementation.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Attach 1 – Climate Resilience Strategy and Actions Plans Annual Report 2020
2. Attach 2 – Calgary Climate Panel Annual Report
3. Attach 3 – Climate Resilience Strategy and Actions Plans Annual Report 2020 Presentation

Utilities & Environmental Protection Report to  
 SPC on Utilities and Corporate Services  
 2021 June 23

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
 UCS2021-0842  
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