

Council Member Appointment – Calgary Climate Innovation Fund

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Nominate a Council representative to the Calgary Climate Innovation Fund Executive Advisory Committee, for a 2-year term to expire at the 2023 Organizational Meeting of Council; and
2. Direct that the closed meeting discussion remain confidential pursuant to Sections 17 (Disclosure harmful to personal privacy), 19 (Confidential evaluations) and 24 (Advice from officials) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **What is the Calgary Climate Innovation Fund?** The Calgary Climate Innovation Fund administered by Alberta Ecotrust Foundation (Alberta Ecotrust), is part of a national investment into municipal climate action by the Federal Government through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to accelerate urban climate solutions that achieve deep carbon reduction.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** The Calgary Climate Innovation Fund will support projects and organizations in Calgary, in alignment with the Calgary Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans. The initiative takes proven low-carbon solutions to full-scale adoption in partnership with The City and community with funding to demonstrate, de-risk and scale up local solutions to climate change.
- **Why does it matter?** The Calgary Climate Innovation Fund works with many stakeholders, mobilizing new resources and working collaboratively to design climate solutions that create many valuable local benefits in Calgary including deep carbon emission reductions, creating jobs and ensuring equity. Positioned in alignment with, but outside of, local government allows the Calgary Climate Innovation Fund to take on a nimble, accelerator role that complements and advances leadership work undertaken by The City of Calgary.
- The City of Calgary signed a Memorandum of Understanding (attachment 1) with the Alberta Ecotrust to support the launch of the Calgary Climate Innovation Fund. With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, \$21.7 million was allocated for the purpose of supporting projects that will reduce Calgary's emissions.
- An executive advisory committee was established, with up to nine members, to champion the mandate and advise on the programming and strategic deployment of the funds.
- Councillor Demong was nominated for the interim via Mayor Nenshi's office to represent The City in November 2020, and a new council representative is required.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A healthy and green city

DISCUSSION

Cities have a big role to play in addressing climate change, where half of Canada's carbon emissions originate from sources such as buildings and transportation. Calgary's Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans (approved by Council in June 2018) has a mitigation goal of reducing carbon emissions while supporting the low carbon economy. In Action 7.3, the

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Strategy directs administration to “explore innovative funding and financing opportunities and to foster new ways to procure innovation that will increase climate resilience”.

The City supported Alberta Ecotrust on the development of the Low Carbon Cities Canada coalition. Alberta Ecotrust, today is a member of the Low Carbon Cities Canada coalition, which is a network of seven centres across the country from Vancouver to Halifax, that is focused on reducing urban emissions and building economic prosperity in the city’s in which they operate.

In 2019 the Federal Government committed \$183 million to the Low Carbon Cities Canada network as part of the \$350 million Low carbon Cities Canada Federation of Canadian Municipalities Collaboration on Community Climate Action program delivering locally led low carbon solutions across Canada, through the Green Municipal Fund. The funds are distributed through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities who also has certain requirements for these local centres.

Alberta Ecotrust received a \$22 million contribution as part of this endowment to support low-carbon solutions in Calgary. Since that time Alberta Ecotrust established the Calgary Climate Innovation Fund and established a governance model, Executive Advisory Committee, Investment Committee and Technical Committees. A work plan has been established and local applications for grants and loans has already been launched.

A requirement from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities was that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) be signed between the local Low Carbon Cities Canada Centre (Alberta Ecotrust) and the local municipality (City of Calgary).

The Memorandum of Understanding stipulates that The City and Alberta Ecotrust agree to share mutual interest and commitment at accelerating the reduction of local greenhouse gas emissions, work together on a multi-solving approach, compliment the work The City is doing, and learn from each other’s success and failures. In particular, The City committed to designate a representative to participate in the Executive Advisory Committee of the Calgary Climate Innovation Fund and support the work of the Low Carbon Cities Canada Fund where possible, which could include sharing information, City staff participation and coordination of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Calgary.

The Calgary Climate Innovation Fund Executive Advisory Committee is an Administrative Committee reporting directly to the Chief Executive Officer of Alberta Ecotrust. The Advisory Committee is responsible for advancing the strategic direction of the Climate Innovation Fund and providing regular progress reports via the Chief Executive Officer and Committee Chair to the Board of Directors with respect to the local activities. Examples of the strategic direction include the annual work plan and selection and award of funding and granting submissions as well as liaison with the finance committee and other network cities in Canada. A detailed terms of reference can be found in attachment 2.

The committee consists of 5 – 9 members from various backgrounds including SunAlta, ACTia, QUEST Canada, Pembina Institute, Calgary Economic Development and a number of private companies with specialist knowledge in emissions reductions. The Committee meets quarterly. It is anticipated that there will also be collaboration with other Low Carbon Cities Canada cities and their representatives.

The Advisory Committee representative will be supported by City Administration through the Climate Team.

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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

No external engagement was undertaken with this report.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

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 Climate Innovation Fund ensures that equity is a key criteria when project proposals are evaluated and considered for funding.

Environmental

The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 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.

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 in conjunction with the Climate Innovation Fund 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

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.

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Service and Financial Implications

Existing operating funding - base

None

RISK

No risks were identified. The Terms of Reference was reviewed and approved as to form, by Law.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Memorandum of Understanding Alberta Ecotrust Foundation and City of Calgary
2. Terms of Reference (for information)

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Christopher Collier	Environmental & Safety Management	Approve
Michael Thompson	Utility & Environmental Protection	Approve
Stuart Dalgleish	Planning & Development	Inform