

Establishment of a Climate Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Community Development Committee recommends that Council:

1. Establish a Climate Advisory Committee; and
2. Approve the proposed Climate Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (as per Attachment 1)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Purpose of this report?** On behalf of the Calgary Climate Panel, City Administration is recommending that the Calgary Climate Panel become an advisory committee of Council called the Climate Advisory Committee. The proposed mandate of the Climate Advisory Committee is to provide Council and Administration with strategic advice and recommendations on policies and strategic initiatives that relate to climate change as noted in the draft Terms of Reference in Attachment 1.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** The creation of a Council advisory committee on climate action signals to citizens that Council is committed to climate action as a strategic priority and is the natural progression of the Climate Emergency Declaration. It also gives Calgarians and those organizations playing a crucial role in leading Calgary's transition, a voice in climate issues.
- **Why does it matter?** The Climate Advisory Committee will provide credible, strategic, and independent advice to inform Council on climate action. The current structure of the Calgary Climate Panel does not offer a direct connection to Council. The advisory committee will enhance Council's leadership, awareness, communication, engagement and advocacy in the implementation of Calgary's Climate Strategy and Action Plans, policy, regulation, and procedures. It will contribute towards the integration of climate change into council decision making through an advisory committee.
- Cities that have been successful in climate action (e.g. Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto) all have clear climate governance structures and includes council advisory committees that elevate and increase awareness of climate action to citizens and to Council.
- On November 15, 2021, Calgary City Council voted to declare a Climate Emergency followed by a Notice of Motion (Attachment 3). A declaration of a Climate Emergency puts The City of Calgary on record in support of emergency action to respond to climate change and recognizes the pace and scale of action needed.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A healthy and green city
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

With the adoption of the Calgary Climate Resilience Strategy on June 25, 2018, The City moved forward with one of the first recommended actions for governance; collaborative action from The City, industry, and citizens to form the Calgary Climate Panel. This was an external advisory network and partnership collaboration, with a mandate to provide:

- Broad strategic advice to Administration on energy and carbon reduction opportunities, severe weather risk reduction; and
- Communication on progress through an annual reporting process.

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On 2021 June 23, The Calgary Climate Panel presented its second Annual Report (Attachment 2) to Utilities and Corporate Services (UCS) as part of the Annual Report for the Climate Strategy (UCS2021-0842). The Annual Report highlighted six recommendations to Council including the recommendation “to strengthen Calgary Climate Panel governance” by becoming an advisory committee of Council with the intent that this committee would provide credible, strategic, and independent advice on climate action and strategies directly to Council and Administration.

To address the above recommendation, City Administration, has prepared this application for consideration of Council for the Climate Panel to become a Council advisory committee.

The Climate Advisory Committee Draft Terms of Reference (Attachment 1) outlines the proposed mandate, responsibilities, objectives and composition for the committee.

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

City Administration engaged with the Calgary Climate Panel to understand the benefits and limitations of becoming one of Council’s Board, Commissions and Committees (BCC). The Calgary Climate Panel agreed to proceed with the application process and worked with City Administration to draft the Terms of Reference.

The public had been informed of the Calgary Climate Panel’s request through their Annual Report (public document) and through the minutes of the Calgary Climate Panel meetings, which are posted externally on the Climate Program’s website. No additional public consultation or engagement was conducted during the development of the draft terms of reference for the committee.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

The Climate Advisory Committee will have the responsibility of ensuring climate equity is embedded into climate actions, strategies, and policies to reduce disproportionate impacts of climate change on all citizens as well as the equal opportunities to share in the energy transition.

Environmental

The Climate Advisory Committee will support and collaborate on climate action including ensuring the reduction of Calgary’s greenhouse gas emissions and incorporating adaptation actions.

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Economic

The Climate Advisory Committee will recognize the financial, social, and environmental cost of climate action in Calgary and include consideration of these costs in municipal decision making.

Service and Financial Implications

Current and Future Operating Budget: It is expected that a modest operating budget would be required for administrative costs. Should additional funding be needed, a budget request would be brought forward to Council following Committee establishment.

Existing operating funding - base

RISK

The following risks have been identified:

1. Philosophical differences amongst members; and
2. Lack of member commitment.

The risk to the Corporation is low to medium. The risks have been mitigated by a properly established and vetted Terms of Reference for the Climate Advisory Committee. The Terms of Reference proposes a membership of multiple perspectives to The City to ensure informed discussions, buy-in, and action for the climate change program.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Climate Advisory Committee Draft Terms of Reference
2. Climate Panel Annual Report 2020 UCS2021-0842
3. Declaration of Climate Emergency and Call to Action EC2021-1525

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Stuart Dalglish	Planning & Development Services	Approve
Carolyn Bowen	Planning & Development Services	Approve