

Updates on Climate Calls to Action and Growth and Development Climate Framework

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Committee recommend that Council receive this report for the Corporate Record.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2023 MARCH 22:

That Council receive this report for the Corporate Record.

Opposition to recommendation: Councillor McLean

HIGHLIGHTS

- With the Climate Emergency Declaration, recent approval of the *Calgary Climate Strategy – Pathways to 2050*, and the 2023 – 2026 Climate Implementation Plan (an attachment to the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets), Council and Administration recognize the need for enhanced accountability and transparency in climate action.
- This report provides Council with status updates related to the Building Accountability Notice of Motion (EC2021-1698), the Growth and Development Climate Framework (GDCF; PFC2021-0121) and the Carbon Budget Framework.
- This report consists of six status updates for programs or projects underway to provide Council with background information, current progress and next steps on:
 - Climate Reporting Framework focused on enhancing accountability, measurement and reporting within The City;
 - Corporate Assets and Clean Energy including the Corporate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) & Energy Framework;
 - Civic Partnerships including Subsidiaries outlining work with key partners on various climate-related programs;
 - Outreach, Educational and Communications Strategy outlining implementation of outreach and education activities;
 - Growth and Development Climate Framework integrating climate considerations throughout the planning approvals continuum; and the
 - Carbon Budget Framework, a GHG management system that allows quantification and reporting of emissions prior to commitment of resources.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** Calgarians are concerned about climate change and are calling for City and community climate action. This report informs Council and Calgarians on The City's progress on climate action, sets expectations for future programs and initiatives, and identifies ways The City can provide clear and transparent progress updates to Calgarians and Council.
- **Why does this matter?** Investment from other orders of government and the private sector are increasingly requiring that cities have established frameworks, strategies, and strong climate governance. Investing into future climate action builds confidence and credibility for Calgary's future climate programs, actions, and progress. Failure to ensure proper accountability creates reputational, economic, political, legal, and regulatory risks.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

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DISCUSSION

Building Accountability Notice of Motion (EC2021-1698)

The intent of the Notice of Motion EC2021-1698 was to direct Administration to build accountability into future climate actions and ensure clear reporting over the next four years. All work is currently underway and continues to develop over the next business cycle.

Table 1: EC2021-1698 Notice of Motion

EC2021-1698 – Building Accountability into the Declaration of the Climate Emergency	
Council-directed Action	Summary of Status Update
1 Develop a framework to measure and report on the Climate Strategy actions, budget and annual spend.	<p>A Climate Reporting Framework has been developed to report on The City's progress on implementing actions within the Climate Strategy, including measurable (quantitative and qualitative metrics) outcomes, and ongoing expenditure of cross-corporate climate investment approved in the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets.</p> <p>While The City has historically reported on climate progress and performance through a variety of reporting mechanisms, to enhance transparency, accessibility and alignment of various reporting outcomes, the climate reporting framework was developed to consolidate information.</p> <p>The framework includes three central City reporting documents; the Accountability Reports, Annual Financial Report, and Climate Progress Report; and details the associated key climate metrics. A status update on the Climate Reporting Framework is detailed in Attachment 2.</p>
2 Provide ongoing expenditure reports to be submitted to Audit Committee;	The Climate Reporting Framework Status Update details progress on financial reporting including ongoing expenditure of cross-corporate climate investment approved in the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets and processes (Attachment 2).
a Future reports will explore financials including cost of action/inaction, avoided costs and cost savings as it relates to climate mitigation and adaptation.	The Climate Reporting Framework Status Update provides an overview on progress to date on supplemental climate-related financial information (Attachment 2).
b Qualitative reporting to include indigenous world view, equity, and environment	The Climate Reporting Status Update outlines the progress on qualitative reporting related to Indigenous world view, climate equity, and the environment (Attachment 2).
3 Update the city-wide and corporate greenhouse gas reduction target to be net-zero emissions by 2050 and set sector specific interim targets to ensure accountability and benchmarking;	The Calgary Climate Strategy – Pathways to 2050 aligns the City-wide GHG emissions reduction target to 60% reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2050. Sector-specific community GHG reduction milestones were developed. The Corporate Greenhouse Gas & Energy Framework (CGEF) proposes the same interim and net zero targets. Additional work is

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EC2021-1698 – Building Accountability into the Declaration of the Climate Emergency	
Council-directed Action	Summary of Status Update
	needed to define sector-specific corporate GHG emissions reduction targets, which will be part of the implementation of the CGEF (Attachment 3).
4	Present a plan to retrofit and update all City owned assets with clean energy infrastructure and improvements that exceeds current energy standards;
a	The Plan should include anticipated timelines, a costs/savings analysis, and an action prioritization of City-owned facilities and operations
b	Each Business Unit to build carbon targets and actions into their 2023 – 2026 business plans and budgets
5	Work with civic partners and subsidiaries to ensure alignment with Calgary's climate risk reduction goals and emissions reductions target, including the interim targets;
6	Connect with community partners in an outreach and educational campaign that will empower all Calgarians to play their part in meeting the City's net-zero target and reduce climate risk in our communities;
	The Civic Partners including Subsidiaries Status Update outlines the work to date with The City's civic partners and subsidiaries. Administration has been working with key civic partners and subsidiaries over the years on various climate-related programs and will continue to support them (Attachment 4).
	An Outreach, Educational and Communications Strategy currently is being developed to guide implementation of outreach and education activities, increase awareness and capacity, and encourage behaviour change. Ongoing and future collaboration will be crucial to the effective delivery of programs. It is anticipated that the Strategy will launch in Q2 of 2023 and continue to 2024 (Attachment 5).

Growth and Development Climate Framework (PFC2021-012)

Council's direction in PFC2021-012 was to provide an update on climate integration into the Planning Approvals Continuum through the Growth and Development Climate Framework and an update on the development of a carbon budget framework.

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Table 2: Growth and Development Climate Framework and the Carbon Budget

PFC2021-0121 – Growth and Development Climate Framework	
Council-directed Action	Summary of Status Update
2	<p>Report back to Council through the SPC on Planning and Urban Development on the implementation of the associated projects by Q2 2022 (re-scheduled to Q1 2023).</p> <p>The Growth and Development Climate Framework (GDCF) integrates climate considerations throughout the planning approvals continuum to provide a coordinated approach to city-building. The implementation of GDCF has been underway since 2021, with several actions and processes complete or continuing to be completed. An update of the GDCF projects to date and projects and initiatives planned for the next four years is provided in this status update (Attachment 6).</p>
3	<p>Direct Administration to develop a Carbon Budget and report back to Council as part of the updated Climate Resilience Strategy, by Q2 2022 (re-scheduled to Q1 2023).</p> <p>The Corporate and Community Carbon Budget Framework is a GHG management system that allows quantification and reporting of emissions prior to commitment of resources. The Community Carbon Budget does not impose a budget for the community to follow. Progress has been made through integration with the 2023 – 2026 financial budget process; however, more work is needed. Components of the framework will be developed and piloted over the next business cycle. Full implementation expected in five to six years (Attachment 7).</p>

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

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Climate change affects people, places, or systems unequally as geospatial, socio-economic, and built environment considerations contribute to inequitable vulnerability, and therefore an inequitable experience of climate impacts. As people who face physical, financial, or systemic barriers tend to be the most adversely affected by climate events and have the most limited ability to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption and physical climate risk, climate-related inequity is driven by issues of structural inequity.

Environmental

This ongoing work will continue to support Calgary's environmental sustainability in alignment with City policies and strategies including the Environment Strategy.

Economic

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Calgary's economic recovery remains a key issue for Calgarians and The City's progress on climate action and the targets defined within the Climate Strategy will need to be transparent and accountable to build credibility and confidence in our transition to a low carbon economy.

Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact as a result of this Status Update.

RISK

Climate change is one of the biggest risks we face and will continue to impact our economy, public health and environment. Accountability and transparency in our climate reporting is necessary to ensure continued public support and investor confidence. Investment from other orders of government and the private sector are increasingly requiring that cities have established strategies and strong reporting frameworks. Failure to ensure proper accountability creates reputational, economic, political, legal, and regulatory risks.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Previous Council Direction, Background
2. Climate Reporting Framework
3. Corporate Assets and Clean Energy - Status Update
4. Civic Partnerships including Subsidiaries - Status Update
5. Outreach, Educational and Communications Strategy - Status Update
6. Growth and Development Climate Framework - Status Update
7. Corporate and Community Carbon Budget Framework - Status Update
8. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Stuart Dalglish	Planning & Development Services	Approve
Carolyn Bowen	Planning & Development Services	Approve
Chris Arthurs	People, Innovation & Collaboration Services	Inform
Katie Black	Community Services	Inform
Carla Male	Corporate Planning & Financial Services	Inform
Doug Morgan	Operational Services	Inform
Michael Thompson	Infrastructure Services	Inform
Jill Floen	Law, Legislative Services & Security	Inform