



## Climate Advisory Committee Report

### MANDATE

To provide Council and Administration with strategic advice and recommendations on policies and strategic initiatives that relate to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### COMPOSITION

9 to 16 Members:

- 15 Public Members
- 1 Administration

### ANNUAL UPDATE & KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### Work Completed Within the Last Year

The Climate Advisory Committee (CAC) Annual Report covers the first five months of operations. The CAC consists of 15 public members and one non-voting Administration member. The Committee met for the first time on December 13, 2022, at which time a Chair and Vice Chair were elected. In the first few months, members studied a substantial number of documents pertaining to work already accomplished in The City of Calgary's (The City) Climate Strategy and Climate Implementation Plan and received several City Administration presentations regarding planning to mitigate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and prepare Calgary for adaptation to climate impacts.

Given the urgency of the mandate, the CAC committed to monthly 2-3 hour Committee meetings, in addition to interim meetings and workshops to better understand the role and mandate of the Committee and to get to know each other better. This included one on one coffee dates and other social meetings in groups of two to four to explore the potential for strong collaboration and to identify mutual interests.

Committee members explored three big questions to guide their work during a series of facilitated workshops and discussions that extended over two regular monthly meetings and two interim meetings:

1. What initiatives and projects should we prioritize in 2023-2024?
2. How can The City support our mandate and responsibilities?
3. How do we effectively communicate with Council? How often?

We arrived at the following principles to guide our work:

- *Metrics, reporting, and evaluation*: measures are critical if The City is going to retain and enhance support for climate initiatives.
- *Impact valuation*: how do we know an initiative is building capacity or changing behaviour? Impacts go beyond economics and include health, quality of life, climate risk mitigation, etc.
- *Climate equity*: equity, inclusion, and affordability are important to policy and practice.
- *Advocacy pathways*: the CAC will advocate for pathways to net zero and climate adaptation.
- *Empower community*: City policy and engagement should ensure every community can participate equally.



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- *Risk of inaction*: climate impacts create risks to community well-being and the economy. There are also energy risks to consider and reputational risks to The City if it fails to act.
- *Prioritization and integration*: The City needs to prioritize adaptation and mitigation; consider prioritizing initiatives within the Climate Implementation Plan; and integrate climate change into “everything”
- *Policy environment*: distinguishing between policy and regulation, and when one is more suitable than another. What enabling actions should The City take as a climate leader?

### Current Initiatives and Projects

The members of this committee have been involved with the following initiatives and projects since its inception in December 2022.

#### Initiatives and Projects within the CAC Meetings (monthly meetings)

1. Responsive Review of City of Calgary Initiatives and Projects: The CAC was presented with the following items by City Administration to provide context, and to gather feedback.

- City of Calgary Year 1 Climate Priorities
- Land Use Bylaw / Climate Amendments
- Updates on Climate Calls to Action
- Growth and Development Climate Framework
- Calgary Parks Open Space Plan
- Climate Outreach, Education, and Communication Strategy
- Climate-Related Financial Disclosure Section of the Annual Financial Report

2. Proactive Review of City of Calgary Initiatives and Projects: The CAC asked City Administration to provide the following information as it relates to the delivery of the CAC's mandate:

- Their review/analysis of the federal budget.
- The detailed climate budget as soon as it is available.
- Criteria Used to Establish Priorities in the Climate Implementation Plan
- 2023 – 2026 Service Plans and Budgets

3. CAC Mandate and Accountability Review: The CAC has reviewed and discussed the following documents to affirm the committee's mandate and develop a long-term vision for the CAC.

- [Revised Climate Advisory Committee Terms of Reference \(C2022-1020\)](#)
- [2023-2026 Climate Implementation Plan - City of Calgary](#)
- [Climate Strategy - Pathways to 2050](#)
- [Cost of Inaction - Economic Analysis of Climate Change Impacts on Calgary](#)
- [Funding Climate Action Report 2022](#)
- [GHG Emissions Modelling 2021-2022](#)
- Facilitated Mandate and Focus Exercise Results/Principles



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### Initiatives and Projects outside the CAC Meetings (irregular meetings)

1. **Gap Analysis of the Climate Implementation Plan:** The CAC is forming a set of sub-committees to review The City's Climate Implementation Plan and provide Council and City Administration with a gap analysis of the plan as well as recommendations on ways to address the noted issues and improve the overall effectiveness of the CAC.
2. **OECD Strategic Foresight for Successful Net Zero Transitions:** The CAC and other participants recommended by Calgary Economic Development (CED) were invited by The City's Resilience & Futures Team and CED to participate in three strategic foresight sessions hosted by The City, CED and the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to discuss various global disruptions and net-zero transition scenarios. Calgary is the only municipality globally to be offered an opportunity to work with OECD to pilot a toolkit the OECD developed as part of their Horizontal Project on Building Climate and Economic Resilience.
  - OECD Net Zero Transitions Scenarios for Calgary Meeting 1 - February 23
  - OECD Net Zero Transitions Scenarios for Calgary Meeting 2 - March 9
  - OECD Net Zero Transitions Scenarios for Calgary Meeting 3 – March 23
3. **External Engagement -** The CAC has engaged with some external stakeholders to deepen our understanding of the role and expectations of the Committee:
  - CAC Committee Chair met with the Founding Chair of the City of Edmonton's Energy Transition and Resilience Committee to explore similarities and differences and identify key opportunities based on their multiple years of experience and operations
  - Review of previous work by the Calgary Climate Panel
  - Outreach by Committee Chair and Vice Chair to better understand external expectations
  - Future engagement opportunities exist with existing and future community partners both locally, and within the boundary region of Calgary

### **Accomplishments Achieved**

Our accomplishments include:

- The creation of guiding principles
- Contributing to The City's Strategic Foresight and Resilience, Future Scenarios Plan
- Formation of subcommittees aligned with the key priorities in the Climate Implementation Plan

Given the short time the CAC has been operating, one of the key accomplishments has been to cooperatively identify the importance of communicating directly with Council to provide both advice and reassurance. The members of the CAC represent a diversity of expertise on climate science/change, energy, buildings, health, regulatory operations, resilience, and community. Our extensive networks also inform us of high-priority opportunities and challenges. We will proactively look to align our agendas and work plan with Council priorities and schedules.



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Through several discussions, the CAC has identified some potential opportunities for The City. The committee believes Council should be aware of these opportunities and formulate a plan to ensure appropriate resources are allocated within the current budget, sought from other levels of government, or developed through strategic partnerships with business and private investment.

### 1. Continue to aggressively pursue external “green” funding for Calgary:

- The federal government’s Emission Reduction Plan includes \$9.1 billion in new funding on top of the \$17.6 billion put toward climate action and clean growth since 2015. In the most recent 2023 budget, \$2 billion was released to the Canada Infrastructure Bank to support Clean Power and Green Infrastructure.
- A 15% federal tax credit was also announced to support green electricity and a refundable tax credit equal to 30 percent of the capital cost for green electricity, heating and cooling systems, and zero emissions vehicles.
- The global market for sustainable finance is estimated to be \$25 trillion by 2030.
- The Government of Alberta recently announced a commitment of up to \$50 million for a single grant program, with applications due in June 2023 under the Reshaping Energy Systems program.
- FCM is asking CHMC to guarantee that the Housing Accelerator Fund includes support for the expansion of existing initiatives currently underway by a municipality and not be limited to just the implementation of new projects.

There is substantial funding available outside of Calgary to support critical investments for our community that in turn support the transformation of our economy and achievement of climate change goals. **The City of Calgary is uniquely positioned to bring community partners together to facilitate proposals for strategic projects that align with The Climate Implementation Plan along with the goals of other sectors and community organizations.**

### 2. Prioritize major City capital investments using a climate action lens

Within the current approved City budget, there is a large range of capital investments identified. There is an opportunity for The City to use these projects to support climate goals by prioritizing the timing and manner of implementation to align with climate action goals. Examples include:

- accelerating construction of low carbon transportation infrastructure related to transit, active transportation and zero-emission vehicles
- examine the scope of other projects, such as the recently announced event centre, to ensure decarbonization and climate resiliency goals are integrated into design

The funding opportunities listed above can be leveraged for these opportunities.

### 3. Push for utility decarbonization

Electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater and transportation utilities that serve Calgary are all on a journey to decarbonize and improve the climate resiliency of their systems. That said, many of the organizations providing critical services to Calgary have their own internal priorities and those may place resources elsewhere in their networks outside Calgary.



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Likewise, utilities serving Calgary solely may not prioritize climate action. There is an opportunity for The City to ensure utilities owned by the municipality prioritize climate action and have their own specific decarbonization and climate resiliency plans. Additionally, The City may have levers with external organizations to support them in prioritizing investment in decarbonization and climate resiliency for the Calgary area.

This would include taking leadership to access resources identified in (1) above.

### CHALLENGES

The CAC is still in the early stages of formation and as such a key challenge has been determining the best governance structure within the group for identifying and managing work. A key challenge has been determining the best pathways for reporting back to Council, including the timing and nature of reports Council is seeking.

### WORKPLAN FOR THE NEXT YEAR

In addition to other activities which may arise in discharging its responsibilities and fulfilling its mandate, the CAC has formed seven sub-committees that directly align with the key priority focus areas established in the Climate Implementation Plan approved by Council ([C2022-1051, Attachment 10](#)). Those focus areas and corresponding subcommittees are:

- Communities
- Buildings
- Energy Supply
- Mobility
- Natural Infrastructure
- Education & Outreach
- Accountability & Reporting

The workplan for each CAC sub-committee is to undertake, through direct engagement with CAC members, City Administration and other key stakeholders, its own assessment and evaluation of the 2023-2026 Climate Implementation Plan, complete a gap assessment and present findings as well as recommendations with respect to climate adaptation and mitigation at the October 2023 CAC meeting. A 2023 findings analysis report will be shared with Council and City Administration.

#### Key Workplan Milestones:

- Subcommittee completion of preliminary assessment and gap analysis and presentation at June CAC meeting. A key component of this work is to identify and request further program information needed from City Administration.
- City Administration will provide the program information requested by each subcommittee by July 2023.
- Based on any further detailed information provided by City Administration in respect of the Climate Implementation Plan Key Focus areas, the Subcommittees will determine any immediate next steps and further analysis required on their part.



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- Completion of a preliminary 2023 report for each subcommittee summarizing its assessment and review of the 2023-2026 Climate Implementation Plan, complete with a gap assessment and findings as well as any recommendations to be presented with recommendations at the October 2023 CAC meeting.
- The subcommittee findings and recommendations will be consolidated into a 2023 CAC report to Council and Administration in late fall 2023.

### Other Activities:

As may be required by or to complete its assessment of the Climate Implementation Plan as well as to fulfill its mandate and responsibilities, the CAC and subcommittees, may engage other key stakeholders to add to information provided by City Administration (the Climate Team). Amongst others, those groups may include Calgary Economic Development, the Calgary Climate Panel, City Business Units and other local and regional organizations collaborating with or doing business with The City.

### OPERATIONS

The CAC was established by Council on March 31, 2022. After the formal BCC recruitment process, the first committee members were selected by Council in October 2022. The first meeting was held on December 13, 2022. Meetings occur on the third Tuesday of every month from 4:00-6:00 pm

Table 1: Climate Advisory Committee meetings held to date

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Meeting Format	CAC Member Participation	Public Member Participation
December 13, 2022	Formal	Hybrid	15/16	0
January 17, 2023	Formal	Hybrid	16/16	0
January 31, 2023	Ad hoc	Hybrid	14/16	0
February 16, 2023	Subcommittee	Remote	7	N/A
February 21, 2023	Formal	Remote	16/16	7
March 21, 2023	Formal	Hybrid	15/16	3
April 6, 2023	Subcommittee	Remote	6	N/A
April 17, 2023	Subcommittee	Remote	4	N/A
April 18, 2023	Formal	Hybrid	15/16	7

### Public Members

The CAC welcomes members of the public to attend the committee's monthly meetings. Notice of meetings and information about the CAC is posted on the committee's external [website](#). Public members may join the meetings remotely remaining muted for the duration of the meeting.

Public members can obtain the Microsoft Teams meeting information by contacting City Administration's main contact, whose information is posted on the committee's external website.



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Public members that have indicated attendance to a future meeting receive a copy of the agenda in advance of each meeting.

### Barriers to Accessibility and Participation

The CAC has not indicated any barriers to accessibility or participation.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

N/A