

Calgary Climate Strategy – Pathways to 2050

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Community Development Committee recommends that Council:

1. Adopt, by resolution, the updated Calgary Climate Strategy – Pathways to 2050 (Attachment 2); and
2. Rescind, by resolution, the 2018 Climate Resilience Strategy Mitigation and Adaptation Plans.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 2022 MAY 31:

That Council:

1. Adopt, by resolution, the updated Calgary Climate Strategy – Pathways to 2050 (Attachment 2);
2. Rescind, by resolution, the 2018 Climate Resilience Strategy Mitigation and Adaptation Plans; **and**
3. **That the Calgary Climate Strategy includes provision for independent, objective audits to support accountability and transparency in reporting to Calgarians on the progress made towards successfully implementing the Strategy.**

Oppositions to Recommendation:

Against: Councillor Pootmans

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Purpose of this report?** To align with the requirements of the Calgary city charter, Administration completed a review and update of the Climate Resilience Strategy adopted by Council in 2018. The updated Calgary Climate Strategy – Pathways to 2050 (Attachment 2) aligns Calgary to the Council Climate Emergency declaration to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and adapt to our changing climate at an accelerated pace and scale. The Calgary Climate Strategy focuses on achieving community-level climate outcomes through City and community action. The proposed Calgary Climate Strategy contains the strategic framework providing overarching guiding principles and direction; the Mitigation Plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to achieve a net zero target, and the Adaptation Plan to build climate resilience into Calgary's communities. The Corporate Greenhouse Gas and Energy Plan focuses on city-owned assets and will be presented to Community and Development Committee on June 22, 2022.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** The updated Calgary Climate Strategy signals to Calgarians that Council is committed to supporting Calgarians through a low carbon economy transition and building resilient communities as a strategic priority.
- **Why does this matter?** The consequences of climate change are widespread, costly, and hazardous, impacting our economy, environment and collective health. The cost of climate impacts continues to grow and could increase to as much as \$8 billion dollars annually by the 2080s, impacting all Calgarians but especially vulnerable populations. Left unchecked,

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the impacts of climate change will stretch government and municipal resources, exacerbate inequity, disrupt business operations and damage our environment.

- Reducing Calgary's city-wide emissions to net zero by 2050 will require a cumulative investment of approximately \$87 billion by 2050, or \$3.1 billion annually, into mitigation measures such as building retrofits, renewable energy and zero emissions mobility. The investment is calculated as a cost to the economy broadly. It is expected that the Federal Government could contribute as much as \$90 billion in announced funding for climate programming across Canada. The pathways identified in the Mitigation Plan positions Calgary to take advantage of the federal funding.
- On November 15, 2021, Calgary City Council voted to declare a Climate Emergency followed by a detailed Notice of Motion. A declaration of a Climate Emergency puts The City of Calgary (The City) on record in support of emergency action to respond to climate change and recognizes the pace and scale of action needed. Previous Council Direction and Background are included as Attachment 1.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A healthy and green city

DISCUSSION

As Calgary emerges from the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic and an economic recession, it is important that The City's future climate action is equitable, effective, efficient, and implemented with consideration for all Calgarians.

Alberta's transition to a low carbon economy has the potential to create over 160,000 jobs in clean technology and generate over \$60 billion in Gross Domestic Product by 2050. Calgary has always been a leader in the development and provision of energy to the world through our oil and gas sector, making us uniquely positioned to provide leadership in the energy transition. Climate action is not a cost, but an investment in our local economic future, and the health and resilience of future generations of Calgarians. This transition and climate resilience will need to be built considering Indigenous world views and ensuring that equity is built into the actions that Calgary takes.

In updating the Calgary Climate Strategy, we engaged with businesses, industries, utility providers, builders, developers, academics, non-governmental organizations and residents including equity-deserving Calgarians. We heard that ambitious climate action must be implemented with equity and affordability and in collaboration with our community, while ensuring that jobs, economic opportunities, education, and services continue to grow. The Calgary Climate Strategy was developed with these objectives in mind. The Mitigation Plan describes actions to influence how we plan for today and future generations, how we build and renovate our buildings and homes, how we move around the city, and how we capture GHG emissions. The Adaptation Plan focuses on building Calgary's resilience to a changing climate by supporting people, communities, built and natural infrastructure and sustainable water and stormwater management.

The socioeconomic impacts from severe climate events, including subsequent impacts on infrastructure, economy and health care in Calgary are estimated to cost a staggering \$2.6 billion annually by the 2050s and \$8 billion annually by the 2080s. Beyond financial costs, climate change will significantly impact the wellbeing of all Calgarians. To tackle climate change, Calgary will need to embrace climate mitigation and adaptation action in all sectors, and it will require significant investment.

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The proposed actions within the Mitigation and Adaptation Plans are priority actions based on research, modelling, stakeholder and public feedback, and best practices that are necessary to meet our target of net zero by 2050 and become a climate resilient city. The City will engage with partners, development and building industry, the energy sector, businesses, organizations and the community to determine how programs and initiatives will be built and implemented. Funding opportunities will be explored and pursued, and pilot projects, incentive programs and education initiatives will be implemented. Calgary's progression will be monitored and reported annually for transparency and to ensure we are on track and allow us to adjust or pivot as required. Climate action requires a collaborative and coordinated effort from all Calgarians, including all businesses, industries, city-builders, organizations, educators, and institutions.

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

The Calgary Climate Strategy was informed through engagement with targeted external stakeholders, including the Calgary Climate Panel representing 22 sectors. Sixteen engagement groups were created and identified as either internal stakeholders, external stakeholders, or the public. In total, 927 participants participated in the engagement sessions, representing 27 City of Calgary business units and 36 organizations in the Calgary community.

External equity and Indigenous consultants were retained to advise on the inclusion and integration of these topics and ensure The Calgary Climate Strategy aligns with the standards of other major Canadian cities. An engagement process led by the Engage Resource Unit was conducted and included an engagement survey, garnering over 400 responses from the public and a public Microsoft Teams live Information and Question and Answer event.

In addition to general public engagement, equity-focused engagement was completed through Equity workshops with internal City staff, community-based organizations and equity-deserving individuals. Paper surveys targeting rough sleepers, Fair Entry applicants and subsidized renters were completed via internal and external partnerships to help understand how climate change impacts those experiencing increased vulnerability. Demographic information collected helped to identify specific values, unique barriers and needs of equity-deserving individuals. This engagement process has advanced equity engagement at The City and will help inform updates to The City's Inclusive Engagement Guide. The engagement and its results will be used to inform the strategies for development of future climate actions and programs. A summary of engagement is provided in Attachment 3 and includes a link to the full What We Heard Report.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

The impacts of climate change affect all Calgarians, however, adverse impacts of climate change are felt disproportionately by equity-deserving peoples. Climate-related inequity is driven by larger issues of structural inequity within our city and society, and the increased vulnerability of equity-deserving groups is especially driven by challenges with access to

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affordable and high-quality housing and transportation. The Calgary Climate Strategy establishes the direction and guidance to accommodate equitable climate action supporting climate resilience and emissions reductions for all Calgarians.

Environmental

Reducing emissions and protecting and supporting natural environments that provide air quality, water quality, biodiversity, flood mitigation, waste and wastewater management services to the city are critical and have been included in key programs and actions.

The implementation of the proposed Mitigation Plan will reduce GHG emissions through developing zero carbon buildings and communities and emphasizing zero carbon fuels and modes of transportation. The implementation of the proposed Adaptation Plan will contribute significantly to Calgary's environmental performance and sustainability through enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem function and service provision.

Economic

Calgary's economic recovery remains a key issue for Calgarians. The transition to a low carbon economy, while not easy, brings many opportunities for growth. The transition will require large investments, coordination between policymakers, businesses, experts, and a systematic and broad shift in how we live and work. Analysis shows that the benefits of these actions can far outweigh the costs. Modelling demonstrates that a net zero emissions future could lead to cumulative energy savings of \$60 to 80 billion for Calgarians by 2050, savings and returns on investment that can be realized by investing in climate action now. With the right investment in upskilling and retraining for the workforce, Calgarians can expect diverse new opportunities and be confident in taking part in the transition.

The implementation of climate actions represents an immense opportunity for new industries, technology, jobs, local business growth opportunities and partnerships. Climate action will require sustained financial resources, and it will be crucial to leverage all avenues of funding to ensure that The City can provide Calgarians the resources and programs needed to meet our climate objectives.

Service and Financial Implications

Other: Budget request at ONE Calgary 2023 – 2026 Service Plans and Budgets

Significant investment and resources will be required, not only from The City, but also other orders of government and the private sector. Recognizing that The City cannot solely provide the investment required, Administration has investigated mechanisms for funding, financing, and supporting climate action (Attachment 4). Strategic and equitable support mechanisms (e.g., incentive programs) for the community will be developed. The City must be prepared to accelerate and prioritize actions most aligned with the available grant and low-cost financing programs. Priority will be on development of mechanisms that support mobilization of private investment and respond to readiness for external funding.

The implementation, service delivery and associated financial requirements of the actions in the Calgary Climate Strategy will be presented to Council in the ONE Calgary 2023 – 2026 Service Plans and Budgets. Through the process of developing the four-year Service Plans and Budgets, each business unit will refine and integrate the operating and capital costs for the climate actions they are responsible for into their service plan and budget.

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The proposed service plans and budgets will reflect the pace and scale in which investment needs to be made to meet The City's targets. Adjustments to the proposed budgets will have direct impacts on the pace of implementation and expected results and outcomes of the CSAP.

RISK

Climate change is already resulting in detrimental impacts in Calgary and will continue to impact our economy, public health and the environment into the future. Investment in both global climate mitigation and local adaptation are needed.

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

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Council Direction and Background
2. Calgary Climate Strategy – Pathways to 2050
3. Engagement on the Calgary Climate Strategy – Pathways to 2050: What We Heard Report
4. Funding Climate Action in the City of Calgary Summary Report
5. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Stuart Dalglish	Planning & Development Services	
Carolyn Bowen	Planning & Development Services	Approve
Katie Black	Community Services	Inform
Chris Arthurs	Deputy City Manager's Office	Inform
Doug Morgan	Transportation	Inform
Michael Thompson	Utilities & Environmental Protection	Inform