

Hello, My name is Jeff, I have worked in the Environmental space and my position is that I am in opposition of the disposition of parkland for Glenmore Landing.

Some of the committee here today was part of the Revised Notice of Motion on November 9th, 2021 when the City of Calgary declared a climate emergency. This was a pivotal time as we knew that "Calgary and Alberta were home to six out of the top ten costliest natural disasters in Canada on record". It was also stated at that time that "In the *2020 Citizen Satisfaction and Quality of Life Survey*, that 80% of Calgarians stated they were "concerned about climate change" and 79% agreed with the statement 'I think we need to act now to address climate change'."

In regards to that and referencing the Climate Strategy Pathways to 2050 on page 1, "Calgary is joining leading municipalities to achieve our greatest potential greenhouse gas emissions reduction and build a climate-resilient city. In alignment with other major Canadian cities and global leaders, The City of Calgary will accelerate the pace and scale of climate action needed to achieve our goal of net zero emissions by 2050." Also, from page two of that document "European cities are even further ahead, having seized the opportunities of climate change action two decades ago. It is not too late for Calgary, as we learn from and adapt from the successes of other cities."

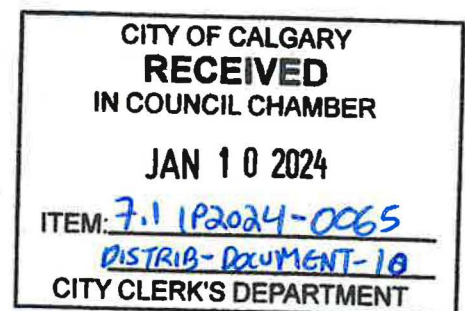
Calgary has experienced devastating and significant climate events. It does not help that we're located in a high-risk area for extreme weather events. On page 54 and 55, "projections indicate that regional warming is expected to continue at an accelerated rate. As a result, the seasons in Calgary are shifting; shorter winters, earlier spring, and longer summers." Calgary is prone to "flooding, severe storms, extreme heat and poor air quality from wildfire smoke. Not only does climate change threaten the health and wellbeing of communities and ecosystems, but climate risks also pose a substantial economic risk."

Our strategy's plan shows, "our City's target is for '60% reduction of GHG emissions below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero GHG emissions by

Natural infrastructure is noted as a key pillar of a resilient city, and as the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated, it provides high value to residents for recreation and improved health and wellbeing.

Our parkland at 90th Ave and 14th St is already responsible for carbon capture with 200 trees located there. Our initiative to rewild the park with native species and more trees will increase levels of carbon capture as stated in your requirements through natural means. One of the two key principles on page 21 says “actions to reduce emissions should always be considered before using offsets to achieve net zero emissions.”

When the parkland was deemed surplus back in 2015, this was before we knew the severity of climate change like we do today, before we made effective policies to combat it. As page 59 states, this work requires significant and long-term engagement with the communities of Calgary to better understand community vulnerability, and to develop and strengthen relationships between City Administration and Calgarians. The community has spoken, we are against the disposition of parkland. We cannot make the mistake of selling parkland thinking it's expendable.



Supporting Indigenous climate adaptation

The depth and breadth of knowledge nurtured by Indigenous communities in and around the region has been created over thousands of years and reflects their respect for the interconnectedness of all things on earth. Working in Ethical Space, the understanding that two disparate worldviews, Indigenous and Western, can work in parallel towards shared understandings and meaningful dialogue takes time and requires trust.

The City of Calgary is committed to engaging with, learning from, and supporting the efforts of Indigenous communities in adapting to climate change. Ethical Space recognizes the need to elevate Indigenous knowledge systems that are deeply rooted in the oral histories and traditions of Indigenous Peoples. The powerful ways of combining Indigenous and non-Indigenous information in the principles of “two-eyed seeing” and “two-legged walking” will strengthen the resilience of Calgary and all its people to future climate change events. Indigenous knowledge is foundational to all climate adaptation efforts.

Integrating equity into climate adaptation planning

The Adaptation Plan has been developed to address equity actions and gaps (informed by *An Equity Review of The City of Calgary's Climate Resilience Strategy* (9) by the Toronto Environmental Alliance, and by engagement with equity-deserving Calgarians), and seeks to create opportunities or benefits for equity-deserving people and communities in Calgary. For climate adaptation strategies to be successful, the full participation of all people is needed. In order to integrate equity considerations, climate adaptation plans, policies, and tools must acknowledge differences in how people will experience and respond to climate impacts and plan to address these gaps. Further engagement and community partnership efforts will target equity-deserving groups, leverage existing community networks, provide tools to support community participants and establish a community climate vulnerability and resilience working group to guide climate adaptation efforts.

Transition to a low carbon economy

The economic development opportunities of implementing climate change adaptation actions and supporting the transition to a low carbon economy is a critical outcome of the Adaptation Plan. The transition to a low carbon economy, while not easy, brings many opportunities for growth and is critical to Calgary's future economic prosperity.

Building climate resilience into The City's infrastructure and operations and investing in climate adaptation at the community scale puts Calgary in a good position to reduce potential future costs and damages. Adaptation measures also have the potential to create new opportunities for job growth and prosperity, such as novel agriculture practices, natural infrastructure solutions and innovative engineering projects. The City commits to implementing the actions in the Adaptation Plan to support and accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy.

Understanding the impacts of climate change

The world is on track for unprecedented rising global temperatures due to cumulative GHG emissions and aerosols within the earth's atmosphere (13). Climate change is already affecting every area on Earth, with changes to precipitation patterns, shifting seasons, glacial retreat, sea level rise and extreme heat events. While reducing GHGs is critical, even with substantial efforts to curtail GHG production, global surface temperatures will continue to rise until at least the mid-century (13).

The climate is changing more substantially and rapidly in higher latitudes such as Canada. Calgary has already experienced significant climate events (e.g., flooding, severe storms, extreme heat and poor air quality from wildfire smoke). Not only does climate change threaten the health and wellbeing of communities and ecosystems, but climate risks also pose a substantial economic risk.

Adaptation efforts are critical to reduce both the long- and short-term damages of climate impacts. According to the Global Commission on Adaptation, every dollar invested in climate adaptation will have an averaged six dollar **return on investment** (ROI) (17). The implications of not adapting are far more costly than taking action to prepare today. The City has been dedicated to understanding climate risk to prioritize actions that will develop climate resilience. Prioritization of The Plan's program areas align with the systems and sectors that will experience the greatest socioeconomic impacts due to climate change.

Integration: The City will integrate climate mitigation and adaptation considerations in all investments to improve energy use, reduce GHG emissions, reduce disaster risks, and strengthen resilience for future climate conditions.

Relevance: The City will develop locally relevant solutions to address **climate risks** and vulnerabilities and take advantage of low carbon energy opportunities. The City will encourage Calgary to leverage its expertise in traditional energy to provide leadership in the energy transition.

Collective responsibility: Climate action is a shared responsibility and collective action is foundational to developing and implementing effective climate solutions.

Commitment: The City will provide strong governance that sustains progress to align policies, adequately fund programs, and ensure ongoing and meaningful partnerships.

Indigenous knowledge and reconciliation: The strength, guidance and holistic knowledge provided by Indigenous Peoples will build and enhance new and planned climate actions. The City is committed to adherence to the constitutionally-protected rights and treaties of Indigenous Peoples, and the goals of reconciliation.

Goals

The City is committed to addressing Calgary's **fair share** of global emissions by improving energy use and reducing GHG emissions through the actions identified in the Mitigation Plan.

The changing climate poses risks to our economy, environment and collective health. The City will work to reduce risk from climate change through the actions identified in the Adaptation Plan.

Targets

Our target is 60 per cent reduction of GHG emissions below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero GHG emissions by 2050.



well-paying and attractive employment to Albertans impacted by the boom-and-bust economic cycle and automation of the oil and gas sector (28).

Building climate resilience into The City's infrastructure and operations, and investing in climate adaptation at the community scale, puts Calgary in a good position to reduce potential future costs and damages. Adaptation measures also have the potential to create new opportunities for job growth and prosperity, such as novel agriculture practices, **natural infrastructure** solutions and innovative engineering projects.

Implementation elements

One of the biggest challenges with climate action is implementation and putting actions into practice. The successful implementation of the Calgary Climate Strategy requires key elements that are common to both climate mitigation and adaptation. Future projects, programs and initiatives will require thoughtful implementation and will consider the following elements:

Integrated decision-making

Integrating policy, implementation tools, and processes is key to enabling effective climate action and ensuring efficient use of resources. Integration ensures that climate change is a part of land use planning and infrastructure policies, guides and bylaws, and is reflected in all decisions that are made across The City. An integrated approach to decision-making ensures that groups across the corporation are involved and are empowered to take climate action.

- **Policy alignment**

Policy across the corporation must be aligned to integrate climate targets and objectives. For example, The City will develop a future climate policy to direct Administration on topics such as low carbon climate resilient procurement practices, implementation of operating and capital investment in decision-making for GHG emissions, fuel management and carbon offsets.

- **Strategically prioritizing climate action**

All climate actions are prioritized and reflect the pace and scale of action required to reduce GHG emissions and support climate-resilient communities. Climate actions presented in the mitigation and adaptation plans have been reviewed and confirmed with internal and external stakeholders as the Strategy has been developed.

- **Service plans and budgets**

The City will develop business plans and budgets across all departments that invest in and accelerate high priority emissions and climate risk reduction opportunities.

Community engagement

Climate change action will require community-wide engagement and may involve large, systemic changes to the way Calgarians live and work. It is important for The City to support Calgarians through this transition. Engagement work with equity-deserving Calgarians has shown that there is a desire for greater choice and autonomy as they face climate change-related issues.

Through community engagement, The City can enhance Calgarians' resilience and provide opportunities for Calgarians to contribute to climate solutions.

Capacity building

Improving awareness and understanding of climate change while facilitating access to information and resources is key to gaining public support for climate-related policies. The City will work to improve Administration's knowledge and appreciation of Indigenous Ways of Knowing so they can better apply both western and Indigenous scientific approaches to climate action.

- **Education and training**

The City recognizes the important role of outreach, education and engagement in the success of climate action. Climate education initiatives are critical to ensure future generations and the broader community within Calgary are educated and engaged in climate action.

Opportunities for training and upskilling will play a significant role in the transition of employment in Alberta. The City will aid in the transition of Calgary's future workforce and businesses by supporting partners such as Calgary Economic Development, post-secondary institutions and training centres.

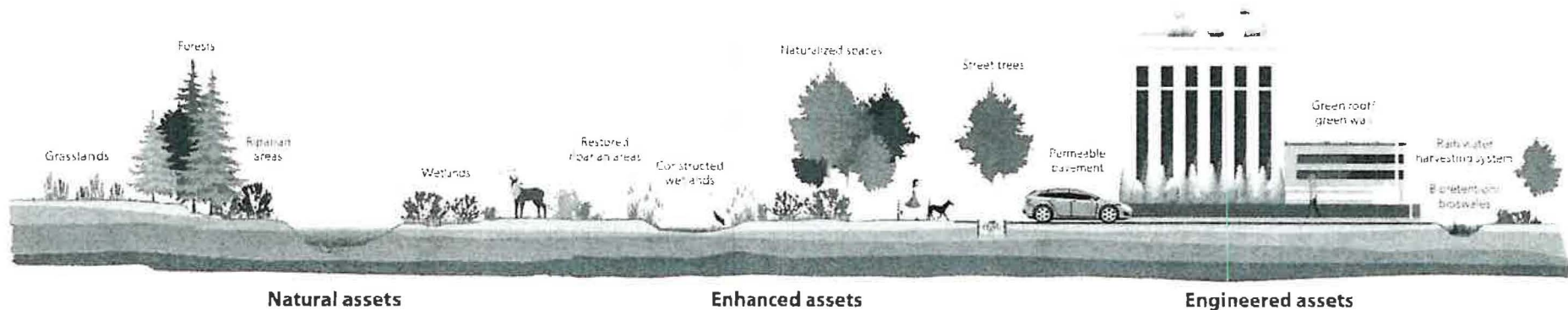


Figure 11: Natural infrastructure within Calgary

Theme: Natural infrastructure

Goal: Preserve, restore and build natural infrastructure as a multi-benefit solution for climate resilience.

Natural infrastructure includes the preserved and restored natural areas in our city, such as grasslands, forests and water bodies, as well as the green stormwater assets built to use natural processes to manage water and provide ecosystem functions in an urban environment, such as green streets, constructed wetlands, rain gardens and green roofs (Figure 11).

Natural infrastructure provides significant environmental, economic, recreational, and societal benefits. It builds our city's resilience to the impacts of climate change, by providing stormwater retention, urban heat reduction and carbon sequestration. However, natural infrastructure is also vulnerable to climate change, as seasons shift, extreme heat, drought, and severe storms impact plants and their ability to thrive. Natural infrastructure is noted as a key pillar of a resilient city (22), and as the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated, it provides high value to residents for recreation and improved health and wellbeing.

All Calgarians benefit from natural infrastructure, however due to factors such as geography, residents' income and housing and land use planning decisions, access to natural infrastructure is not experienced equitably across the city. The City of Calgary recognizes a cross-corporate responsibility to manage natural infrastructure, however natural assets continue to be at risk from conventional land development decisions and historic underinvestment in maintaining natural infrastructure.

A previous zero-based review found that Calgary funds natural areas at about 10% of the rate of other comparable cities. To better understand, protect and manage the services provided by natural assets, a financial valuation was completed in 2021, the results of which are shown in Figure 12:

Natural assets within The City of Calgary have a replacement cost of **\$6.9 billion** which generate a flow of **ANNUAL service value** of approximately **\$2.5 billion**

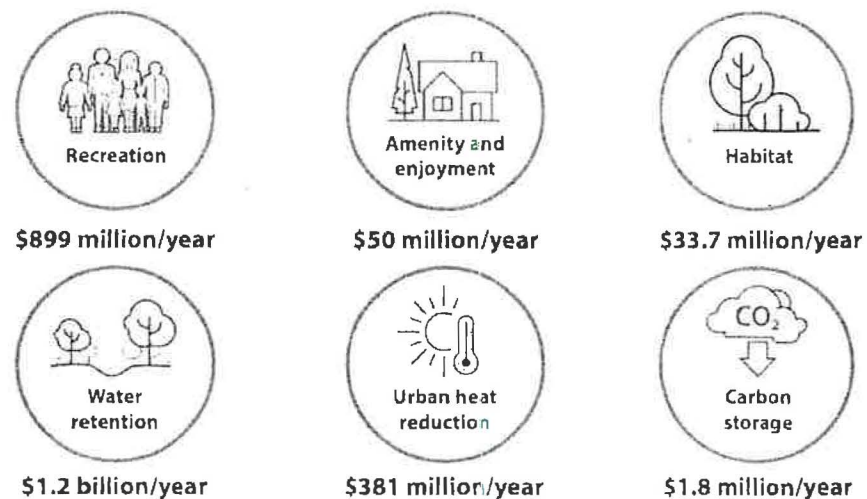


Figure 12: Natural assets within Calgary

mitigation themes and program pathways



The Mitigation Plan is organized into six themes and 12 program pathways. There are five themes aligned to the major sources of GHG emissions in Calgary and represent the critical areas of opportunity to reduce GHG emissions: net zero homes and buildings; zero carbon energy transition; zero carbon neighbourhoods; consumption and waste; and carbon removal.

The sixth theme contains enabling actions that are foundational to achieve emissions reductions across the other five themes.

Within each theme, there are two to three Program Pathways that Calgary will focus on to reduce emissions. The Program Pathways are made up of interdependent programs that must all be implemented in a coordinated way to achieve real greenhouse gas reductions.

If only some of the programs in each Program Pathway are implemented, then the measurable GHG reductions in that pathway may not be achieved. There is a diagram at the beginning of each Program Pathway below that illustrates the interdependencies and timing of how the programs in each Program Pathway should be rolled out to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Two key principles informed the development of the Program Pathways, and should inform the program development and implementation:

1. Program design and implementation should always keep the end goal of net zero emissions in mind. There are some technologies that can deliver cost effective emissions reductions in the short-term but will lock us into a higher emissions future by 2050. For example, retrofitting buildings with cost effective technologies today, but not to a net zero emissions standard, will lock in higher emissions and higher energy costs in the future.
2. **Actions to reduce emissions should always be considered before using offsets to achieve net zero emissions.**

Theme: People

Goal: Reduce Calgarians' vulnerability to the harmful impacts of climate change.

As a municipal entity, it is the role of The City to support and enhance the ability of Calgarians, organizations, businesses and City employees to prepare for, cope with, recover from and respond to the impact of climate hazards. Hazards such as extreme weather events can cause serious harm to people's health, sense of safety and security, emotional well-being and financial stability. While every person in Calgary will be impacted by climate change, some groups are more vulnerable than others and will feel the impacts sooner and more drastically. Vulnerability to climate-related events is influenced by intersecting factors such as access to healthcare, community resources, information, and social supports; systemic social inequities; neighbourhood/geographical location; and access to social and financial capital. People that are more likely to disproportionately face climate impacts can include seniors, youth, individuals with existing health challenges, Indigenous Peoples, racialized communities, women, single-person households, and those who lack the financial resources to prepare for and respond to climate change. Each community in Calgary will face unique climate risks based on population density and the amount and state of built and natural infrastructure in each community.

The purpose of the people-related actions is to better understand which communities will face disproportionate climate risks, and to develop plans and policies that target and address the unique sources of risk in each community. This work requires significant and long-term engagement with the communities of Calgary to better understand community vulnerability, and to develop and strengthen relationships between City Administration and Calgarians. Actions related to education, engagement and outreach are therefore both within the People theme, and other Focus Areas of the Adaptation Plan. The actions within the People theme will foster climate resilience in Calgary's people and communities and reduce the impacts of climate change.

