



Climate Advisory Committee

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

10 to 16 Members:

- 9 to 15 Public Members
- 1 Administration

MEETINGS

The Climate Advisory Committee (CAC) held 10 meetings since May 2023. The seven subcommittees also participated in informal meetings both amongst themselves and with City Administration to finalize the Subcommittee Framework. Meetings are held in a hybrid format. The public is welcome to attend all meetings virtually and has access to meetings, agenda and minutes if requested.

WORK, IMPACT & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This was the second year the CAC was operating and the first full year of the Committee. The members studied a substantial number of documents pertaining to work already accomplished in The City of Calgary's (The City) Climate Strategy: Pathways to 2050 and Climate Implementation Plan and received several City Administration presentations regarding planning to mitigate GHG emissions and preparing 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. The Committee formed seven subcommittees in alignment with the pillars in the Climate Implementation Plan to more efficiently review the significant amount of information received from Administration. This initiative was part of the 2023 workplan identified in the 2023 CAC Annual Report and provided a gap analysis of climate initiatives being undertaken by the City.

The subcommittees are as follows:

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

The subcommittees reported back to the CAC with key recommendations (see Attachment A for the abbreviated summaries and recommendations from the subcommittees). This review,



Climate Advisory Committee

together with presentations by various members of the City's climate team, created a foundation for providing Council and Administration with strategic recommendations.

The subcommittees worked closely with City Administration to understand the progress and opportunities within each pillar. This allowed the members to develop a strong working relationship with City Administration which is apparent through collaboration during our review of policy and initiatives, and at meetings of the CAC.

We supported City Administration with sound feedback on how it could strengthen its approach to climate change and our subcommittee reports provided valuable information for Council.

MANDATE ALIGNMENT

The CAC's mandate is to provide Council and City Administration with strategic advice and recommendations on policies and strategic initiatives that relate to climate change mitigation and adaptation. and strategies. In our work to date, we have collaborated with City Administration, built trust, and shared our committee members' recommendations to help The City meet its Climate Strategy.

COLLABORATION & COMMUNICATION

The CAC had representatives at all meetings of the Calgary Climate Panel whose members comprise a broad cross-section of industry, public sector, business, utility, community and non-governmental organizations to share knowledge and collaborate on climate initiatives in and around the City of Calgary.

Members of the CAC attended meetings of the Biodiversity Advisory Committee to identify collaboration opportunities.

As initiatives arose for Council to consider, the CAC compiled letters of support where there was a climate benefit. The CAC provided letters to Council in May 2023 regarding the Task Force on Housing and Affordability Recommendations, in September 2023 to endorse Calgary's new Housing Strategy, and in October 2023 to support The Drought Resilience Plan (available in Attachment B). CAC also spoke to Council in April 2024 in support of the blanket rezoning.

WORKPLAN & PRIORITIES FOR 2024-2025

The CAC surveyed members to identify priorities which have been incorporated into the 2024-2025 workplan. The following priorities have been identified for action in the upcoming year:

1. Focus on Strategic Priorities: The CAC will prioritize focusing on strategic outcomes and avoid detailed operational aspects, ensuring meetings are focused and productive.
2. Enhance Meeting Efficiency: Implement measures to improve meeting efficiency, such as setting time restrictions, ensuring equal participation, and maintaining a structured agenda.
3. Strengthen Engagement with Council: Proactively engage with Council on key decisions and policy discussions, providing well-founded advice and recommendations based on the committee's expertise.



Climate Advisory Committee

4. Continue Subcommittee work: The subcommittees will continue to advance understanding within their area of focus while continuing to engage with Administration on planning and reporting. The Education and Outreach Subcommittee will stand down at this time, and a new subcommittee that focuses on human health and food resilience is in the process of being organized. The Natural Infrastructure Subcommittee will include a stronger focus on biodiversity.

CHALLENGES

The CAC has had no problems meeting quorum; our members are very keen to contribute to all facets of our work. City Administration has been generous in supporting our work and answering questions about policy and initiatives which arose during our review.

The biggest challenge that faced the CAC was the volume of information that members needed to review in order to be in a position to provide strategic advice on climate progress. This challenge was overcome through the creation of subcommittees which divided up the review work between members.

MEMBER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The CAC member performance is evaluated through taking attendance at meetings. In addition, when members have not spoken up in meetings, time is left on most topics where members who have been silent are encouraged to speak up. The approach taken for members who have not participated in meetings is to take time in the meeting to encourage their participation by asking their thoughts.

Every meeting begins with a reminder that members need to declare if they have a conflict of interest.

BCC COMMENTS

The CAC supports The City in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The CAC has the expertise to review and advise on the plans put forth by City Administration and provides a clear perspective on the path forward.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Subcommittee Summary
- B. Letters to Council



Climate Advisory Committee

ATTACHMENT A

Subcommittee Summaries

The City of Calgary has completed a significant amount of work to advance the Climate Strategy: Pathways to 2050 and the Climate Implementation Plan. The Climate Advisory Committee (CAC) created seven subcommittees in alignment with the pillars within the Climate Strategy to divide up the document review work and report back to the CAC. This enabled the Committee to better understand the City's climate planning and reporting while being efficient with the CACs time.

City Administration supported our subcommittee work, providing feedback on our concerns and questions. This collaboration strengthened the rapport within the CAC and with City Administration. These recommendations relate to research completed between 2023 and 2024.

There were some common themes in terms of recommendations that emerged from the subcommittees. They are as follows:

1. Enhance Engagement: Council should actively seek advice and input from the CAC on climate-related policies and initiatives, leveraging the committee's expertise to inform decision-making processes.
2. Clarify Expectations: The CAC should work with Council to clarify its focus, strategic priorities, and desired outcomes, ensuring alignment with the city's climate objectives.
3. Improve Integration: Council should integrate climate considerations into all relevant decision-making processes, including zoning, housing funding, budget allocation, and economic planning.

The recommendations specific to each subcommittee area of focus can be found in the subcommittee summaries below.

Accountability & Reporting Subcommittee

The CAC strongly supports The City's climate governance and reporting activities. We believe there are nonetheless opportunities for improving reporting and accountability related to the City's climate strategy & plan.

Recommendations:

1. Strengthen accountability for implementing climate projects: this currently lies within various service line plans & budgets. Lacking is a clear hierarchy and change management process to support implementation.
2. Develop a robust set of policies & standards to assess impacts of investments on GHG emissions and climate resiliency.

Buildings Subcommittee



Climate Advisory Committee

The City, despite limitations imposed by the current regulatory environment, can improve its approach to cutting GHG emissions and improving resiliency.

Recommendations:

1. Invest in regular enterprise business risk reporting for City buildings, including preparation of a report on business continuity risks based on likelihood and impact of climate hazards.
2. Educate City Administration in full-life carbon thinking so that operational and embodied carbon associated with construction and operations are accounted for in new builds and retrofits.

Communities Subcommittee

Climate change will have profound impacts on the wellbeing of communities. Urgent action and collaboration with the whole of society is required. Land use policy is an important part of the solution, contributing to a more compact city.

Recommendations:

1. Leverage the new housing strategy to reduce emissions through land use planning, building & development.
2. Prepare emergency heat plans to protect people from high heat and poor air quality.
3. Implement all 6 Key Planned Actions in The City's emergency preparedness strategy, including updating CEMA's 2022 Disaster Risk Report.

Education & Outreach Subcommittee

The work being undertaken on this objective has been initiated by an external consultant to The City. The work is in good hands and will take several years to complete.

Recommendation:

1. The subcommittee can stand down at this time. Updates on this work can be brought to the full CAC as it develops. If a need to re-establish this subcommittee at a later date, this recommendation can be revisited.

Energy Supply Subcommittee

To reduce GHG emissions from Calgary's energy supply, collaboration, advocacy and local solutions are required.

Recommendations:

1. Update modeling from energy distributors: The City's Climate Strategy uses outdated information from energy distributors.
2. Run high level scenarios to identify effect of changing energy policies at provincial and federal levels. Identify what net zero emissions by 2050 means for Calgary's emissions profile.
3. Address energy affordability, to understand what cost of energy is considered affordable and how to cultivate public support.



Climate Advisory Committee

- The CAC should have external guest speakers at future meetings to build a common understanding of the challenges and opportunities within Energy Supply. The Energy Supply Subcommittee will support City Administration with external collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Mobility Subcommittee

Calgary's Climate Implementation Plan prioritizes fuel switching in vehicles, transitioning to electric and eco-friendly technologies for private and commercial fleets, and quality transit, infrastructure, and carpooling for a sustainable transportation system.

Recommendations:

- Incentivize behaviour change for modal shift, with education and incentives for the public and businesses.
- Establish a pathway to net zero, with interim targets that are linked to budget cycles. Include measurable indicators, e.g., number of EV chargers per capita or per city zone.
- Initiate pilot projects to test and evaluate innovative mobility solutions beyond light-duty vehicles. Explore opportunities for transitioning fire fleet, medium/heavy duty vehicles and other transit units to low or zero emission technologies.

Natural Infrastructure Subcommittee

The City has made substantial progress in its approach to preserving natural infrastructure.

Recommendations:

- Ensure development approvals and practices do not undermine protection of natural infrastructure. Once lost, this infrastructure is costly to replace and difficult to duplicate with grey infrastructure.
- Avoid pitting housing affordability against preserving natural infrastructure. Calgary needs both. Council can engage with Calgarians about the value of natural infrastructure.
- Secure more funding in support of climate adaptation for natural infrastructure. Without external funding, The City will struggle to maintain wetlands and other natural infrastructure.
- Expand the focus on biodiversity within this subcommittee to account for the potential closing of the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee.

Status of Recommendations

| Subcommittee Name | Recommendation | Status |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| Accountability & Reporting | Strengthen accountability for implementing climate projects: this currently lies within various service line plans & budgets. Lacking is a clear hierarchy and change management process to support implementation. | In progress |



Climate Advisory Committee

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|----------------------|---|----------------|
| | Develop a robust set of policies & standards to assess impacts of investments on GHG emissions and climate resiliency. | In progress |
| Buildings | Invest in regular enterprise business risk reporting for City buildings, including preparation of a report on business continuity risks based on likelihood and impact of climate hazards. | In progress |
| | Educate City Administration in full-life carbon thinking so that operational and embodied carbon associated with construction and operations are accounted for in new builds and retrofits. | Not started |
| Communities | Leverage the new housing strategy to reduce emissions through land use planning, building & development. | In progress |
| | Prepare emergency heat plans to protect people from high heat and poor air quality. | In progress |
| | Implement all 6 Key Planned Actions in The City's emergency preparedness strategy, including updating CEMA's 2022 Disaster Risk Report. | In progress |
| Education & Outreach | Not applicable | |
| Energy Supply | Update modeling from energy distributors: The City's Climate Strategy uses outdated information from energy distributors. | To be explored |
| | Run high level scenarios to identify effect of changing energy policies at provincial and federal levels. Identify what net zero emissions by 2050 means for Calgary's emissions profile. | To be explored |
| | Address energy affordability, to understand what cost of energy is considered affordable and how to cultivate public support. | In progress |
| | The CAC should have external guest speakers at future meetings to build a common understanding of the challenges and opportunities within Energy Supply. The Energy Supply Subcommittee will support City Administration with external collaboration and knowledge sharing. | In progress |
| Mobility | Incentivize behaviour change for modal shift, with education and incentives for the public and businesses. | To be explored |
| | Establish a pathway to net zero, with interim targets that are linked to budget cycles. Include measurable indicators, e.g., number of EV chargers per capita or per city zone. | To be explored |
| | Initiate pilot projects to test and evaluate innovative mobility solutions beyond light-duty vehicles. Explore opportunities for transitioning fire fleet, medium/heavy duty vehicles and other transit units to low or zero emission technologies. | In progress |



Climate Advisory Committee

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| Natural Infrastructure | Increase protection and conservation of Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) in greenfield development and protect natural infrastructure and incorporate its climate adaptive services and value into city-building processes. | In progress |
| | Avoid pitting housing affordability against preserving natural infrastructure. Calgary needs both. Council can engage with Calgarians about the value of natural infrastructure. | In progress |
| | Secure more funding in support of climate adaptation for natural infrastructure. Without external funding, The City will struggle to maintain wetlands and other natural infrastructure. | In progress |
| | Expand the focus on biodiversity within this subcommittee to account for the potential closing of the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee. | In progress |



Climate Advisory Committee

ATTACHMENT B

Letters of Support

City of Calgary Climate Advisory Committee

May 26, 2023

Re: Task Force on Housing and Affordability Recommendations

Dear Mayor Gondek and Members of Council:

The Calgary Climate Advisory Committee has a mandate to provide Council and Administration with advice on policies and strategic initiatives that relate to climate change mitigation and adaptation. With that in mind, we see an opportunity to encourage Council to incorporate a climate action lens when reviewing the recommendations in the recently released Housing and Affordability Task Force Report.¹

Calgary's low density housing and large suburban footprint, results in car dependency, which is a key driver of Calgary's carbon footprint. Thirty-four (34%) of Calgary's total emissions comes from gasoline and diesel burned in cars and trucks², in part due to the need for driving that low housing density and our growing suburban footprint produces. Vehicle electrification and zero-carbon fuel infrastructure will be a critical piece of mitigating these emissions, alongside infrastructure that enables a diversity of modal choices. Increasing density while expanding choice, quantity, access and affordability of housing throughout the city to enhance walkability, cycling and transit are also proven strategies to decrease car use, reduce transportation carbon emissions, and provide affordable transportation choices.

Further to the positive impact of density on transportation emissions, new infill construction and renovations provide opportunities to improve energy efficiency, increase resilience to climate change impacts, and incorporate distributed renewable energy production and natural infrastructure. By eliminating policy barriers and supporting innovation, low-carbon and climate resilient buildings can be more affordable, which in-turn reduces cost inequities by increasing access to energy efficient homes for all residents, including vulnerable Calgarians.

These positions are supported by the Calgary Climate Strategy in points H4.1, H4.2 and H4.3.³:

- H4.1 Incentivize and prioritize energy efficient development in all areas through land use bylaw rules and policy direction.
- H4.2 Through the land use bylaw update, enable increased housing types and support uses in residential areas to facilitate complete communities and reduce dependency on private vehicles.

¹ <https://engage.calgary.ca/HATaskForce>

² Calgary Climate Strategy, page 25

³ Calgary Climate Strategy, page 42

- H4.3 Consider viable options for removing and/or reducing motor vehicle parking minimums in residential areas, to allow for more compact development, more efficient use of land and encourage alternate modes of transportation.

Further, the Calgary Climate Strategy reads: “Our communities will transition to compact, mixed-use neighbourhoods with abundant natural infrastructure and where transit and active modes of transportation (e.g., walking, cycling) are the preferred mobility choice” (p. 40).

While denser development is recognized and established as part of the Calgary Climate Strategy and the 2023-2026 Climate Implementation Plan, it is understood that development and redevelopment that meets the needs of all Calgarians must be pursued in a balanced and sustainable way that also minimizes negative impacts on climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

While we are still reviewing the details of the Housing and Affordability Task Force recommendations, we ask Council to keep in mind how the above points can be integrated when considering how to move forward with the Housing and Affordability Task Force recommendations. The vision of Calgary that Council committed to in the Climate Strategy is one that is denser and prioritizes walking, cycling, transit use and affordability. We believe these points are in good alignment with that vision.

Sincerely,



Pat Letizia
Chair, Calgary Climate Advisory Committee

Cc: Stuart Dagleish, General Manager, Planning & Development Services; Deputy City Manager
Climate Advisory Committee Members:
Dick Ebersohn

City of Calgary Climate Advisory Committee

September 12, 2023

Re: City of Calgary's Housing Strategy 2024-2030

Dear Mayor Gondek and Members of Community Development Committee:

The Calgary Climate Advisory Committee has a mandate to provide Council and Administration with advice on policies and strategic initiatives that relate to climate change mitigation and adaptation. In May, our Committee encouraged Council to incorporate a climate action lens when reviewing the recommendations in the recently released Housing Strategy¹, which is largely based on the work of the Housing and Affordability Task Force². In doing so, both the housing crisis and climate emergency can be addressed at the same time, increasing chances for better collaboration, connectivity and equity.

A system does what it is designed to do and regulatory barriers that have resulted in Calgary's low density housing and large suburban footprint, results in car dependency, which is a key driver of Calgary's carbon footprint. Thirty-four (34%) of Calgary's total emissions comes from gasoline and diesel burned in cars and trucks³, in part due to the need for driving that *low* housing density and our *growing* suburban footprint produces. Vehicle electrification and zero-carbon fuel infrastructure will be a critical piece of mitigating these emissions, alongside infrastructure that enables a diversity of transportation modal choices. Increasing density while expanding choice, quantity, access and affordability of housing throughout the city to enhance walkability, cycling and transit are also proven strategies to decrease car use, reduce transportation carbon emissions, and provide affordable transportation choices.

Further to the positive impact of density on transportation emissions, new infill construction and renovations provide opportunities to improve energy efficiency, increase resilience to climate change impacts, and incorporate distributed renewable energy production and natural infrastructure. By eliminating policy barriers and supporting innovation, low-carbon and climate resilient buildings can be more affordable, which in-turn reduces cost inequities by increasing access to energy efficient homes for all residents, including vulnerable Calgarians.

These positions are supported by the Calgary Climate Strategy in Actions H4.1, H4.2 and H4.3.⁴:

- H4.1 Incentivize and prioritize energy efficient development in all areas through land use bylaw rules and policy direction.

¹ <https://www.calgary.ca/social-services/low-income/task-force.html?redirect=/housingstrategy>

² <https://engage.calgary.ca/HATaskForce>

³ Calgary Climate Strategy, page 25

⁴ Calgary Climate Strategy, page 42

- H4.2 Through the land use bylaw update, enable increased housing types and support uses in residential areas to facilitate complete communities and reduce dependency on private vehicles.
- H4.3 Consider viable options for removing and/or reducing motor vehicle parking minimums in residential areas, to allow for more compact development, more efficient use of land and encourage alternate modes of transportation.

Further, the Calgary Climate Strategy reads: “Our communities will transition to compact, mixed-use neighbourhoods with abundant natural infrastructure and where transit and active modes of transportation (e.g., walking, cycling) are the preferred mobility choice” (p. 40).

While denser development is recognized and established as part of the Calgary Climate Strategy and the 2023-2026 Climate Implementation Plan, it is understood that development and redevelopment that meets the needs of *all* Calgarians must be pursued in a balanced and sustainable way that also minimizes negative impacts on climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. We previously wrote on May 26 that we were reviewing the details of the Housing and Affordability Task Force. We have significantly discussed the recommendations and the Housing and Affordability Task Force. We see that our climate strategy and implementation plan aligns with the HATF recommendations in the following ways:

- Intensifying where the infrastructure already exists
- Reducing regulatory barriers
- Aligning transportation and land use together
- Redevelop the existing underutilized land
- Parking is not a barrier to affordability

We have also been fortunate to formally hear from Josh White and Teresa Goldstein about the HATF recommendations at our August 15, 2023 meeting. **We believe a balanced systems approach to development includes a full approval of the Housing and Affordability Task Force recommendations via the Housing Strategy.** The vision of Calgary that Council committed to in the Climate Strategy is one that is denser and prioritizes walking, cycling, transit use and affordability. We believe our endorsement is in strong alignment with that vision.

Sincerely,



Pat Letizia
Chair, Calgary Climate Advisory Committee

Cc: Stuart Dagleish, General Manager, Planning & Development Services; Deputy City Manager
Dick Ebersohn, Manager - Climate Mitigation, Climate Advisory Committee Administration Member

CITY OF CALGARY CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 19, 2023

Re: The Drought Resilience Plan

Dear Mayor Gondek and Members of the Community Development Committee:

The Calgary Climate Advisory Committee is mandated to provide Council and Administration with advice on policies and strategic initiatives related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Using the lens of climate action, we see a current opportunity to encourage Council to adopt the Drought Resilience Plan. The Climate Advisory Committee supports the Plan as it represents a critical step forward in enhancing our community's ability to cope with the impacts of drought in the context of a warming and changing climate.

Multi-year drought is one of our city's top climate hazards and the impacts of prolonged drought have been summarized within the Plan's climate modeling and risk analysis. This work has informed the strategies needed to mitigate these impacts, and recommends accelerated action for climate adaptation as follows:

Water Security: The Plan emphasizes the importance of ensuring a water supply that can meet the needs of our residents, support the environment, and sustain our economy.

Community-Wide Impacts: Drought impacts range from water supply constraints to environmental and ecosystem impacts, and economic impacts for The City of Calgary. These impacts will need to be considered when planning resilient city infrastructure, operations, and communities.

Action Planning: The Drought Resilience Plan identifies key actions to adapt effectively to drought.

Demand Management: The Plan places a priority on improved demand management. By investing in ongoing water demand reduction efforts, we can reduce water use, thus reducing vulnerability to water shortages during drought and enhancing the resilience of residences and businesses.

Water Storage Solutions: Innovative water storage solutions are essential for ensuring a secure water supply that supports long-term regional growth while simultaneously managing flood and drought risks in a rapidly changing climate.

The Drought Resilience Plan offers a clear and well-defined path for our community to adapt to the multifaceted challenges posed by drought. It is designed to ensure that people, ecosystems, and businesses have the resilience required to endure and recover from prolonged periods of dry conditions and water shortages.

The Calgary Climate Advisory Committee supports the adoption of the Drought Resilience Plan as a climate adaptation tool that can safeguard The City from drought impacts. The recommendations within the Plan reflect a commitment to climate adaptation and mitigation and improving the resilience of the City of Calgary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Letizia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat Letizia
Chair, Calgary Climate Advisory Committee

Cc: Stuart Dalglish, General Manager, Planning & Development Services; Deputy City Manager
Climate Advisory Committee Members:
Brian Hahn, Vice Chair
Christine Gibson
Dick Ebersohn
Andree Iffrig
Fred Edwards
Harris Switzman
Israr Ahmad
Jennifer Saldana
Joanne Perdue
Joel Trubilowicz
Maham Aftab
Rob Tremblay
Ryan Germaine
Stephanie Ho Lem
Tim McMillan