

Background and Previous Council Direction

Background

The BiodiverCity Advisory Committee was established in 2015 to provide Council and Administration with strategic advice on matters affecting urban biodiversity in The City of Calgary. The Committee advances the commitments and procedures identified within Our BiodiverCity, Calgary’s 10-year Biodiversity Strategic plan (2015- 2025), The Durban Commitment: Local Governments for Biodiversity, and Calgary’s Climate Strategy: Pathways to 2050 (Climate Strategy).

The Climate Advisory Committee provides Council and Administration with strategic advice and recommendations on policies and strategic initiatives that relate to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Climate Advisory Committee terms of reference include natural infrastructure. The Climate Advisory Committee consists of 15 public members and one non-voting Administration member. This is a new Committee that met for the first time in December of 2022.

Previous Council Direction

Bylaws, Regulations, Council Policies

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City of Calgary Biodiversity Policy – CSPS037

This council policy was established in March 2015 to guide biodiversity conservation decision-making and act as a foundation for municipal actions towards biodiversity conservation.

City of Calgary Signature of Durban Commitment

In the fall of 2016, The City of Calgary signed the Durban Commitment, becoming the third Canadian city to formally join an international program directed by Local Action for Biodiversity. This program aims to improve biodiversity planning and management. By signing the commitment, Calgary acknowledges its “accountability and responsibility for the health and well-being of our communities through protecting, sustainably utilizing, and managing biodiversity, recognizing its role as the foundation of our existence”.

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
2023 July 04	C2023-0762	<p>Further to Council's direction respecting EC2023-0473, that Council direct Administration to return to Council no later than the end of Q2 2024 with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. a proposed bylaw to merge the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee and the Climate Advisory Committee; and II. <i>(held confidential pursuant to Section 24 (Advice from officials) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to be reviewed by 2033 June 01.</i> <p>Note: Part I of the above recommendation was originally made in closed session. General Manager Debra Hamilton approved the release of the above recommendation on 2024 June 27.</p>
07/26/2022	C2022-0878	Amendments to Climate Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
5/27/2022	CD2022-0583	Amendments to BiodiverCity Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
03/17/2022	CD2022-0361	Establishment of a Climate Advisory Committee.
11/15/2021	N2021-1207	Direction to Administration to work with BiodiverCity Advisory Committee to revise terms of reference to reflect criticality of their work and committee's ability to better interface with Council and Administration
7/27/2015	CPS2015-0608	Establishment of an Advisory Committee on Biodiversity
03/30/2015	CPS2015-0260	Establishment of Council Biodiversity Policy