

# Climate Advisory Committee Letter to Council

March 15, 2024

Re: The future of the Climate Advisory Committee and BiodiverCity Advisory Committee

Dear Mayor Gondek and Members of Council:

The mandate of the Calgary Climate Advisory Committee (CAC) is to advise Council and Administration on policies and strategic initiatives that relate to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This is critical work and members of the CAC take this mandate seriously. The CAC 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, and in its first year, 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 the Climate Implementation Plan and engaged with multiple City teams that are advancing the actions outlined within the Climate Implementation Plan.

In order to accomplish this volume of work to fulfill our mandate, the CAC formed a set of subcommittees with the purpose of developing recommendations that are provided to Council and Administration. These CAC subcommittees align with the climate framework outlined in The City's Climate Implementation Plan. They are as follows: Communities, Buildings, Energy Supply, Mobility, Natural Infrastructure, Education & Outreach, and Accountability & Reporting.

In response to the request from Council to amalgamate the CAC and the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee (BAC), the CAC has developed a recommendation that will allow the CAC to continue their critical work while improving integration of biodiversity considerations into climate action. The BAC was formed to advance the commitments and procedures in Calgary's 10-year Biodiversity Strategic Plan (2015-2025). This mandate is close to being fulfilled with all member terms ending in October of 2025. Biodiversity is an important consideration in both climate mitigation and adaptation and the CAC is already incorporating biodiversity into the work of the Committee through the Natural Infrastructure subcommittee as well as in the full CAC meetings and work. With the sunset of the BAC, there is an opportunity to add additional biodiversity expertise to the Natural Infrastructure subcommittee. This will allow for a smoother transition and integration of biodiversity into climate than would result by completely merging the two committees.

There is strong expertise within the CAC and the members have developed respect and trust for each other. This has resulted in alignment in the actions and recommendations put forward by the CAC. Maintaining the CAC membership and adding a biodiversity focus to the Natural Infrastructure subcommittee will ensure the momentum and effectiveness the CAC has built carries forward and allow us to continue to advance recommendations on climate action to Council and Administration.

The CAC has an urgent and critical mandate, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide a recommendation on improving biodiversity integration into the CAC which will allow the BAC to

complete its mandate and dissolve. We are committed to working closely with Administration and Council during this transition to ensure the work of the CAC stays on track.

Sincerely,

Pat Letizia  
Chair, Calgary Climate Advisory Committee

Cc: Stuart Dalglish, Chief Operating Officer  
Climate Advisory Committee Members:  
Jennifer Saldana, Vice Chair  
Bill Black  
Dr. Gabriela da Costa Silva  
Taylor Brown  
Dick Ebersohn  
Steph Gagnon  
Ryan Germaine  
Dr. Christine Gibson  
Brian Hahn  
Andrée Iffrig  
Jeremy van Loon  
Joanne Perdue  
Robert Tremblay  
Dr. Joel Trubilowicz