

Planning & Development Services Report to  
Community Development Committee  
2024 July 24

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
CD2024-0575

## 2023 Climate Progress Report

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### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the 2023 Climate Progress Report and progress towards The City's long-term goals defined in the Climate Strategy: Pathways to 2050 (Climate Strategy).

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

In 2021 December, Council directed Administration to build enhanced accountability into future climate action and reporting through Notice of Motion EC2021-1698, *Building Accountability into the Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Call to Action* (Attachment 1). In 2022, Council approved the Climate Strategy (CD2022-0465), which led to the development of the 2023-2026 Climate Implementation Plan (2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets).

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Community Development Committee recommend that Council receive the 2023 Climate Progress Report for the Corporate Record.

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 2024 JULY 24:

That Council receive the 2023 Climate Progress Report for the Corporate Record.

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

Chief Operating Officer Stuart Dalglish and General Manager Debra Hamilton support this report. Meaningful progress has been made on the Climate Implementation Plan, demonstrating that climate action remains a priority for The City and community partners. The City of Calgary's Climate Strategy is essential to protecting our natural environment, diversifying our economy and continuing to support a high-quality of life for Calgarians.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The City has completed the first year of the Climate Implementation Plan, with 80% of climate actions in progress or complete.
- Calgary's community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are trending down, despite a 45% population increase, from our 2005 baseline. Overall community GHG emissions decreased by 1.1%, while per capita GHG emissions decreased 31.9% from baseline.
- Our corporate GHG emissions decreased 42.2% from our 2005 baseline.
- The City secured \$259M in grant funding from other orders of government, with an additional \$37M pending approval or finalizing agreements.
- A public-facing climate and environment dashboard (launching 2024 July) was developed that provides up-to-date information on our progress toward community and corporate climate and environment targets.
- While we are seeing early progress, continued commitment and action is needed in the coming years to reduce GHG emissions and address increasing climate risk as Calgary continues to experience rapid population growth.

## **2023 Climate Progress Report**

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### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Background**

Approved in 2022, the Climate Strategy is our roadmap to achieving a net-zero and climate-resilient city. Investment in climate action positions Calgary as a leader in the low-carbon economy and corporate environmental, social and governance practices. It attracts residents, businesses, funding from other orders of government and private investors who align with our climate goals.

In 2023, a climate reporting framework was created to support accountability on our progress. The 2023 Climate Progress Report is the third report from this framework delivered to Council in 2024. The report summarizes The City's first year of accelerated and collective climate action, highlighting how this work progresses Calgary's efforts to decarbonize and adapt to our changing climate over the next 30 years.

#### **Progress**

Our community and corporate GHG emissions are trending down and Calgarians better understand climate impacts and how to prepare for future climate events. The following significant projects/programs were launched in 2023, establishing a solid foundation to continue the downward trend in GHG emissions and reduce climate risk in the coming years:

- The Clean Energy Improvement Program supporting \$2.9 million in low-interest financing for residential energy upgrades.
- Emissions Neutral Building Information Exchange (ENBIX) enables knowledge sharing between 28 organizations to advance emissions-neutral building practices in Alberta.
- Considering alternative fuel options for The City's fleet to minimize GHG emissions while ensuring consistent and reliable service.
- Tree planting programs supported the planting of approximately 6,000 large caliper, 3,000 container and 91,000 seedling trees for a total of 100,000 trees. These trees will help to replace the 6,000 established trees lost in 2023 due to storms, aging, environmental stressors and development.
- The climate resilient communities working group was launched to co-develop programs to support vulnerable communities implement actions to reduce climate risk.
- The Drought Resilience Plan was approved, which sets the long-term direction for proactive drought resilience measures.

New financing mechanisms are in development to fund accelerated climate action and The City secured \$259 million in provincial and federal funding to support projects that advance climate outcomes. This includes projects in active transportation, natural areas, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, energy efficiency and expansion of our composting facility.

To further enhance transparency, The City is launching a public-facing climate and environment dashboard in 2024 July to provide Calgarians access to up-to-date information on our progress.

#### **Looking Ahead**

While much was accomplished in 2023 to meet our target of net-zero by 2050, significant work is still required over the coming years. In addition, local climate events will continue to increase in severity and frequency with global climate change, requiring continued investment in building Calgary's climate resilience.

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The City continues to work with all orders of government, industrial, commercial and institutional sectors, civic partners, non-governmental organizations and all Calgarians on collective climate action. This work positions Calgary to be a leader in the global energy transition with a greener more diverse economy, showcasing our city as one of the most livable in the world.

### EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- |                                     |   |                          |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Public engagement was undertaken        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public communication or engagement was not required |

The City provides the Climate Advisory Committee (CAC) a copy of all reports included within the Climate Reporting Framework and meets with all seven of the CAC's subcommittees.

Administration is collaboratively working with CAC on integrating climate into our corporate processes and decision-making and enhancing transparency on The City's progress in implementing climate change actions and progress against our targets and goals.

Members of the CAC also participated in the user-testing of the public-facing dashboard. Calgarians will also have an opportunity to provide feedback on the dashboard through an online-form to inform customer usability and satisfaction.

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Social

Integrating climate action into city building creates stronger and more resilient communities and businesses. This improves Calgarian's safety, health and wellbeing from climate hazards, reducing impacts on community services and the healthcare system. Engaging the community and applying local knowledge ensures equitable outcomes, while helping to build relationships with community and Indigenous partners.

#### Environmental

Increased conservation, restoration and enhancement of natural areas and infrastructure increases the provision of ecosystem services that reduce climate risk from extreme heat and flooding and sequester carbon. It also supports increasing the diversity of natural areas that can adapt and thrive in Calgary's current and future climate conditions.

#### Economic

Climate action and transitioning to a low-carbon economy positions Calgary as a destination of choice. It supports economic growth, new technologies and job creation and attracts investment from other orders of government and the private sector. Investing in climate adaptation also lowers the risk and associated costs of service disruption to Calgarians and damage to property, natural areas and infrastructure from climate events.

Investments in energy efficiency measures and local renewable energy sources increases energy and operational cost savings. Building to low-carbon and climate-ready standards today is more cost effective than retrofitting buildings and infrastructure in the future.

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### Service and Financial Implications

There are no anticipated financial impacts associated with receiving this report.

### RISK

Global climate change is causing a significant shift in regional climates, including rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns and an increase in extreme weather events. Without continued commitment and action the impacts of climate change will stretch government and municipal resources, exacerbate inequality, disrupt businesses, pressure supply chains, displace population and damage our natural ecosystems.

There are increasing expectations from the public, private sector and external investors to provide enhanced accountability and transparency on The City's progress towards our climate goals. Detailed climate reporting has become best practice for large cities in Canada and within the private sector.

Not providing enhanced disclosures nor demonstrating progress towards our climate goals poses a reputational and financial risk to The City, which may result in Calgary being less desirable for economic investment and the potential loss of both private external and government funding and financing opportunities.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. 2023 Climate Progress Report
3. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Stuart Dalgleish	Chief Operating Officer	Consult
Debra Hamilton	General Manager, Planning and Development Services	Approve
Kyle Ripley	Director, Parks and Open Spaces	Inform
Sharon Fleming	Director, Calgary Transit	Inform

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**City Clerks: C. Doi / K. Picketts**