

**Planning & Development Services Report to
Community Development Committee
2025 June 12**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
CD2025-0479**

Climate Advisory Committee Bylaw

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update to the Climate Advisory Committee's terms of reference to include the mandate of biodiversity and update the member composition to include biodiversity expertise. To align with the 2022 updates to section 145 of the Municipal Government Act, the Climate Advisory Committee's terms of reference has been converted to a bylaw.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

During the closed session of the 2023 July 4 Regular Meeting of Council with respect to report C2023-0762, Council directed Administration to return with a proposed bylaw to merge the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee and the Climate Advisory Committee.

As part of the recommendations in C2024-0803, Council approved the following direction:

1. Direct Administration to return to Council by Q2 2025 with an update to the Climate Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to explicitly include the mandate of biodiversity and update the member composition to include biodiversity expertise.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Community Development Committee recommend that Council give three readings to the proposed Climate Advisory Committee Bylaw in Attachment 1.

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 2025
JUNE 12:**

That Council give three readings to the **Proposed Bylaw 35M2025** in Attachment 1.

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

General Manager Debra Hamilton concurs with the recommendations of this report. The new Bylaw will ensure we are aligned with the MGA and ensure that biodiversity is incorporated into the scope of the Climate Advisory Committee.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Following the decisions to disband the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee (BAC), Council directed Administration (C2024-0803) to update the Climate Advisory Committee's (CAC) terms of reference to explicitly incorporate biodiversity.
- Administration worked with both the BAC and the CAC to update the terms of reference. Both committees support the proposed changes to the terms of reference.
- Targeted changes were made to address outdated references and rectify gaps.
- The CAC's terms of reference has been converted to a bylaw to align with section 145 of the Municipal Government Act, directing that Council must establish committees by bylaw rather than resolution.

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DISCUSSION

Administration has amended the terms of reference of the CAC in the following ways:

1. Mandate:
 - Amended the mandate to include '*the support of human and ecosystem resilience*'
2. Specific Responsibilities:
 - Amended the specific responsibilities to include advising Council on '*connecting economic and social development to biodiversity and healthy natural systems and ecosystem services*'
3. Membership Composition:
 - Requirements regarding members with knowledge and expertise in subject areas relating to climate change was reduced by two members.
 - Two members must now have knowledge and expertise in subject areas relating to biodiversity.
 - Requirements for citizens at large with an interest in climate change reduced to one to two members (from one to three).
 - The total number of members on CAC remains between nine and 15 members.
 - '*Insurance or risk management*' added as a new subject area of climate expertise that Administration identified a gap.
4. Water & Nature Subcommittee:
 - Added '*biodiversity*' to the mandate of the CAC's Water and Nature subcommittee
 - Invited three BAC members to become members of the Water and Nature subcommittee. An invitation was sent to all members of BAC to ensure a fair and transparent process for integrating BAC expertise into the CAC.
5. Targeted changes:
 - Converted the CAC terms of reference to a bylaw, to align with current City of Calgary and MGA requirements.
 - Removed all prior references of the Calgary Climate Panel, which are now outdated.
 - Recommendation to fill CAC's current vacancy with a candidate with biodiversity expertise during the 2025 Boards, Commissions and Committee's Recruitment Process.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

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

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Administration engaged with the following groups:

- Climate Advisory Committee (CAC)
- BiodiverCity Advisory Committee (BAC)
- City Clerk's Office
- Law

The BAC presented recommendations to CAC and City Administration on 2025 February 18 (Attachment 2). CAC discussed these recommendations in a closed session and through a poll. Administration reviewed CAC's proposal and suggested additional changes, accepted by CAC and BAC.

Administration consulted with the City Clerk's Office to understand Council's requirements and worked with Law to draft the Climate Advisory Committee bylaw, ensuring alignment with other advisory committee bylaws. Attachment 2 contains the proposed wording of the bylaw.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

The CAC has the responsibility of ensuring climate equity is embedded into climate actions, strategies, and policies to reduce disproportionate impacts of climate change on all citizens as well as the equal opportunities to share in the energy transition. The updated terms of reference include a wider range of environmental specialties, which can attract candidates from a broader background.

Environmental

The CAC supports and collaborates on climate action including ensuring the reduction of Calgary's greenhouse gas emissions and incorporating adaptation actions. The updated terms of reference support the inclusion of ecosystem resilience in the CAC mandate and biodiversity-related expertise in the CAC's composition. The updated terms of reference will help ensure that there remains a committee that can provide strategic guidance to Council on matters related to ecosystem resilience and biodiversity, even after the disbandment of the BAC.

Economic

The CAC recognizes the financial, social, and environmental cost of climate action in Calgary and includes consideration of these costs in municipal decision making. The update to the terms of reference do not trigger any financial costs or impacts.

Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact

The number of members on CAC will not increase. Only the mandate and expertise of members has changed. These changes will not impact Administration's role in supporting the committee.

RISK

All of the proposed recommendations fulfill Council's direction to integrate biodiversity into the CAC's mandate while addressing concerns from CAC about diluting climate actions with a

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broader mandate. The proposed recommendations recognize that biodiversity is inherently related to climate action. The CAC's mandate already includes climate actions supporting biodiversity, like preserving and restoring natural infrastructure. All of the proposed recommendations address this risk. The BAC is in support of these recommendations.

ATTACHMENT(S)

- 1. Proposed Bylaw 35M2025**
2. BiodiverCity Advisory Committee Recommendations CD2025-0479
3. Climate Advisory Committee Bylaw Presentation CD2025-0479

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Debra Hamilton, General Manager	Planning and Development Services	Approve

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