



Report Number: EC2025-0859

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2025 September 08

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Rescinding climate emergency, value for money audit and climate strategy spending

Sponsoring Member(s) of Council: Councillor Sharp, Chabot, McLean and Wong

WHEREAS Calgary City Council declared a “Climate Emergency” in November 2021, a declaration opposed by several current members of Council, and that declaration has since been used as a policy basis for embedding climate-related spending across multiple City departments;

AND WHEREAS the declaration of a “Climate Emergency” has been criticized as largely symbolic, while committing The City to significant long-term expenditures and organizational changes, without corresponding clarity on measurable benefits or alignment with core municipal responsibilities;

AND WHEREAS Administration’s current reporting on climate-related expenditures is fragmented, with significant portions of climate spending embedded across departmental budgets, making it difficult for Council and taxpayers to clearly identify and evaluate the full costs;

AND WHEREAS according to The City’s own numbers, in 2025 the Climate & Environment business unit has a \$26 million base operating budget, \$22 million in one-time operating programs, and \$22.7 million in capital spending, with an additional \$214.6 million in climate-related capital spending planned across departments in 2026;

AND WHEREAS the declaration of a climate emergency was premised on the assertion that such a declaration would not invoke the Emergencies Act as referenced in Section 551 of the Municipal Government Act, but rather was a provision of the City Charter permitting municipalities to declare an emergency related to environmental matters;

AND WHEREAS it was further suggested that such a declaration could position The City to access significant federal funds to address environmental issues;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Alberta, through the enactment of Bill 18, has prohibited municipalities from negotiating or receiving funding directly from the federal government, thereby eliminating one of the primary rationales originally advanced in support of the climate emergency declaration;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council immediately rescind the ‘Climate Emergency declaration;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to conduct a comprehensive value for money audit of all City climate-related spending, including operating and capital expenditures tied to the Climate Emergency declaration and subsequent climate strategies, across all business units and departments, including:

a) A full accounting of annual climate-related expenditures since the declaration of a Climate Emergency in November 2021;

- b) An assessment of whether spending outcomes are aligned with Council's jurisdiction and priorities;
- c) Identification of cost savings, duplications, or expenditures not delivering measurable benefits;
- d) Recommendations for how climate-related spending can be better aligned with core municipal responsibilities and financial sustainability;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Administration report the results publicly through the 2025 November Adjustments to the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets, with clear, plain-language explanations of climate-related expenditures and recommendations, so that Council and Calgarians can evaluate whether climate spending provides value for money.

Attachment:

1. Notice of Motion Checklist