



Calgary Climate Hub Analysis of The Climate Resilience Plan **Presentation to SPC on Utilities and Corporate Services - June 13, 2018**

Background:

The Calgary Climate Hub is a diverse group of Calgarians concerned about climate change. We come from a variety of industries, cultures and causes, from social work, to medicine, to small business and law. We believe that a broad and diverse range of Calgarians and Calgary organizations need to be engaged on climate change to co-develop impactful solutions that fit our unique circumstances - both with The City and beyond. Our goals are aligned with the guiding principles of the Climate Resilience Plan.

More information on our background and our work engaging Calgarians is in our briefing document sent to council on June 8th, and attached. This document is a direct commentary on the Climate Resilience Plan under consideration today, applying the general calls to action and findings from the briefing document.

Recommendations:

We are very encouraged by the direction of the Climate Resilience Plan and the work that the Climate Program has undertaken to date. The modeling that has been done to demonstrate the viability of the low-carbon transition is important and needs to be communicated more broadly. We can achieve ambitious climate action and grow a diverse, vibrant economy. The plan's goals are the right ones - we do need more low-carbon transport modality, community energy generation, and carbon-sensitive city planning.

The details of the projects that will implement the plan will be developed by the various departments before their One Calgary submissions in November. Much of the work to make the Climate Resilience Plan work thus remains to be done. The Mayor and Council need to make clear that there are expectations of those projects and implementations. Expanding on our previous requests in our briefing document, we respectfully suggest that those expectations should include the following:

1. There must be clear targets and concrete actions to achieve them. Based on the Hub's engagement to date, 255 people and 70 organizations agree that Calgary should implement a strong climate resilience plan that meets its targets.

- a. There must be clear targets to which the City can be held accountable in the lead up to 2050, including interim targets against which progress can be measured. The City's targets passed in 2011 need to be reaffirmed.
 - b. The actions which the city plans to take must be concrete and geared towards meeting those tangible GHG reduction targets.
 - c. Putting a stop to sprawl must also be recognized as essential to meeting GHG reduction targets. The City is not on track to meet its current redevelopment goals, and climate needs must drive greater ambition in this area.
2. Sufficient resources from within the city must be provided to fulfil the identified actions in the Climate Resilience Plan. The 2011 GHG Reduction Plan had excellent targets and also went through a rigorous development process but did not achieve its goals because it was not sufficiently funded. This time must be different. 255 people and 70 organizations agree that Calgary should implement a strong climate resilience plan that is well resourced.
 3. The actions must be developed in open consultation with Calgarians - collaboration is a guiding principle of the plan but citizen input is missing from that collaboration. From our engagement so far 63 organizations and 240 individuals agree that Calgary's climate resilience plan should be developed and implemented in open consultation with Calgarians.
 - a. Further actions need to be developed through broad engagement. The best actions in the various departments will be developed from the ground up with Calgarians so that they buy into them and are willing to take personal action.
 - b. Systems of long term accountability and collaboration, such as the Climate Resilience Group, need to involve citizens and civic society. A separate Citizen Advisory Committee would be another possibility. 128 people and organizations have explicitly expressed a desire to be part of an advisory committee.

Overall, the opportunities of action are immense, and the Climate Hub is ready to work with the city to seize them!



Attention: City of Calgary Council & Administration Briefing Paper for Standard Policy Committee on Utilities and Corporate Services (UCS)

With regard to: The City of Calgary's "Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plans" to be presented at UCS on June 13th/2018

Submitted by: The Calgary Climate Hub

Date: June 8th/2018

BACKGROUND:

The Calgary Climate Hub is a diverse group of Calgarians who are concerned about climate change, and who are committed to working together to support meaningful local action on climate change. We represent a variety of industries, cultures and causes, ranging from social work, to medicine, to small business and law.

The Calgary Climate Hub was organized by a group of people and organizations as a response to a growing lack of leadership on climate change education, engagement, and citizen mobilization in Calgary. We believe that a broad and diverse range of Calgarians and Calgary organizations need to be engaged on climate change to co-develop impactful solutions that fit our unique circumstances - both with The City and beyond.



Other Canadian cities, like Edmonton¹ and Vancouver², have learned that climate change action must include all sectors and engage a vast spectrum of citizens. It only makes sense - climate change policy and programs should be built *by* the people and groups that will be expected to embrace and implement them - not *for* them. After over a year of gathering and sharing lessons learned from our various fields of expertise, as well as the implementation of a city-wide survey on climate change (more details below) we've learned that many different types of Calgarians care about climate change and our City's transition to a new economy. We have also learned that Calgarians are feeling left behind when it comes to conversations about these subjects.

We are reaching out to Calgary City Council's UCS Committee via this briefing paper, as we consider you to be leaders in our community who care about Calgary, and about the well-being of the people who live here. We want to encourage you to pass a climate change plan on June 13th that is **ambitious** and **well-resourced**, and we want to be your partner in designing and implementing climate actions with a diverse spectrum of Calgarians.

We do not want to see another climate plan fail in Calgary.

THE CALGARY CLIMATE HUB SURVEY

The Calgary Climate Hub delivered a city-wide survey on climate change to a broad spectrum of Calgarians from February to March 2018. This survey was administered to fill a citizen engagement gap that Hub Members identified with The City's development of a new climate change plan.

¹ The City of Edmonton staff recruited 60 residents for their diversity, and had them meet for 3 months to learn about climate change, and to also offer their advice and feedback about the City's energy and climate change recommendations - amongst numerous other public engagement initiatives (Source: https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/city_vision_and_strategic_plan/citizens-panel-energy-climate.aspx)

² Over the course of a year, staff at The City of Vancouver identified priority actions and opportunities for Their Greenest City Action Plan by collaborating with over 300 internal and external advisors, and over 46,000 Vancouverites - of which over 13,000 of which were considered 'engaged' (in-person and social media feedback). The actions in The Greenest City Action Plan have been further refined based on direct, written input from over 850 community members. (Source: <http://vancouver.ca/files/cov/greenest-city-2020-action-plan-2015-2020.pdf>)

The purpose of the survey was to highlight the diversity of people and organizations concerned about climate change in Calgary, and to foster support for Calgary's City Council and Administration for increased: a) citizen engagement on climate change, b) initiatives on climate change, and c) funding for climate change actions.

The survey was filled out by representatives of 71 organizations and business, and 247 individuals on their own behalf. Because we received multiple responses from some organizations, we had 368 responses in total. The organizational respondents represent a variety of sectors, such as agriculture, the arts, the environment, energy, indigenous peoples, green buildings, health, communication, and retail.

Below are the highlights:

A) Why does the Public Care About Climate Change?

The majority of people and organizations who filled out this survey care about climate change because it impacts things close to them:

88.6% of respondents care about how it would affect future generations

86.4% of respondents are worried about extreme weather

84.5% of respondents are concerned about availability of food and water

83.2% of respondents worry about air quality

82.6% of respondents are concerned about the effects of climate change on biodiversity

"Climate change will affect everything! And it's already started"

"Along with pollution and poverty, climate change is among the greatest challenges of our time - all of which will require global collaboration to address"

"Climate change will affect our economy and the way we do business"

"Government is not taking the lead and not moving quickly enough on climate change"

"The whole world is taking steps to combat climate change leading to a new Industry & a new Economy. Alberta can either adapt & prosper or hold on to the past & get left in the dust. I care about Alberta's future"

B) Citizen Action on Climate Change

"I am making my own small changes, but it's corporations and politicians who need to enact change at higher levels that can seep into local communities."

"I am trying to act on climate change but it is daunting and I often feel hopeless."

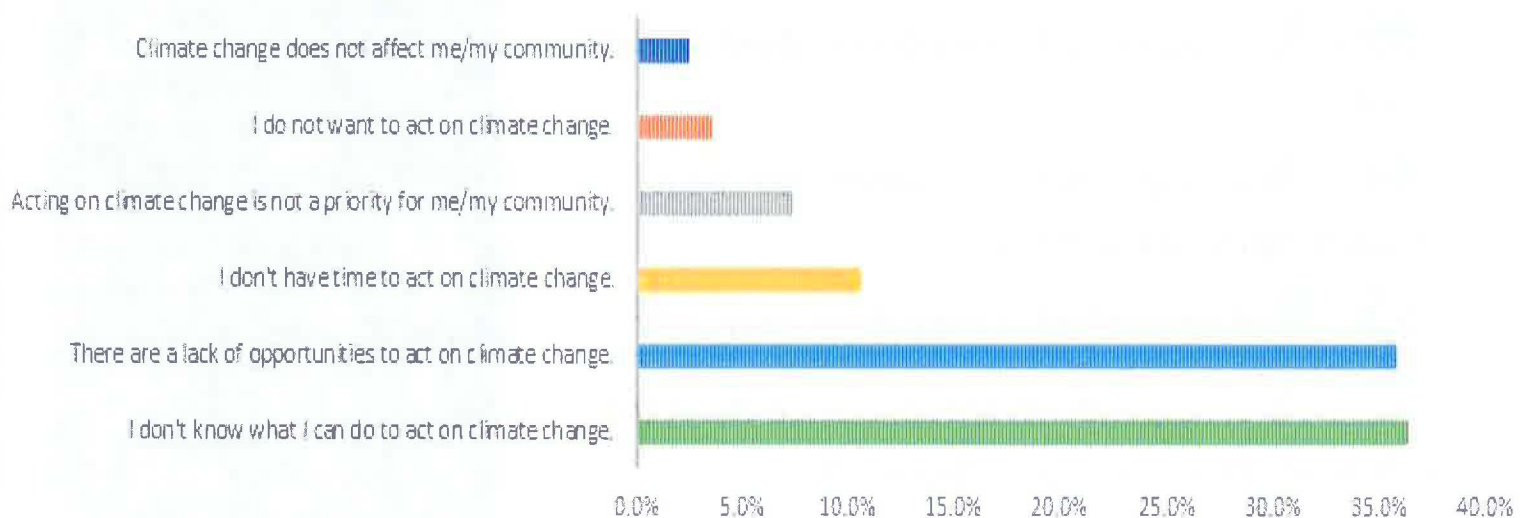
"I am working on it personally and in my business. I do not have the resources to tackle the problem on a larger scale."

"I do not know how to get involved in organized, strategic responses to climate change"

I feel that in my individual life I am taking action on climate change, but there are systemic barriers in taking action at a larger scale.

The vast majority of survey respondents feel limited in taking action on climate change because they don't see opportunities to act and/or they don't know what to do. Those who do act, do so on an individual basis and feel overwhelmed when it comes to getting involved in larger, more impactful actions at the community level. Overall, respondents are looking for more leadership and opportunities when it comes to participating in climate change actions.

WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO ACTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE FOR YOU OR YOUR COMMUNITY?



C) Climate Plan

What respondents want out of Calgary's climate plan is clear.

91% of respondents want to see City Council "implement a strong climate resilience plan that is well resourced and meets its targets."

82.4% of respondents want the plan to be "implemented in open consultation with Calgarians."

D) Citizen Involvement

88.6% of respondents, or 326 people/organizations want to be consulted on how the City's Climate Plan is implemented. It is clear that there is a large pool of people whose knowledge and support could be an essential resource to ensuring the success of the City's plan.

Other ways respondents want to be involved:

- **270** people or organizations want to at least receive regular updates about the Climate Resilience Plan
- **128** people or organizations would be interested in being part of an advisory committee on the implementation of the Climate Resilience Plan
- **30** people or organizations have specific ideas re: climate action in Calgary they want to share

"Have town hall meetings and designate community members as representatives that the elected officials must report to and then bring updates back to their community."

"I would like to be consulted, and know that other Calgarians have been consulted, and that resources are allocated to ensure that feedback collected from citizens is actionable."

"I'd like to see more consultative surveys"

"Open house/town hall discussions/forums"

CALL TO ACTION:

Based on the survey results above, and the collective expertise/deliberations/research of the Calgary Climate Hub, we request that City Council's UCS Committee do the following:

- 1) Pass an ambitious and funded Climate Change Plan on June 13th → We want to see a plan with sufficient actions (focused on both climate mitigation and adaptation) to reach ambitious targets, and an explicit directive from Council to build the new plan's proposed actions into The City's 4-year budget process in order to ensure there will be resources for these actions. This is to avoid what happened with the GHG Community Reduction Plan in 2011, whereby the actions suggested within the plan were largely interpreted by both The City staff and community as voluntary, and many of them never came to be. It is extremely frustrating that after all that work, time and resources that went into the development of that plan, our GHG emissions are not anywhere near reaching our target of a 20% reduction from 2005 levels. This can't happen again.
- 2) Increase public engagement on climate change and the involve the public in solution development - you cannot build successful climate change solutions for Calgarians without inviting them to the table to build them with you.
- 3) Work with us, The Calgary Climate Hub, to establish a citizen advisory committee to advise and assist with plan implementation and community collaboration.

Thank you for your time and consideration. You can reach the Calgary Climate Hub at climatehubcalgary@gmail.com.

"Working together, we can achieve GREAT things!"