

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON



**CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBER (OKANAGAN ROOM) at 4:00 PM**

PRESENT: Alan Gee, Seaton Secondary (Youth Support)
Councillor Brian Quiring
Ed Wilson, Community at Large
Jenn Comazzetto, School Board No. 22 Rep.
Jeremy Fyke, Science and Technology
Mary Stockdale (Chair), Educators & Educational Institution
Mayor Victor Cumming (Alternate Member)
Stan Eaman, Health and Social Services

ABSENT: Barry Dorval, Seaton Secondary Teacher & Support for Youth
Brian Guy (Co-Chair), Business and Commercial Services
Colleen Marchand, OKIB Representative
Nia Hill, Youth Member

DELEGATION: Ian Adkins, Manager, Roads, Drainage, and Airport

STAFF: Kim Flick, Director, Community Infrastructure & Development
Laurie Cordell, Manager, Long Rg. Planning & Sustainability
Shawn Knuhtsen, Manager, Building & Licensing
Tracy Mueller, Records / Committee Clerk

GUEST: Bill Darnell, Community Stewardship (Via Zoom)

ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:11 PM

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: *As Chair of the City of Vernon's Climate Action Advisory Committee, and in the spirit of this gathering, I recognize the City of Vernon is located in the traditional territory of the Syilx people of the Okanagan Nation.*

**ELECTIONS &
APPOINTMENTS**

M. Stockdale volunteered to stand as CAAC Co-Chair for another term and received unanimous support from fellow committee members.

Members of the committee were asked to express their interest in the position of Temporary Acting Co-Chair (to be served on an interim basis as required).

Mayor Cumming agreed to assist as Acting Co-Chair, when required, and was supported unanimously.

Moved by S. Eamon, and seconded by E. Wilson:

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee re-elect M. Stockdale to serve as Co-Chair for the 2022 term, and that Mayor Cumming be elected to serve as Temporary Acting Co-Chair on an "as required" basis.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by S. Eamon, and seconded by E. Wilson:

THAT the agenda of the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting for Wednesday, March 23, 2022, be adopted as amended to address Item 10 - Household Organics at the start of the meeting directly following the Adoption of Minutes.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Eamon, and seconded by E. Wilson:

THAT the minutes for the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting of January 26, 2022, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

The Agenda was varied

**HOUSEHOLD ORGANICS
COLLECTION UPDATE**

I. Adkins, Manager, Roads, Drainage & Airport, was in attendance to provide the Committee with an overview of the Household Organics Collection Initiative as follows:

- Household Organic Collection fulfils an action recommended by the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Since its inception, the program has expanded to include four (4) community organic collection sites located throughout the City of Vernon (CoV).
- Due to increased popularity, use of the community organic bins, and improved public awareness, residents of Vernon requested that the successful program be extended to include household pickup.
- To facilitate instituting a household pickup program, the City of Vernon conducted a Request for Proposal (RFP) to explore available options. Staff noted that sustainability performance measures were embedded within the RFP.
- While the RFP process was underway, City staff concurrently applied to receive a grant from the CleanBC Communities Fund for household collection. The City of Vernon received the grant which assisted in bringing the organic program online and aided in the creation of public education materials. The organization that was the successful bidder was able to offer dual stream food and household waste pickup which also helps to reduce the carbon footprint of the collection vehicles.

J. Comazzetto joined the meeting at 4:38 PM

Comments and questions posed by the Committee were as follows:

- Staff, in response to a question regarding the scope of the collection program, clarified that thus far, it is strictly geared toward curbside pickup for single-family and townhomes and excludes apartment buildings at this point. The School District (SD) created a working group to explore feasibility for collection at local schools. Staff will work in partnership schools to support the internal working group the SD has working on this.

- When organic materials are sent to the landfill they breakdown anaerobically which causes the creation of methane. Breaking materials down this way is 26 times more impactful on climate change. In addition, once composted, the materials are added to the soil, it helps plants to grow and capture CO₂ and mitigates climate impact.
- Staff clarified that the City of Vernon has hired a team of communication ambassadors who will be promoting use of the organics program throughout the community. The Committee discussed that it will be important to measure the impact of the program on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- In terms of hotels and restaurants – what happens to their organic waste?
 - Staff noted that both hotels and restaurants have waste collected privately at this time. Once the City's residential organics is program up and running there is a potential to explore expansion to commercial businesses. Staff further noted that the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) is considering implementing a commercial organic disposal ban. Should the proposed ban be approved, commercial operations will no longer be permitted to bring organic waste to the landfill, therefore, businesses will have to work out how to manage their own organics.
- Staff noted that recycling compliance rates are impressive for our region.
- The RDNO is focusing efforts on waste reduction as the amount of food waste is high.

The organic bins should arrive on April 4, 2022, and the number of bins distributed throughout the Vernon community will number 14,000.

**2022 COMMITTEE
ORIENTATION**

K. Flick, Director, Community Infrastructure & Development, provided an overview review of the Bullying and Harassment Policy for members of the Committee.

The Policy is reviewed annually and provides both an informal and formal mechanism to resolve various situations that might arise. The Policy also provides direction on the following:

- **Respectful Conduct** – fundamentally outlines what is deemed appropriate behaviour in a public setting and provides best practice strategies on how to resolve disagreements that may occur.
- **Discrimination** – of any kind is simply not tolerated. In all circumstances we must be respectful and courteous in our dealings at all times.

All members of the Committee were encouraged to review the policy and refresh themselves. A sheet was passed around for the committee to sign as confirmation of their commitment to the Policy.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

K. Flick, Director, Community Infrastructure & Development, provided an overview of the CAAC Committee Terms of Reference (TOR).

- Members of the Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC) are appointed by Council. The mandate of CAAC is to provide recommendations to Council on policies and strategic initiatives that relate to climate change mitigation and adaption.
- There were recent amendments to the TOR whereby the membership section was changed to create a new voting position for a primary or secondary educator; previously, this was a non-voting position in a “teacher support role” for the students who were members of the Committee. As well, the current education position was changed to reflect post-secondary.
- Another amendment of the CAAC TOR allows delegations to participate in the meeting but not vote.
- The Council Procedure Bylaw is being amended to allow meeting attendance through digital platforms, in

recognition of the value and benefit of electronic participation. The CAAC TOR amendments also provide the Co-Chairs with authority to permit member participation via Zoom in order to achieve quorum.

- Staff noted that at this time, the feeling of Council and Administration is that there is still a strong sense that the best discussions and most meaningful interactions are achieved in person. Staff further clarified that, as directed by the Community Charter, we need to ensure that meetings are open and accessible to members of the public.

The respectful workplace rules and code of conduct paired with the rules that govern how Committee business is conducted are all in place to ensure openness, transparency, and fairness, across all the Committees of Council.

CO-CHAIR REPORT

M. Stockdale, Co-Chair, updated the Climate Action Committee on their work since January 26, 2022, as follows:

- Progress has been made on the new staff hire. The request and job description have been forwarded to Human Resources.
- Agents of Change funding has been applied for through ICLEI Canada. The Agents of Change project, funded by the Government of Canada and administered through ICLEI, supports engagement in climate mitigation solutions.
- It was noted that the program can assist CAAC in the following areas: adaptation and resilience planning, capacity building, training and workshops, peer support networking and stakeholder engagement and facilitation. More information on this program will be provided at a future CAAC meeting.
- A "google drive" folder was created to facilitate document sharing among the committee members. Everyone on the committee should have received an email with a link. Staff clarified that this is an informal tool of the Chair and is not to be used to store any official business of the City.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**TEAM REPORTS**

- **Metrics and Reporting**
 - Waiting on implementation priorities before the metrics can be designed.
- **Community Engagement**
 - Had strategic workshop on engagement.
 - The workshop brought together Climate Ambassadors and key stakeholders in the community to discuss priority actions that should be focused on in the near future. Had a good workshop with 17 participants in attendance.

Adaptation

- Took items from the Climate Action Plan (CAP) that could be completed at a community level. Had the group prioritize the top priorities which were identified as follows:
 1. **Emergency Preparedness** - at a residential level.
 2. **Managing Heat** - in regards to vulnerable populations preparing homes and people.
 3. **Green Infrastructure** - protecting habitat and protecting trees.
 4. **Water Conservation** – residentially and commercially.

Mitigation

- Active transportation and transit.
- Transition to working from home.
- Home renovations including renewable energy resources.
- Food, plant-based diet and local food.
- Plant based waste (organics).

Will have a generic outreach workshop with base level training and offer training to members of the CAAC. It was noted by staff that the ambassadors could be used as a "test workshop" for the neighbourhood resiliency workshops.

The next steps are reviewing the communication plans.

The Chair will write a summary of the meeting to share with the participants.

It was discussed that in terms of mitigation, buildings are one of the key sources of emissions. Staff noted that new buildings were not on the actionable list largely due to the fact that the BC Energy Step Code was just introduced. Staff further noted retrofits are being worked on.

- **Youth Engagement**

- Four secondary schools in Vernon (over 120 students) will be designing projects in keeping with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and City of Vernon's Climate Action Plan. Student projects, and outcomes, will be displayed at the Youth Climate Action Summit on May 31, 2022 at the Recreation Centre Auditorium.
- It was discussed that educators who are STEM teachers could potentially be engaged in creating a learning environment for climate action. There is further work to be done over the coming decades and today's youth are more aware of their role in building the culture.
- The Committee asked what School District No. 22 was doing to engage students in creating activities in support of "Earth Day" which will be on Friday, April 22, 2022.

- **Fundraising**

- There are 10 - 15 interesting funding opportunities flagged for staff to review. The intent is to get viable funding opportunities in front of staff.
- In particular, staff requested information pertaining to all funding opportunities available for doing work in terms of infrastructure and stormwater management.
- It was discussed that "Water Canada" has some potential infrastructure opportunities that the City of Vernon could explore as a municipality.

- **Implementation Prioritization**

- Met on February 11, 2022, and decided to hand the menu to the Community Engagement Group. This team will be wrapping up and will not be included in the next CAAC agenda.

- **Retrofit Research**
 - The group has been in a holding pattern to see what the Province is doing; it is expected that the Province will release a detailed report shortly.

It was discussed that there is an excellent opportunity to put some information on recommended retrofit sources on the City of Vernon website and that the Climate Action page could serve as a trusted resource/information hub.

CAAC TEAM TIMELINE FINALIZATION

L. Cordell, Manager, Long Range Planning & Sustainability, provided an overview as follows:

- Work has been completed in addressing a number of the items contained on the timeline.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESILIENCE CURVE (POWER POINT PRESENTATION)

CAAC Member, J. Fyke, Science, Technology and Environmental Services Representative, provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled: Resilience Curve.

The following points were discussed:

- Climate resilience should be thought of in terms of how we anticipate, prepare for, respond, and keep operating through serious weather events.
- The "Resilience Curve" speaks to what happens when when you get hit by something bad, and the length of time it takes to recover afterward. An example of this is the Fort McMurray wildfires; they have not yet achieved the final level of recovery at this point.
- It was discussed that the CoV CAP implementation should be well-balanced to address present and future climate events.
- Members of the Committee noted that this is a great "lens" at looking at the Climate Action goals and objectives, and the graphic could be used in communications included on the City of Vernon website to visually explain the importance of Climate Action.

- It was noted that the "Resilience Curve" also aligns closely with the objectives of the Climate Action Plan in terms of emergency preparedness.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

**HOUSEHOLD ORGANICS
COLLECTION UPDATE**

I. Adkins, Manager, Roads, Drainage, and Airport, City of Vernon, provided a brief presentation on the City of Vernon's Household Organics Collection Update as follows:

- This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

**CAAC TERMS OF
REFERENCE**

L. Cordell, Manager, Long Range Planning & Sustainability, provided an update on changes to the Climate Action Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference as follows:

- This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Climate Action Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 4:00 PM** in **Council Chamber at City Hall.**

Moved by S. Eamon, and seconded by E. Wilson.


THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting of March 23, 2022, be adjourned.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:00 PM.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Chairperson