

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON



**CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBER (OKANAGAN ROOM) at 4:00 PM**

PRESENT: Councillor Brian Quiring (Acting Chair)
Barry Dorval, Seaton Secondary Teacher & Support for Youth
Bill Darnell, Community Stewardship
Ed Wilson, Community at Large
Jenn Comazzetto, SD#22 Board Rep
Jeremy Fyke, Science and Technology
Mary Stockdale, Educator (**via Zoom**)
Nia Hill, Youth Member
Stan Eaman, Health and Social Services
Councillor Durning (Alternate for Mayor Cumming)

ABSENT: Brian Guy (Co-Chair), Business and Commercial Services
Colleen Marchand, OKIB Representative
Mayor Cumming (Alternate)
Alan Gee, Teacher Support (Non-Voting)

STAFF: Laurie Cordell, Manager, Long Rg. Planning & Sustainability
Barbara Everdene, Long Rg. Planner
Tracy Mueller, Committee Clerk

DELEGATION: Christy Poirier, Manager, Communications and Grants

ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: *As Acting 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.*

Before the motion was put, the Chair requested that the agenda be varied to discuss Item 6 under Unfinished Business - "Organics Engagement – Role for CAAC" at the start of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by **J. Comazzetto**, and seconded by **J. Fyke**:

THAT the agenda of the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting for Wednesday, May 25, 2022, be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

Moved by **E. Wilson**, and seconded by **S. Eaman**:

THAT the minutes for the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting of March 23, 2022, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

The agenda was varied

**ORGANICS ENGAGEMENT –
ROLE FOR CAAC**

C. Poirier, Manager, Communications & Grants was in attendance to provide an overview of the public education piece relative to the City's Curbside Waste Collection program. The following comments were made:

- Members of the public who have posed questions over social media have been pointed to the City's **Curbside Waste Collection Guide** and the key messages contained within, especially the section entitled "Help Us Serve You Better".
- Inquiries / comments received thus far have been largely related to what type of materials can be recycled, reports that weekly collection was missed, and correct cart placement for curbside pickup.
- The social media rollout has been handled successfully utilizing short video clips to visually demonstrate how lifting and tipping of the carts works, and also positively reinforcing why correct curbside placement of carts is important.

- Staff noted that members of the Committee and the Climate Ambassadors could assist in the communication process by sharing the City of Vernon's social media links with the public.
- It was noted that in some neighborhoods reports have been received regarding challenges with wildlife, i.e., bears, raccoons, tampering with the containers. In response, staff noted the following:
 - The Operations Team is testing an accessory "strap" for carts that is tamper proof for animals. 2,000 sample test straps were received; members of the public may request a set of free straps from the Operations Department.
 - Staff will be working with Ambassadors to attend various community events to have face-to-face communication with members of the public to share key messaging. Informational videos will also be recorded pertaining to the various key topics but without being too prescriptive.
 - To address odors, there are mitigation ideas contained within the Collection Guide literature, one of which includes using Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) Certified Bags.
- The Committee asked if there was a way a supplemental communication piece could perhaps be jointly prepared for both City of Vernon and CAAC endorsement.
 - Staff confirmed that having the CAAC and Ambassadors promoting the program and explaining the "**why**" behind it from a community / global perspective would be beneficial, and would also serve to positively reinforce the existing messaging.

ACTION: M. Stockdale will coordinate with C. Poirier, regarding preparing a message for endorsement from members of the CAAC as part of Curbside Waste Collection education initiative.

CO-CHAIR REPORT

M. Stockdale, Co-Chair, provided the following updates:

Welcomed members of the Committee and noted that it has been two months since the last CAAC meeting. And further noted that the gap in meetings was largely due to challenges posed by obtaining quorum, COVID-19, and lack of capacity. As a result, it has been challenging to keep the forward momentum on some of the key CAP initiatives and Work Plan items.

B. Darnell arrived at 4:23 pm

- **City of Vernon Organics Program Launch** - M. Stockdale represented the Committee at a joint press conference with Mayor Cumming, held at Vernon City Hall, to promote the new Weekly Curbside Residential Organics Collection program.
- **ICLEI Funding** - Staff were successful in obtaining International Council for Local Government Initiatives (ICLEI) funding for a cohort of communities. The "Livable Cities Forum" will be held October 3-5, 2022 in Victoria, BC.
- **UBC Master's Student** - A Master's Student will be joining UBC for the Fall / Winter 2022 Program. The Master's Student will be assisting in developing a research plan in conjunction with the Climate Action Plan (CAP) in partnership with the City of Vernon.
- **May 31, 2022, Youth Climate Action Summit** – Both members of the Committee and public were invited to attend the Vernon Youth Climate Action Summit which will be held at the Vernon Recreation Centre from 10 am – 12 Noon on May 31, 2022.
 - Participating Grade 11 and 12 students will be presenting their projects for adjudication. Some of the judges include CAAC members:
B. Everdene, B. Darnell and Councillor Quiring.

Additional information regarding the Youth Climate Summit will be shared with members of the CAAC during the **Team Reports** portion of this agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**TEAM REPORTS**

- **Metrics and Reporting**
 - The Metrics & Report team have not met since the last meeting; the team was holding off on developing a reporting system until they fully understood the requirements. The team will attempt to connect with Mayor Cumming before his upcoming vacation.
- **Community Engagement**
 - The team has held three meetings since the March 23, 2022, CAAC meeting.
 - A training session was hosted on May 12, 2022, entitled: "*Talking Climate*", with eight participants in attendance. The training was generalized with the aim of giving participants an opportunity to focus on climate engagement. The course content included exercises to create appropriate peer messaging.
 - On a very positive note, the team trained the head of the Shuswap Climate Action who will be taking the learnings back to the Salmon Arm community.
- **Youth Engagement**
 - The Climate Summit coming up on May 31, 2022, at the Greater Vernon Recreation Centre.
 - The aim of the summit is to creatively get youth involved within the community. The participants have conducted research on how their specific projects relate to the CAP and sustainable goals set out by the City.
 - There are approximately 20 projects ranging from water conservation to community gardens to beekeeping. It was noted that one of the projects included a butterfly release that took place at Polson Park earlier in May.

- The various projects will be evaluated by a panel of judges, based on relevance, research and analysis, project impact and viability, and the students' presentation and panel interview. There are three (3) levels of cash awards that that will be presented: \$1000 for first, \$500 second, with \$50 for third place.
- Additionally, the three (3) winning projects will receive further funding support as part of the Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- The intent is to use the projects as a jumping off place to further engage youth, the community, generate enthusiasm, and advance creative ideas surrounding mitigation and adaptation.
- The public is invited to view the student projects from 10 a.m. to noon; the event was organized by Jo de Vries from the Fresh Outlook Foundation.
- Youth Climate Activist Leaders will be attending to reinforce with the students that young people can indeed make a difference.
- It was discussed that on the day of the event it might inspire some of the non-winning student projects to also get picked up and potentially actioned.
 - Staff clarified that the Sustainability Grant 1st intake closed on May 15; however, noted a second intake will be September 22 – October 24, 2022.

ACTION: N. Hill to compile a master list of the non-winning student projects and share it with CAAC members J. Comazetto and L. Cordell for further consideration / discussion offline.

- **Fundraising**
 - The Agents of Change | ICLEI Canada grant funding application was successful.
 - The CleanBC Local Government Climate Action Program was launched on May 16, 2022. The Province will be allocating \$76 Million over three years. Funds will be distributed to eligible governments based on each community's population and a base amount.
 - In terms of additional information regarding the new program, there are program launch and introductory webinars available on the Provincial Government website.
 - Staff noted there would be value in having both CAAC members and staff attend.
 - With respect to government funding allocation, staff clarified that based on the size of Vernon, our allocation (previously) was at \$90K.

ACTION: CAAC members M. Stockdale and J. Fyke will talk offline and determine what workshops should be attended.

- **CAAC Team Timeline Finalization**
 - Staff provided an overview regarding Committee goals and current outcomes as follows:
 - **Monitoring & Evaluation** - The community engagement strategy is currently underway; as a result, the monitoring and evaluation piece is presently on hold.
 - **Climate Ambassadors** - The Climate Ambassador deployment and training plan is on track.
 - **Carbon Footprint Calculator** – The Carbon Footprint Calculator temporarily on hold.

- **Youth Global Citizens Symposium** – The Symposium took place in February 2022; additional work is underway with the Climate Summit coming up on May 31, 2022, to be held at the Greater Vernon Recreation Centre.
- **Menu of Climate Action Items** - A menu of Climate Action Items has been developed.
- **Retrofit Research** – Retrofit research has been temporarily placed on hold. Staff clarified that a team was created to pull information together regarding how to support home owners on retrofitting their properties. It was discussed that this is one initiative the UBC Master’s Student could feasibly assist in furthering.

Staff summarized that overall the Committee has successfully tackled a big section of the CAAC Work Plan and is on track toward achieving the remaining deliverables that were set out.

- **Organics Engagement – Role for CAAC**
 - This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Implementation – Looking Back & Forward**

Supplemental to the Co-Chair’s report earlier in this agenda, the aim of “*Looking Back & Forward*” is intended to give members of CAAC an assurance that the CAP is actively engaged, and to share an overview of work behind the scenes as well as serve as a roadmap for the coming months. An overview of initiatives completed thus far is as follows:

- **Organics Collection** - The Organics collection is moving forward. Staff noted that it took considerable work to get the program in place. The project involved reviewing all the bid received through to program launch and public education.
- **Enhanced Vehicle Fleet** – The City of Vernon is one of the first municipalities to use an electric van. The full-size, high-roof, 100 percent electric Ford Transit tradesperson van joins a growing fleet of city-owned fully electric vehicles. The city will continue to migrate the fleet to electric. Currently have electric cars, a quad for parks staff and the tourism car is electric.
- **Kin Race Track Planning** - Have been looking at the Kin Race Track Planning, and are integrating heat exchange in the structures, shade in the park, active transportation and active vehicle charging stations.
- **Adaptation & Flood Mapping** - On the adaptation side, have put time into flood mapping and reviewing proposals regarding flood mitigation.
- **Heat Response Strategy** - Have been working on a heat response strategy in collaboration with A. Sharkey, Executive Director, Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan and S. Saunders, Emergency Program Coordinator, City of Vernon.
- **Polson Park Naturalization** - Have been working on an expanded stream naturalization feasibility study that will define the available space in Polson Park for future recreational amenities. Staff are looking at making the park drier but more adaptable to flood concerns.
- **Grant Funding & Awards** – B. Everdene, Long Range Planner, has been applying for various grants and awards on behalf of the City relative to furthering CAP work.
- **Community Engagement Work** - Working on the completing the team's project list.

- **Branding, Key Messaging & Workshops -**
Looking forward over the next few months will be working on the branding, key messaging and themes and developing neighbourhood workshops.
- **Climate Considerations in Council Reports –**
The intent is to have all staff trained in climate considerations; and incorporate sustainability into all Council reports to ensure that climate actions carry through in every decision made.
- **Official Community Plan (OCP) - Update –** Staff noted that the OCP is an overarching document where the Climate Action Plan (CAP) initiatives can align. As part of the public consultation piece, there will be a mechanism for all advisory committees of Council to provide feedback.
- **Hiring New Staff Member -** The new staff person will be brought on board in the coming months with the aim is to have someone in place for September 2022.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- **Climate Hub – Idling Update**
 - An email was received and included in the Agenda package.
 - Staff noted that the Committee could review and discuss this item further and prepare a motion for Council consideration.

Action: This item will be brought forward for further discussion at the June 22, 2022, Climate Action Advisory Committee with the intent of preparing a motion to Council.

- **Staffing Update**
 - This item was addressed earlier in the meeting under **Item 7. New Business - Implementation – Looking Back & Forward**

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Climate Action Advisory Committee is set for **Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 4:00 PM in Council Chamber at City Hall.**

Moved by **Councillor Durning**, seconded by **M. Stockdale**.

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting of May 25, 2022, be adjourned.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:20 PM.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Chairperson