



## CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

**VIA ZOOM** – 4:00 P.M.

### **A G E N D A**

1. **ORDER**
2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**  
August 25, 2021 (attached)
5. **CO-CHAIRS REPORT**
6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
  - a) Workplan review and discussion – **Please come prepared to discuss and finalize the workplan – feel free to comment in the draft**
    - Discuss plan
    - Approving workplan
    - Working Group organization, selection and planning
7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
8. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**
9. **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 27, 2021.
10. **ADJOURNMENT**



**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING VIA ZOOM**  
**HELD WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021**

**PRESENT:** VOTING

Mary Stockdale (Co-Chair), Educators and Educational Institution  
Bill Darnell, Community Stewardship  
Jeremy Fyke, Science and Technology  
Ed Wilson, Community at Large  
Stan Eaman, Health and Social Services  
Jenn Comazzetto, SD#22 Board Rep  
Nia Hill, Youth Member

NON-VOTING

Barry Dorval, Youth Supporting Member

GUESTS:

**ABSENT:** Brian Guy (Co-Chair), Business and Commercial Services  
Colleen Marchand, OKIB Representative  
Councillor Brian Quiring, Councillor (Appointed Member)  
Dione Chambers, Community at Large  
Mayor Victor Cumming (Alternate Member)  
Quinn Soon, Youth Member

**STAFF:** Laurie Cordell, Manager, Long Range Planning & Sustainability  
Lynn Presslaber, Minute Taker

**ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

**LAND**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*As Chair of the CAAC 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.*

**ADOPTION OF  
AGENDA**

Moved by Stan Eaman, seconded by Jenn Comazzetto:

THAT the agenda of the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting for Wednesday, August 25, 2021 be adopted.

**CARRIED.**

**ADOPTION OF  
MINUTES**

Moved by Bill Darnell, seconded by Stan Eaman:

THAT the minutes for the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting of June 23, 2021 be adopted.

**CARRIED.**

**CO-CHAIR REPORT**

Co-Chair, Mary Stockdale, updated the Climate Action Advisory Committee on their work in August.

- Met with Staff Liaison
- Had one on one meetings with Councilors
- Bill Darnell and Brian Guy may take on discussing support for climate action with the Councillors.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****WORKSHOP  
OUTCOMES &  
PROPOSED  
WORKPLAN FOR  
CAAC FOR 2021/2022  
– INTRODUCTION &  
DISCUSSION**

The Committee preparing for work over the next year and a half, as we discuss various working groups and members could consider where they might fit in. Mary introduced the draft workplan to the committee. Members to review and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

This summer has taught us that things change quickly, wildfires, evacuations, influx of population due to COVID allowing work from home. Can this Committee assist the City in advancing sustainability? Can this Committee be innovative in assisting staff to progress in a better way?

Laurie confirmed that her budget request includes a person to coordinate implementation of the CAP.

Discussed the usefulness of having funding for emergency response for implementation of things like heat response strategies (such as paying for staffing for extra days that the library was open to provide a safe public space).

**NEW BUSINESS:****DISCUSSION ON IPCC  
REPORT**

Jeremy Fyke presented on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report with a Power Point presentation which highlighted the recent leveraging of new information and events for Climate action.

He suggested that groups like this can benefit from becoming familiar with these regularly produced comprehensive views of Climate

change. The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) is publicly available. There are various summaries that are useful such as the Summary for Policymakers.

## **REFLECTION ON SUMMER OF 2021 – CLIMATE IMPACTS**

Jeremy Fyke provided information about research on the heat bubble (**See Attachment 1**).

Jeremy discussed two major questions the public is likely to ask our ambassadors and provided some guidance on how to answer them.

### **How was this heat wave related to climate change?**

-an international collaboration of scientists worked on this summer's statistics -evidence proves that humans contribute very significantly. The return time is accelerated with the increase in temperature.

### **Will this type of event become more common in future?**

-this will become more common, if we don't reduce human based factors.

Use these facts to motivate the decisions of the public and policymakers. The Climate Action Plan we have is good, we just need to implement it.

Various questions were put to Jeremy by the Committee.

Committee members discussed various issues resulting in cascading events, drought, water retention, mudslides, forest management. Climate Action Ambassadors must be careful to limit themselves to whatever they can speak to authoritatively. Ambassadors need some basic literacy on climate science. A request for an in person workshop with Jeremy will be considered.

This summer has given everyone in this community a first hand experience of the impacts of climate change. There is an opportunity to highlight local effects of climate change and engage the community in the Climate Action Plan.

Discussion about how this Committee may assist/influence the 'build back better' models relating to fire smart, eco friendly construction. L. Cordell provided information about jurisdictional challenges.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting for the Climate Action Advisory Committee is set for September 29, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:54 p.m. Moved by Ed Wilson, seconded by Jeremy Fyke.

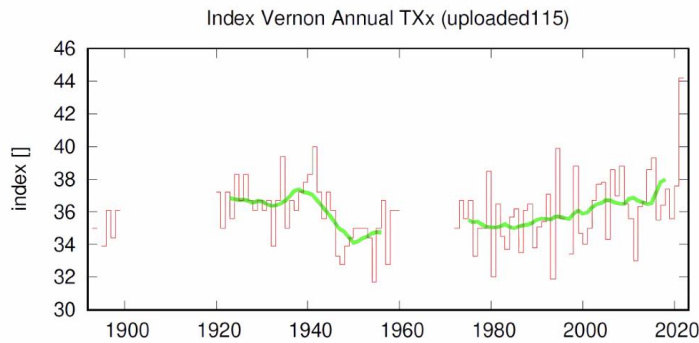
**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Co-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Co-Chair

## 2021 Heatwave and fires

### How was this heat wave related to climate change?



GEV Results for Vernon	
Record Break	~4°C
Return Period (excluding human cc)	550 yr
Human Influence	150 yr

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## Using new information/events to motivate:

- **Evidence based...**
  - “There will be a [2-10%] chance per year of a 2021-like heatwave, in a near-future Vernon, even if Paris Agreement is met.”
  - “Limiting human-induced global warming impacts requires limiting cumulative CO2 emissions to net zero.”
- **...decision making!**

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## Using new information/events to motivate:



- **Evidence based...**
  - “There will be a [2-10%] chance per year of a 2021-like heatwave, in a near-future Vernon, even if Paris Agreement is met.”
  - “Limiting human-induced global warming impacts requires limiting cumulative CO2 emissions to net zero.”
- **...decision making!**
  - **Adaptation:** “Develop a Heat Response Strategy”; “Review, update and implement the Community Wildfire Protection Plan”
  - **Mitigation:** “: Develop a policy that all new municipal buildings be constructed to net zero readiness.”

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## Summary

1. UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report 6 (IPCC AR6) – *new, authoritative climate change info*
2. Climate change and the 2021 heatwave and fires – *clearly linked to climate change, and will become much more frequent in future*
3. Leveraging new information and recent extreme events to promote action – *excellent way to motivate action, when done carefully! AR6 and 2021 heatwave/fires are great examples.*

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Draft 2 prepared by Brian Guy and Mary Stockdale  
August 9, 2021

**Introduction:**

This document describes a Work Plan for the second 2-year term of the City of Vernon (COV) Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC), covering the period January 2021 through December 2022. The first four months of this time period were focused on delivering a final Climate Action Plan (CAP) to COV Council for approval, and the next four months were spent considering priorities and an appropriate role for the CAAC in CAP implementation, so the focus of this Work Plan is the period following CAAC approval of this Work Plan, i.e. the period from late August 2021 through December 2022. The Work Plan is based on the CAP itself, the results of two spring 2021 workshops held by the CAAC, and a list of priority steps for CAP implementation developed by COV staff in June 2021.

**Background:**

The CAAC was created by COV Council in 2018, following a request to Council by two community members (Mary Stockdale and Bill Darnell). The CAAC began as a task force and became a standing committee of Council in 2019. The CAAC is comprised of volunteer members of the community, chosen by Council, each of whom loosely represents a sector of the community. Council has a seat on the CAAC, and is supported by COV staff. The Manager of Long Range Planning and Sustainability (Laurie Cordell) is the designated staff liaison for the committee. The committee's mandate is to provide advice to Council on matters relating to climate change.

During its first three months (fall 2018), the CAAC began work on developing a CAP for the community, and during the first full 2-year term of the committee (January 2019 through December 2020), the CAAC continued to focus on creating the CAP. COV staff, with contributions from external consultants, and with oversight, guidance, and review by the CAAC, completed a draft CAP in late fall 2020. In the first few months of 2021, the draft CAP was refined, and it was approved by COV Council on April 12, 2021. In addition to overseeing completion of the CAP, the CAAC has also provided several recommendations to COV Council on climate action priorities, as well as on budget and staffing to support climate action in the community of Vernon.

The early months of the CAAC's second term were focused on refining the draft CAP; however following Council approval in April 2021, the committee's focus has shifted to implementation of the CAP. To help the CAAC determine how it can best contribute to this effort, the committee held two workshops during regular CAAC meetings in spring 2021 (both via Zoom, on May 27 and June 23, 2021). Both workshops were facilitated by Dr. Jon Corbett of the Institute for Community-Engaged Research (ICER) at UBCO.

This document summarizes the key outcomes of the workshops, and lists the priority areas for action during the early stages of CAP implementation as identified by COV staff. This information is used to recommend an appropriate role for the CAAC - both its individual members and the committee as a whole, to support CAP implementation during the period late August 2021 through December 2022.



### **Summary of Workshop 1:**

The objectives of the first workshop were to consider the CAP and identify implementation challenges and opportunities – both internal to the community and external to the community. Challenges and opportunities identified by CAAC members were captured by a note-taker, and a one-page workshop summary was produced. The workshop was also summarized in the May 27, 2021 CAAC meeting minutes, and is attached to this Work Plan as Attachment 1.

### **Summary of Workshop 2:**

The objectives of the second workshop were to:

- Identify the most significant challenges and opportunities that arose during the first workshop, and consider the implications of those key challenges and opportunities for CAP implementation; and,
- discuss how the CAAC (the committee as a whole and individual members of the committee) can help the community achieve the goals of the CAP.

Key challenges and opportunities were captured on a one-page summary (Attachment 1), and comments on suitable roles for the CAAC during CAP implementation were recorded. After committee members had contributed their ideas, Laurie Cordell listed the COV's perspective on the priority steps to be completed during the first stages of CAP implementation. The key challenges and opportunities and the workshop notes were summarized in the June 23, 2021 CAAC meeting minutes.

The most significant challenges identified by CAAC members were:

- the Vernon community is largely unaware that the CAP exists;
- the need for continued Council support, and for persuading Council to take a long-term view – that upfront costs are required for long-term savings;
- high rates of population growth are increasing GHG emissions, making achievement of the time-based GHG reductions contained in the CAP more challenging; and,
- the need for individual actions to buy local and consume less.

The most significant opportunities identified by CAAC members were:

- CAP vision, goals, and actions can be embedded in the Official Community Plan (which will be updated in 2022);
- building on the enthusiasm for COV leadership in climate action observed in the community and in the schools during the CAP development process;
- Expanding the role of youth in plan implementation;
- Federal and provincial funding; and,
- To influence community culture as it transitions to a low carbon future.

### **Priority Steps for CAP Implementation identified by COV staff:**

The overarching vision expressed in the CAP is: "By 2050, Vernon is a leader in climate action, with no net greenhouse emissions, and resilient to the changing climate." The CAP is organized into 8 focus areas, each with its own vision, goals, and actions. It includes a chapter on implementation, which identifies the need for broad community participation, provides a list of funding sources, and addresses the need to measure and report on progress towards goals and to periodically renew the CAP.

In June 2021, COV staff identified several priority tasks that should be completed near the beginning of the plan implementation period. These tasks (and sub-tasks) are listed below. Although the CAP is a community-wide plan, many CAP actions will be both led and completed entirely by COV staff. However, other CAP actions could be led by COV staff with participation by the CAAC and other parties, and still other actions could be led by the CAAC and other parties external to the COV. Tasks appropriate to CAAC involvement, as identified by COV staff, are highlighted with an asterisk.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- \*Developing a monitoring and evaluation framework with indicators and rotating reporting requirements
  - Community Actions
  - Integration of CAP across City operations
  - GHG emission reductions
  - Infrastructure protection

### **Plan Implementation**

- \*Work to support and understand populations vulnerable to climate change
- \*Development of Neighbourhood Vulnerability Workshops
- Implement changes in response to Flood Study
- Wildfire protection plan update
- Integrate CAP considerations in projects
- Waste System Review (organics) and material development
- Update bylaws
- Natural Asset Inventory
- Heat and Clean Air Strategy Development
- Integration of CAP into City processes
- \*Community Engagement and Outreach
  - Engagement and Education Events
  - Tool for community engagement
  - Website revision
  - Role of Climate Ambassadors in implementation
  - Continue to work with teachers and school district
  - Neighbourhood level actions
- \*OCP Review and CAP integration
- Transportation system actions
- Tree bylaw review
- Step code implementation
- \*Retrofits
  - policy and tool development
  - Homeowner engagement and support
  - Simply processes
- \*Business and Tourism engagement
- \*Attract green industry and business
- \*Food systems

(Note: where a bullet point is indicated with an asterisk, all sub-points under the main point are also included within the asterisk.)

#### **Recommended actions for CAAC as a committee:**

The role of the CAAC is to provide advice and leadership to the COV (both staff and Council) related to climate change. Its responsibilities include identifying and discussing issues related to the climate that are relevant to COV, providing climate-related recommendations to COV Council, and initiating and providing oversight of significant climate-related initiatives along with COV staff (such as CAP development and implementation).

Within this context, consideration of the subset of priority steps appropriate for CAAC involvement, and the most significant challenges and opportunities identified by CAAC members, has led to recommendations for a set of useful roles and responsibilities for the CAAC in CAP implementation during the remainder of its second Term. These recommended roles and responsibilities are addressed below.

The recommended roles includes creation and operation of five Working Groups, as well as other activities. There could be other more optimal ways to subdivide the CAAC into working units to support CAP implementation, but this initial list of Working Groups and other activities provides a starting point for discussion. As has been previous practice with the CAAC, these Working Groups will need to communicate closely to inform each other, ensure that all relevant activities are being considered, and avoid overlap in activities. As well, the specific roles of each Working Group will have to be further refined, and may evolve over time.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group:**

The CAAC should establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group to assist COV is developing a plan to monitor progress towards CAP goals. The plan should include a list of suitable metrics, a reporting schedule, an adaptive management process, and approximate thresholds and timing for CAP renewal.

#### **Implementation Planning Working Group:**

The CAP addresses implementation, but the topic is presented at a high level, without significant detail. In addition, although the CAP provides an approximate timeline for each action (ongoing, and short, medium, or long-term), there is a need for additional prioritization. The CAAC should establish a Working Group to support the COV in developing a more structured Implementation Plan than what is presented in the CAP. Finally, planning for CAP implementation is different from CAP implementation itself, and in practice actual implementation will depend on many factors, e.g. the timing of receipt of grants for specific projects, as well as on timing and activities related to community engagement. The Implementation Plan will be regarded not as a prescription for specific actions and timing, but rather as a flexible and adaptable plan.

#### **Community Engagement Working Group:**

For much of its existence, the CAAC has had a Community Engagement Working Group. It is recommended that this group be reconvened and tasked with working closely with COV staff to develop an effective engagement strategy, and with implementing that strategy. The strategy will include:

- A strategic community engagement plan, that maps community assets and approaches engagement on climate actions strategically - this includes strategic approaches to reaching and mobilizing every segment of the community, including vulnerable populations, hard to reach

groups, businesses, organizations, First Nations members of the community, youth, labour, faith groups, and others;

- re-energizing (and potentially growing) the successful Climate Ambassador program with a new presentation that reflects the Council-approved CAP and key messages about using the COVID experience to encourage a new lifestyle paradigm (e.g. with less consumerism, less waste, and more local purchasing), and a plan to deploy the Ambassador team as part of the community engagement program;
- a communication and outreach function, looking at social media and media elements, as well as researching and testing appropriate, targeted messaging; as well as providing high quality information and resources on the COV website (not only relevant to transportation, buildings and waste, but also relevant to travel, food, and consumption-based emissions), and facilitating two-way communication through the website, including stories and successes;
- Engagement and education events, starting with a launch / celebration of resilience;
- a plan to expand the role of the schools and youth in climate action (including partnerships with the District 22 Board, and promoting curriculum revisions to include climate and related material at all grade levels); and,
- focusing attention on neighbourhood/community group connections.

#### Fundraising and Leveraging Partnerships Working Group:

Many of the actions identified in the CAP will require upfront capital investment. However, such capital does not need to come entirely from the COV. There are many federal and provincial programs that provide funding to municipalities for addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation. However, the COV allocates no staff time to securing external funding for infrastructure or planning projects.

It is recommended that the COV allocate staff time to securing external funding to support CAP implementation. In the meantime, it is recommended that the CAAC establish a CAP Funding Working Group, to identify and prioritize external funding opportunities, and potentially complete grant applications on behalf of the COV.

In addition, many local organizations, such as the local School District (District 22), UBCO, and Okanagan College offer opportunities to collaborate to achieve common goals. The CAAC Funding Working Group could focus on maximizing such opportunities for the benefit of the COV.

#### Buildings Working Group:

It is recommended that the CAAC establish a Working Group to assist the COV develop appropriate plans and processes for managing the transition to net zero new buildings, and for designing an effective retrofit program for the existing building stock.

#### Council and external communication:

It is recommended that the CAAC co-chairs continue their practice of meeting one-on-one with each COV Councillor on an approximately bi-annual basis to update them and seek feedback and input on CAAC priorities and activities.

In addition, the community's ability to achieve CAP targets for reducing GHG emissions in the transportation and buildings sectors depends significantly on legislation and policies adopted by higher levels of government. Accordingly, it is recommended that the CAAC continue to play an ongoing role in

advising COV staff and Council on opportunities to influence federal and provincial leaders to implement legislation and policies favourable to achieving the COV's CAP goals.

**OCP Review and CAP Integration:**

It is recommended that the COV include the CAAC in integrating the CAP into the 2022 OCP revision. This could take the form of planning workshops, reviews of proposed OCP revisions, and a final review of the OCP before public consultation begins.

**Other:**

It is recommended that the CAAC continue to exercise the full scope of its mandate. Specific focus areas noted in workshop discussions include:

- providing input to and review of COV policies and plans relating to attracting green businesses to the community;
- promoting food security within the community; and,
- providing strong science-based support on climate change, its consequences and risks, and appropriate mitigation and adaptation responses to Council and staff.

In addition, it is recommended that the CAAC work with staff and Council to identify an appropriate approach to extending the Council-approved CAP action related to viewing all COV activities through a climate lens to the functioning of relevant COV Council committees.

Finally, the local experience of summer 2021 - extreme heat, wildfires, poor air quality, social, economic, and environmental disruption - combined with the latest IPCC report (released in early August 2021) underscores the urgency and importance of successfully implementing the CAP. It is recommended that the CAAC continually emphasizes this message of urgency and importance in its communications to staff and Council.

**Recommended actions for individual CAAC members:**

It is recommended that each CAAC member commit to actively participating on one or more of the Working Groups.

It is recommended that each CAAC member contributes to the Community Engagement Working Group by suggesting strategic approaches to engaging with their primary networks within the community, and committing to leading or contributing to the engagement and mobilization of these networks to achieve the goals of the CAP.

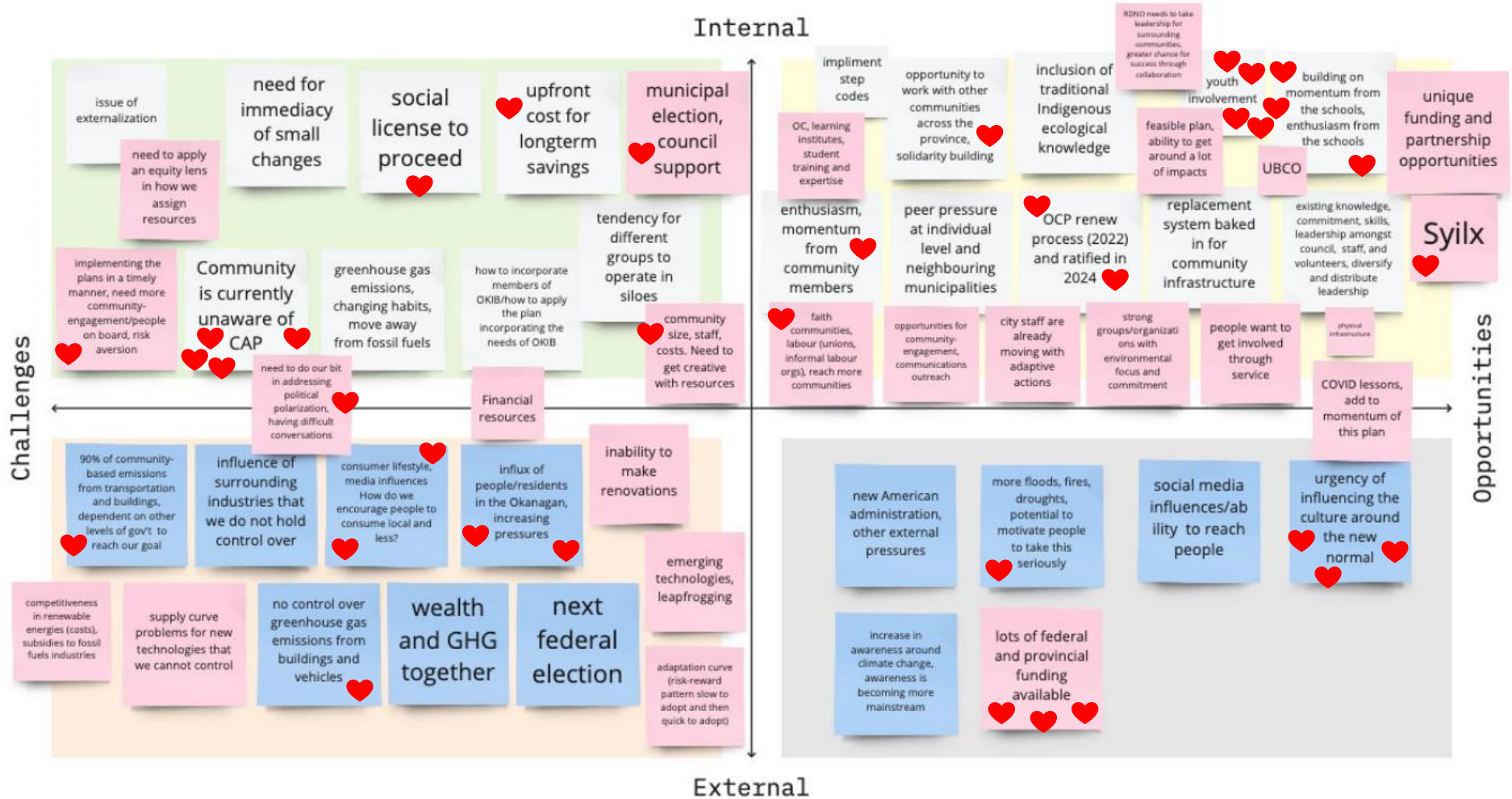
**Schedule:**

This draft Work Plan is intended to be discussed and approved at the August 25, 2021 meeting of the CAAC. Following approval, the CAAC will establish Working Groups and identify the membership of each group. The roles and responsibilities of each approved Working Group should be refined following approval. It is expected that staff numbers within the COV Long Range Planning and Sustainability department will return to normal in the next few weeks, which will enable staff to devote sufficient time to CAP implementation, and working with the CAAC as outlined herein.

The implementation work described herein will take place between late August 2021 and December 2022, a period of less than a year and a half. It will have to begin immediately following CAAC approval of this Work Plan.

# Attachment 1: Workshop 2 Prioritization of Workshop 1 Issues

## Climate Action Plan Implementation Factors: Workshop 2a Outcome



♥ The red hearts signify what Committee members view as the most impactful elements to implementation of the Climate Action Plan. The number of red hearts indicates the perceived significance of the issue.