



CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 31, 2024, AT 4:00 PM

OKANAGAN LAKE ROOM (COUNCIL CHAMBER)

A G E N D A

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) **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.
- 3) **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 4) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
November 21, 2023 (Attached)
- 5) **ANNUAL ORIENTATION**
- 6) **ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR**
- 7) **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - Council Business Update – *Councillor Guy*
- 8) **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 2024 climate action implementation and budget plan
 - CAAC working groups
 - BC Transit Week Challenge – *Stephanie Hendy*
- 9) **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 10) **NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee is scheduled for **March 27, 2024**.
- 11) **ADJOURNMENT**



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

MINUTES OF THE

CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD NOVEMBER 21, 2023 AT 4:00 PM

OKANAGAN LAKE ROOM (COUNCIL CHAMBER) CITY HALL

PRESENT: Patrick Riley, Okanagan Indian Band Rep.
Jordan Hart, Business and Commercial Services Rep.
Barry Dorval, Educator, Prime & Secondary Rep., Chair
Mayor Cumming
Donna Bartel, Community at Large Rep.
Stephanie Hendy, Community at Large Rep.

ABSENT: Fawn Ross, Community Stewardship Rep.
Councillor Guy, Council Appointed
Sid Kwakkel, Educators, Post-Secondary Rep.
Jenna Boone, Youth Member
Casey Bain, Youth Member
Casey Neathway, Health and Social Services Rep.
Jenn Comazzetto, SD22 Rep.

GUEST: Jo de Vries, Fresh Outlook Foundation

STAFF: Kevin McCarty, Specialist, Climate Action
Wes Brassard, FireSmart Coordinator
Anne Huisken, Active Transportation Coordinator
Jennifer Pounder, Records/Committee Clerk

ORDER The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

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.*

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES Moved by D. Bartel, seconded by J. Hart:

THAT the minutes of the November 8, 2023 Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting be adopted:

CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COUNCIL UPDATE

Mayor Cumming provided the following update on City Council business:

November 6, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting

- The Capital Works Plan was presented. Final budget discussion will be in December, 2023. Approximately \$29 million in upgrades planned for 2024, consisting mostly of replacement of existing infrastructure. Some of the projects include:
 - Corner of 39th Avenue and Pleasant Valley Road is being changed to a roundabout;
 - Extending the rebuilding of 32nd avenue to add additional road;
 - Upgrading the bike path on 46th Avenue;
 - The Naturalization of Polson Park – Phase 1 will be completed in 2024.
 - The cattle culvert at Kekuli Bay is being refinished for pedestrian use.

STAFF UPDATE

Kevin McCarty provided the following update to the Committee:

- Metrics data analysis – The waste and transportation fuel purchasing data has been found and will be brought to a future meeting.
- The City has retrofitted two ice resurfaces from propane to electricity and we are planning to run a media release in December to share this publicly.
- The City of Vernon recently joined the BC Social Procurement Initiative, which supports local government and institutions to implement social and sustainability procurement best practices.
- Kevin, Anne Huisken, and Erik Mustonen attended the Ribbons of Green November meeting. This group is an advocate for hiking trail and active transportation route development in the Vernon area.
- The BC Climate Secretariat is hosting a Local Government Climate Action webinar on November 28th to bring together government staff for networking, resources and funding discussions. CAAC members are welcome. It's a good chance to see what is happening across the province.
- Anne Huisken, Active Transportation Coordinator, was introduced to the Committee and provided information to the Committee on a report she is bringing to council on Monday, November 27, 2023 which is providing an update on the current e-scooter pilot program.

The following information was shared:

- Staff will present at the November 27, 2023 Council meeting to share the result from a community survey around e-scooters.
- Staff will also ask Council to extend the e-scooter pilot with time to revise the e-scooter share program to incorporate lessons learned from the initial Pilot - should the province extend or make e-scooter regulations permanent.
- Results from the survey indicate the e-scooters are playing a role in helping meet the Climate Action Goal of “Make Active transportation the first choice” and transitioning to lower carbon vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS:

DELEGATION PRESENTATION

Jo de Vries, Fresh Outlook Foundation, provided a presentation to the Committee regarding the Climate Action Ripple Effect 2024 Youth Summit (attached to these minutes as Attachment 1).

The following questions / comments were received:

- The Committee asked how they can help CARE. Jo confirmed they need mentor connections. Having a mentor within the City would be wonderful.
- There is also potential to re-engage the Climate Ambassador program participants as volunteers at the youth summit.

FIRESMART UPDATE

Wes Brassard, FireSmart Coordinator, provided the following presentation:

- 2023 FireSmart grant – Education. Changing the mindset of a homeowner. Attend a lot of public events. Free home assessments.
- Nicholas Alexander is one of our FireSmart landscaping hubs. Swan Lake Nursery is joining in 2024 as well.
- Commissioned a new five year community welfare resiliency.
- Regional FireSmart Committee covers from RDNO right down to the USA border. We meet every 3 months.
- Attended a FireSmart conference in Vancouver. We were chosen to be a speaker and commended that we brought a diversity of people. Push the education to all departments and add more depth to the FireSmart program.
- Cedar trees within the City are being removed over the next few years. They are not drought tolerant and are a huge fire hazard.

D. Bartel and P. Riley left the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m. by the Chair due to lack of quorum; no further business could be conducted. Remaining items will be moved to the next agenda.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

_____ Chair

Attachment 1



Mobilizing student climate action in Vernon and beyond.

1

We CARE to...
mobilize student and community climate action that supports the City of Vernon's *Climate Action Plan* and UN Sustainable Development Goals

2

Over two semesters in 2022, almost 300 high school students worked with 40+ mentors to create 74 projects and host four major events

3

Projects were displayed, celebrated, and judged at two CARE Summits by panels of climate experts and advocates from all sectors

4

In fall 2022, we introduced project categories

- Nature & Biodiversity
- Agriculture & Food
- Energy & Buildings
- Waste Reduction
- Active Transportation
- Community Resilience

5

We also introduced the mentorship program

6



7



8

C A R E
Climate Action Ripple Effect

What is the "ripple effect"?

9



10

Why does CARE work?

- Passion and dedication of participating teachers
- Designed by teachers for teachers and supported by SD22
- Uses proven outreach and engagement strategies for inclusive, collaborative problem-solving
- Provides hands-on, project-based, on-the-ground learning
- Ensures cross-curricular learning opportunities
- Can be adapted to any subject matter and grade level
- Supports student-based yet community-focused opportunities for learning and contribution
- Growing support from granting organizations and local sponsors

11

What do students learn?

Project design and planning, research, innovation, and presentation

12



- Understanding of climate change and climate anxiety
- Interest in, and commitment to, climate action
- Communication and collaboration with peers, mentors, judges, and community
- Cross-cultural and intergenerational engagement
- Problem-solving on the fly

13

How do students grow?



- Self-confidence
- Innovation
- Agency/ability to contribute to positive change
- Understanding of climate-related careers and entrepreneurial opportunities

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What's next for CARE 24 and beyond?

- Increase teacher, student, mentor participation
- Build stronger Indigenous content and involvement
- Explore opportunities for longer-lasting projects that benefit local government and community
- Secure sources of long-term funding to ensure program longevity
- Update student coaching approaches and materials to reflect student input
- Host formal teacher/mentor orientation in January
- Host CARE Kick-Off in February
- Host Community Climate Expo May 27th
- Host CARE Summit May 28th
- CELEBRATE!

15



Mobilizing student climate action in Vernon and beyond.

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