



## **CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON**

### **CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MAY 29, 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**

March 27, 2024 (Attached)

**5) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Council Business Update – *Councillor Guy*
- b) Staff Update – *Kevin McCarty*
- c) Subcommittees:
  - Resolution to form subcommittees
  - Subcommittee updates (progress notes attached)

**6) NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Tree Protection Bylaw

**7) INFORMATION ITEMS**

**8) NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for **July 31, 2024**.

**9) ADJOURNMENT**

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON



**MINUTES OF THE  
CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HELD MARCH 27, 2024 AT 4:00 PM  
OKANAGAN LAKE ROOM (COUNCIL CHAMBER)**

**PRESENT:** Donna Bartel, Community at Large Rep.  
Mayor Cumming  
Councillor Guy, Council Appointed  
Buffy Baumbrough, Science & Technology Rep.  
Patrick Riley, Okanagan Indian Band Rep.  
Jordan Hart, Business and Commercial Services Rep.  
Sid Kwakkel, Educators, Post Secondary Rep., *Chair*  
Fawn Ross, Community Stewardship Rep.  
Barry Dorval, Educators, Primary and Secondary Rep.  
Stephanie Hendy, Community at Large Rep.

**ABSENT:** Jenna Boone, Youth Rep.  
Jenn Comazzetto, SD22 Rep.  
Casey Neathway, Health & Social Services Rep.  
Casey Bain, Youth Rep.

**STAFF:** Kevin McCarty, Specialist, Climate Action  
Jennifer Pounder, Records/Committee Clerk

**ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 4:03 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  
AGENDA** Moved by S. Kwakkel, seconded by B. Dorval:

THAT the agenda of the March 27, 2024 Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting be adopted:

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Moved by B. Dorval, seconded S. Hendy:

THAT the minutes of the January 31, 2024 Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting be adopted:

**CARRIED**

The Chair welcomed B. Baumbrough to the Committee. This was followed by roundtable introductions.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****COUNCIL UPDATE**

Councillor Guy provided the following update on City Council business:

**February 12, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting**

- I reported that I participated in the Okanagan Transit Challenge. I rode buses both here, and in Vancouver; There are big differences in service levels and ridership.
- Council authorized stay to apply for a \$30,000.00 grant from UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness fund to buy a computer for GIS analysis for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and to provide training to EOC personnel.

**February 26, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting**

- Staff recommended that Council adopt Level One (measure only) of the 4-step Zero Carbon STEP Code. The report also recognized that our 2024 Housing Plan needs to square with our Climate Action plan, and recommended that we assess how we manage growth in buildings while meeting our climate targets.
- Staff reported that a stormwater management plan and bylaw would be coming to Council soon.
- BC Transit has introduced a new tap-in card – “Umo”, and expects to soon offer credit card tap-in as well.
- The e-scooter pilot project will continue for another four years; April 5, 2024 to April 5, 2028.
- Council supported a motion to request that SILGA and UBCM no longer accept funding from the oil and gas sector at conventions.

**March 11, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting**

- Staff reported that we were unsuccessful in our grant application to the Accelerator Fund, which would have provided significant funding to support delivery of our Housing Action Plan.

- Kevin McCarty presented the plan that this Committee had considered and approved on January 31, 2024. Council supported the plan and expanded it.
- Mayor Cumming reported to Council on a plan to set up a Watershed Plan to manage the Aberdeen Plateau (which is our water source) to protect water and cultural and heritage values above timber values. The work would involve near-term work to reduce fire risk, then working with partners and stakeholders to develop a long-term management plan and setting up a governance structure to oversee the management. The ultimate goal is to transfer jurisdiction to GVW and the OKIB for managing timber on the plateau.

#### March 25, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting

- Terry Barton, Director, Planning and Community Services, announced that two vacant positions had been filled, both by internal applicants. The new manager of Transportation, Daniel DeVries, and the new manager of Planning, Roy Nuriel. A new Planner, Lydia Korolchuk, was also introduced.
- Barbara Everdene, Long Range Planner, and Danielle DeVries, Manager, Transportation, reviewed the Engagement Plan for the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Transportation Master Plan (TMP) updates that are getting underway.

It was further noted that the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program has developed a new wetland prediction model which could be useful in the natural asset inventory work that will begin soon. Also, the BC Utilities Commission has made several decisions recently related to BC Hydro and FortisBC that are relevant to the City of Vernon as we push to meet the provincial zero carbon step code and move towards zero carbon transportation.

The following questions/comments were received:

- It was asked if there any timelines around decision making on cataloging wetlands?
  - Timelines might help speed it up. Sooner would be better as subdivision applications are rampant. It is within the scope of the plan Council approved on January 31, 2024.
- Can this Committee do anything to help the process?
  - The City is going through zoning amendments to change properties to parks. It was suggested to Council to not develop on the lands that could potentially be wetlands.
- In response to a question, it was recommended that this Committee pass a motion to recognize the urgency of recognizing

wetlands. We need a current inventory to compare with the old inventory, and present Council with a list of assets lost.

- How are the current tools and policies regarding wetland assets not working?
  - The City of Vernon does not currently have a wetland policy. There needs to be mechanisms in place to stop building on wetlands to force Council to act and put policies in place.

**MOTION  
(WETLAND ASSETS)**

Moved by B. Dorval, seconded by B. Baumbrough:

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee, recognizing the value of wetlands to biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation values, recommends that the City urgently prioritize the identification of wetland assets.

**CARRIED**

**STAFF UPDATE**

K. McCarty provided the Committee with the following updates:

- Council authorized the allocation of \$259,000 from the Local Government Climate Action Program fund to proceed with the seven climate initiatives outlined in the memorandum titled “Climate Action Plan Implementation” date February 28, 2024.
- The Sustainability Grants program is opening for applications on Earth Day (April 22), until June 15, 2024.
- The Tree Voucher Program will be opening for applications on Earth Day (April 22), until June 13, 2024.
- Kevin participated in the Thompson Okanagan Climate Action Network workshop sustainable building workshop in Salmon Arm.

**MOTION  
(SUSTAINABILITY  
GRANTS)**

Moved by B. Dorval, seconded by B. Baumbrough:

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee recommends that Council increase the amount of money accessible through the sustainability grants program.

**CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SUBCOMMITTEES /  
WORKING GROUPS**

S. Kwakkel and B. Dorval presented the Committee with the subcommittee/working groups that will be created (Attachment 1). Members volunteered for subcommittee groups as follows:

**Communication and Engagement:**

- Barry, Fawn and Mayor Cumming.

**Official Community Plan:**

- Buffy, Stephanie, Jordan, Councillor Guy, Barry and Fawn.

**Metrics and Reporting:**

- Patrick, Donna, Sid, Kevin.

**Consideration of Future Climate Aspects:**

- Councillor Guy, Sid, Fawn and Buffy.

It was requested that the subcommittee groups bring an update on their work to each Committee meeting.

**CREEK SAMPLING PROGRAM**

K. McCarty provided the following information on the Creek Sampling Program:

- The water quality creek sampling initiative is a pilot program lead by the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and Interior Health to assess the impacts of urbanization on our creek systems. One hydrometric station was recently installed at the BX Sediment Pond to monitor turbidity, temperature, and conductivity. This station is monitored by Water Survey of Canada and subsidized by the Okanagan Basin Water Board. There is consideration for installing two more this year, but this has not been confirmed.
- The City of Vernon is not involved with this initiative, aside from helping to identify the location for the hydrometric station.

**TRANSIT CHALLENGE UPDATE**

S. Hendy provided an update to the Committee on the Transit Challenge. The following points were noted:

- The challenge went well. Several communities took part. Councilors and Mayors from Kelowna, West Kelowna, Penticton, Salmon Arm and Summerland participated in the challenge.
- The reason for the program was to gather perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of BC Transit.
- The next Okanagan Transit Alliance campaign is aimed at getting free fare for riders under the age of 18.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting for the Climate Action Advisory Committee is set for May 29, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:12 p.m. by call of the Chair.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair



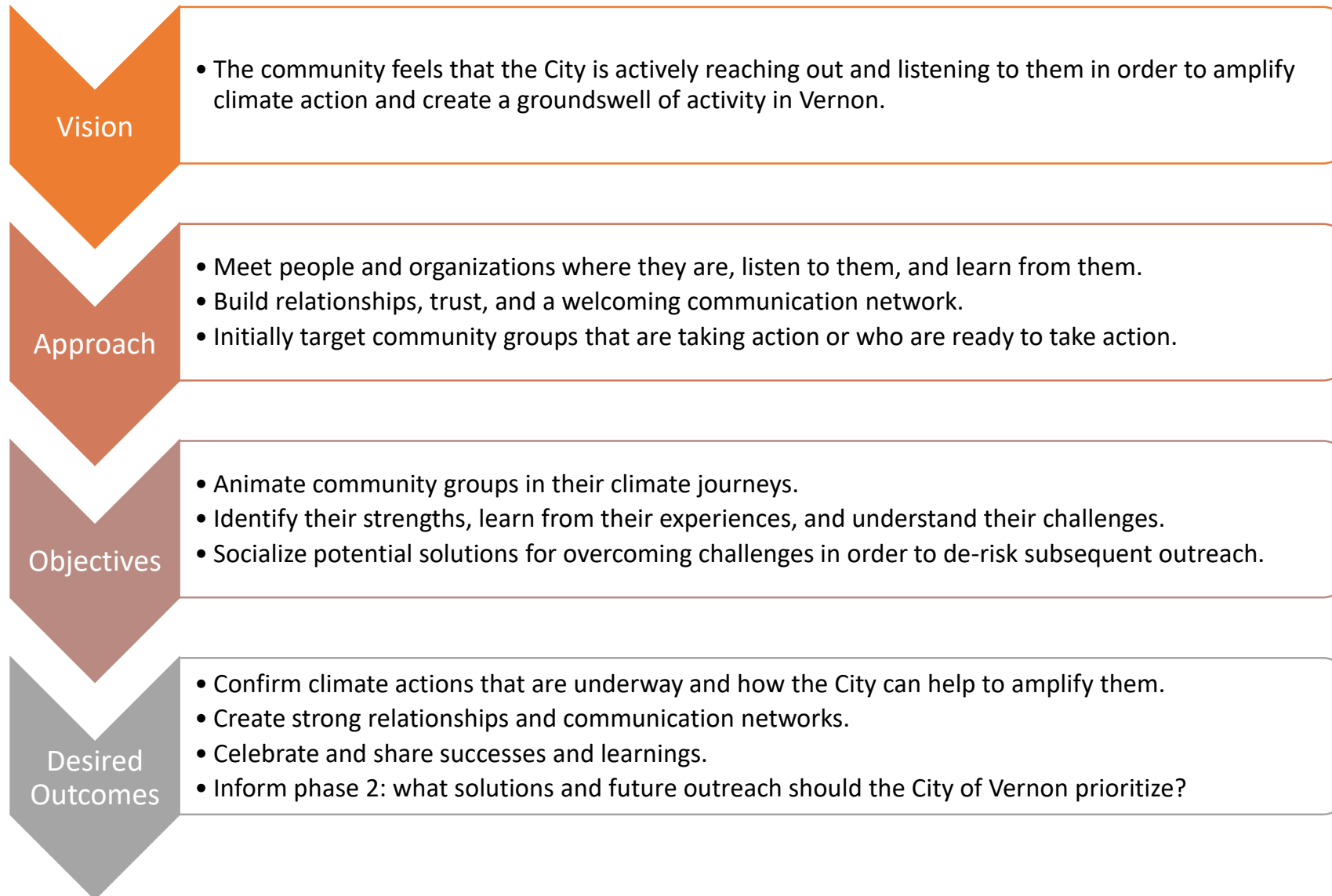
# DRAFT Climate Action Community Outreach & Communication Framework

## *Slide contents:*

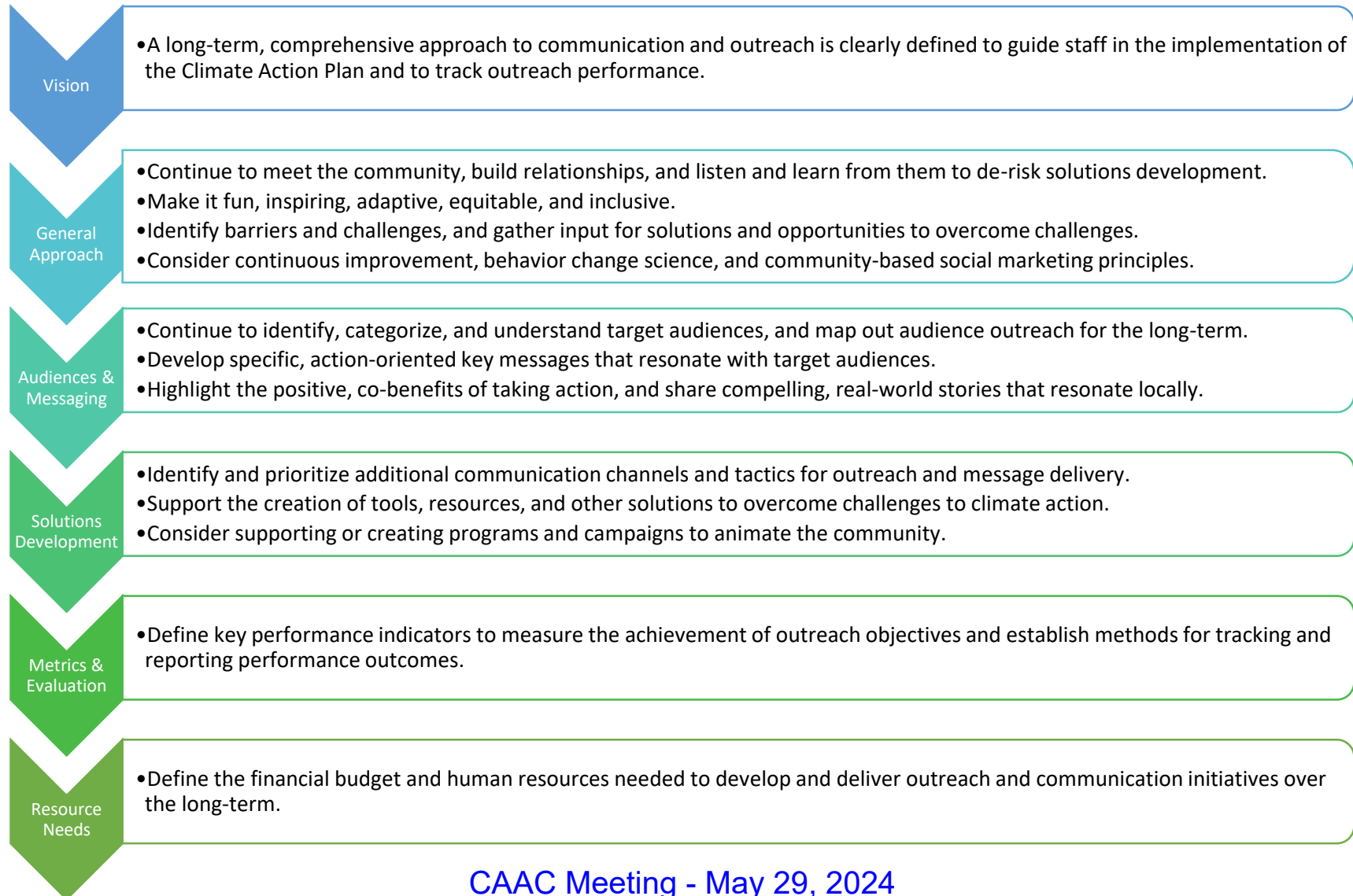
1. Phase 1 – Connect with and listen to community groups to build momentum and gather input.
2. Phase 2 – Draft a comprehensive, long-term outreach and communication strategy.
3. CAAC discussion:
  - What are your thoughts on phase 1 and 2 approaches?
  - Identify initial target groups and brainstorm some examples of solutions and supports.



# Phase 1 - Community Outreach Activation



# Phase 2 – Develop a long-term, comprehensive approach to communication and outreach



# CAAC Discussion

- What are your thoughts on Phase 1 and 2 approaches?
- What specific groups/contacts come to mind for initial outreach in Phase 1?
- What are some examples of resources/tools/solutions for amplifying climate efforts that can be socialized with community groups during phase 1?



COLLABORATE



# CAAC Subcttee - Considerations of Climate Aspects

Summary of meeting on May 17, 2024

- The attendees reaffirmed the intention of the objective of the subcommittee (see last meetings TOR).
- We spoke about some of the risks that are associated with CAAC
  - There is a risk that the CAP does not mature towards completion and that it is viewed as "one of many plans"
    - An important step to see is that the CAP is translated into othre City initiatives. The Strategic Plan and the upcoming OCP and TAP will be an important measuring stick for uptake of the CAP goals and climate thinking.
  - There is a risk that the community is unaware of the climate thinking going on at the City.
    - Having a communication and engagement framework is important to establish (1) how the community feels about climate initiatives, (2) what the city can do to inform and engage the community, (3) what the city does to continuously improve this aspect of their business.

Attendees: Kevin, Sid

# CAAC Subcttee - Metrics and Reporting

Summary of meeting on May 17, 2024

- The attendees reaffirmed the intention of the objective of the subcommittee (see last meetings TOR).
- Kevin gave an overview of some of the reports he generates
  - Report on GHG emissions by city services to the province as a requirement of the city signing the Climate Charter. This report is prepared annually according to an Excel template.
  - CAP reporting - the goals of CAP are assessed and given a color code (1) green - progressing (2) yellow - has stalled but not detrimental to completion (3) red - has hit a road block that puts completion in jeopardy (4) black - completed.
- Kevin has a new GNG forecasting software that potentially allows him to give staff a GHG picture of their project
  - We talked about triple bottom line reporting and the value that this could have for climate considerations on the City's projects.

Attendees: Donna, Patrick, Kevin, Sid

### **OCP Subcommittee Progress:**

Attached are the three completed review done of other communities OCPs. The intent was for us to get a sense of how others are integrating Climate action initiatives into their planning documents so as we can be prepared with suggestions for our own.

They were done by the following people:

- Buffy Kelowna)
- Barry (Sannich)
- Fawn (Ucluelet)

I haven't discussed if with Barry or Buffy, but I'm happy to speak to my notes at the meeting if it is helpful.

There are still the following available for review:

Links:

[Official Community Plan | City of Surrey](#) (Reviewer TBD)

[Whistler's Vision and OCP | Resort Municipality of Whistler](#) (Reviewer TBD)

[Official Plan | City of Ottawa](#) (Reviewer TBD)

## Saanich OCP: Highlights

- Adopted May 2024, so hot of the press.
- Vision statement: “Saanich is a sustainable and resilient community where a healthy environment is recognized as paramount for ensuring social well-being and economic vibrancy for future and current generations.”
- 3 pillars of Environmental Integrity, Social wellbeing, and Economic Vibrancy are woven into policy and decision making.
- Recognizes that resilience means taking steps to prepare for global challenges, many of which are exacerbated by the climate emergency, so it uses “One Planet Living” as lens and tool to assess the global impacts of individual and local decisions on global inequities by applying the BCIT Cities Unit ecoCity Footprint tool.
- Applies “15 Minute City” objectives (key amenities for living are available within a 15 minute walk [1.2 km]) in planning decisions.
- Embeds context into the plan, so looks at long range demographic and climate forecasts, reconciliation with local First Nations, and relationships with regional neighbours in the Capital Region District.
- Recognizes that change is accelerating and interconnected so that results in opportunities and challenges. Need to tackle multiple issues (Reconciliation, Response to Climate Emergency, Housing/Affordability, Focused Coordinated Growth, Sustainable Community Services, Enhanced Biodiversity, Engaged Governance, Demographic Shift, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) in coordinated way.
- Strong commitment to maintaining its “Urban Containment Boundary.”
- The document is explicit about the importance of climate/environmental issues in all areas of the OCP: “climate change” is mentioned 54 times and it has its own section besides, “environment” is also mentioned 54 times and it too has its own section, “resilience” is mentioned 68 times, “biodiversity” 49 times, “adaptation” 16 times, “mitigation” 15 times, and “climate emergency” 6 times.

## Highlights from City of Kelowna OCP 2040 (re Climate Change)

It is notable that Kelowna’s OCP not only contains an entire chapter dedicated to climate resiliency, but also has mitigation and adaption strategies embedded within policies throughout the OCP.

The OCP also has a chapter entitled “Natural Environment”, which recognizes that: conservation and restoration of the natural environment can help increase climate change resiliency; natural assets can reduce GHG emissions through carbon sequestration; and natural assets can help with adaptation to the impacts of extreme weather (e.g., drought, flooding).

Additionally, a chapter entitled “Natural Hazard Areas” acknowledges that the risk associated with some hazards (e.g., steep slopes, ravines, wildfire interface areas) will be increased with the impacts of climate change.

The OCP places much emphasis on land use planning policies that are designed to: focus investment on Urban Centres to develop them into vibrant hubs; limit urban sprawl; and to target growth along transit corridors with the goal of making active transport and transit a more attractive and feasible option for more people (i.e., create urban centres that have walkable streets, protected bike routes, and improved transit).

Chapter 12 of Kelowna’s OCP, entitled “Climate Resiliency”, includes the following statement in its introduction:

*Our strategic direction for how our community will grow, commute, interact and protect natural assets, is intricately related to how we will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to anticipated climate changes and those changes we are already experiencing.*

The introduction in Chapter 12 also contains the following graphic:



The above graphic shows how several of the 10 “pillars” within the OCP (i.e., foundations from which more detailed policy directions have been built) contribute to the building of a community that is resilient to climate change. Thus, climate considerations have been woven throughout each chapter of the OCP.

The “climate resiliency” chapter contains 12 objectives, with several policies attached to each objective. In general, the objectives and policies focus on 3 areas: mitigation, adaptation, and equity, as outlined below.

## **Mitigation**

Several objectives and policies are aimed at the mitigation of climate impacts by significantly reducing GHG emissions, including the following:

- Reduction of emissions from transportation (Kelowna's largest source of emissions) through effective land use planning, designed to minimize or eliminate car dependence, increase the use of active transportation, and a switch to alternative fuels.
- Building and retrofitting energy efficient / low carbon buildings.
- Prioritization of more efficient waste management systems.

## **Adaptation**

The OCP recognizes that, in addition to mitigation, climate adaptation is also important. Thus, an objective to encourage investment in ecosystem services and green infrastructure is supported by several policies, including those aimed at the following:

- Urban Forest Canopy
- Green Infrastructure Investment
- Green Infrastructure in Development
- Ecosystem Connectivity
- Multi-Purpose Design (i.e., design green infrastructure to serve multiple purposes)

## **Equity**

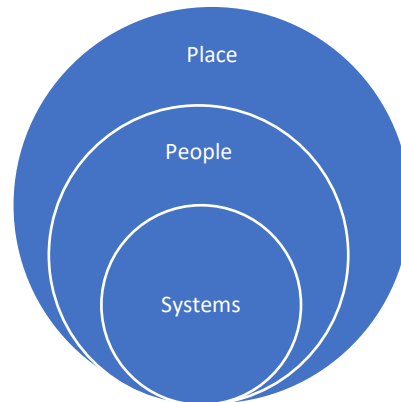
Finally, there is a stated recognition that climate change affects citizens in different ways and therefore efforts must be made to consider equity in all solutions.

## CAAC: REVIEW OF DISTRICT OF UCLUELET OCP

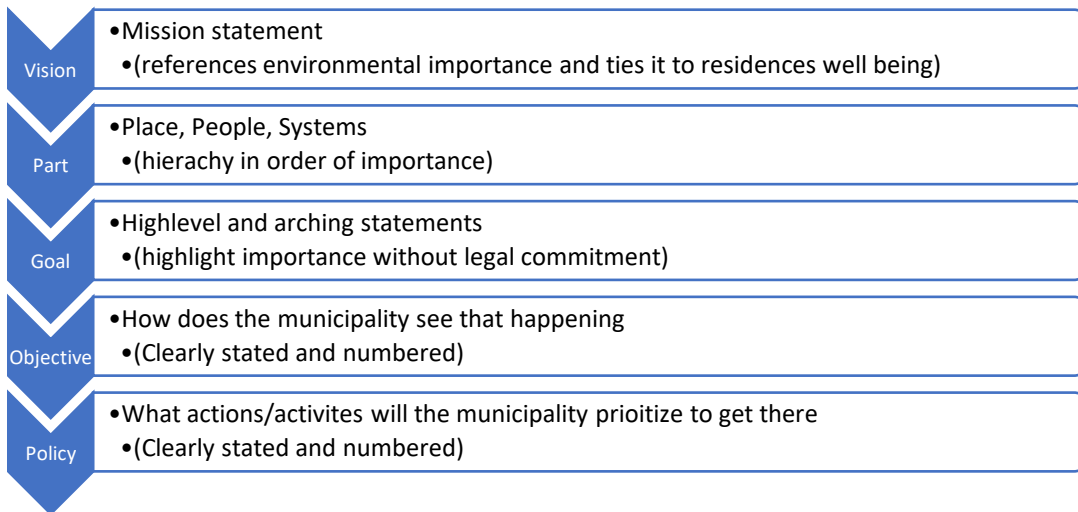
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### *Key Take homes:*

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- **Hierarchy of document** clearly presented in with order of importance (Place, People, Systems). All municipal priorities embedded inside the importance of place (i.e. natural environment) to establish a hierarchy where natural environment is the lens for all policy formation and decision making.
- **Excellent source for policy options** with detailed options for many environmental aspects (full list below)
- **Designed for easy reference** by all considering the document (municipal staff, applicants, and elected officials)
- **Policies are not legally binding** (pros and cons)
- **Ties health of natural environment** to the health of the people
  - This is a strong delivery tool.
  - Could similar crossover be built into an improved Mission statement for Vernon (maybe geared towards resiliency?)
- **Repetitive in requirements** for environmental consideration
- **Formatting designed to focus reader** on the environmental priorities
  - Callout bubbles for high reaching goals (causes readers to think in terms of them without requiring legal commitment from municipality).
  - Clearly Numbers policies in a way that applicants/governing body can easily consider how many that are accounted for in an application.
  - Formatted to draw attention to natural resources and imagery



**EXAMPLE**

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*Vision – Mission statement that references environmental importance, ties health of environment to health the people*

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“Ucluelet’s built and natural environment reflects, above all, the value we place on the outstanding beauty and diverse natural habitat of this place, which support the well-being of all members of the community. Ucluelet residents and visitors enjoy a high quality of life built upon a sustainable, diverse and vibrant local economy.”

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*Goals – Transportation*

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“Transportation options reduce greenhouse gas emissions, fossil fuel dependence and the creation of air contaminants. Transportation options reduce greenhouse gas emissions, fossil fuel dependence and the creation of air contaminants.”

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*Objectives- Transportation*

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**Objective 2E** – Ucluelet attracts businesses so residents can access key services close to home.

**Objective 2F** – Ucluelet residents can safely move around town by foot, bike, scooter, or other low-carbon transportation modes.

**Objective 2G** – Ucluelet is connected to the region by reliable transit and an extended EV charging network.

**Objective 2H** – Ucluelet residents and visitors can charge electric vehicles at home, work, and popular destinations.

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*Policies- Transportation*

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- Policy 2.19** Encourage pedestrian and bicycle facilities as part of all new development projects.
- Policy 2.20** Expand infrastructure to support vehicle and cycling electrification in public places, businesses and residences.
- Policy 2.21** Encourage and support regional organizations to convert their fleets to Zero Emission Vehicles.
- Policy 2.22** Convert all light-duty vehicles to zero-emission vehicles in municipal operations including the integration of e- bikes where possible.
- Policy 2.23** Expand the Wild Pacific Trail network as opportunities arise.
- Policy 2.24** Work with other local communities to establish more frequent regional transit connections, including to Tofino, First Nations communities, the Tofino airport, and Port Alberni.
- Policy 2.25** Encourage BC Transit to create local transit routes to serve most destinations within the community with a high level of service, and focus development along this transit corridor.
- Policy 2.26** Work towards a future multi-modal transportation centre near the Village Square area to better link the District with air, water, and transit service providers with local transit, taxi, walking, and cycling facilities.
- Policy 2.27** Provide weather protection at stops for future local and regional transit buses.
- Policy 2.28** Support car-sharing and carpooling within the community, such as the creation of priority parking stalls for pool vehicles and/or facilitating a community carpooling database.
- Policy 2.29** Support bike-sharing within the community, such as locating bike share racks within the Village Square area and at resort locations.
- Policy 2.30** Encourage adequate, secure bicycle parking facilities at major destinations within the District.
- Policy 2.31** Pursue opportunities to create bike lanes and multi- use paths within existing road allowances.

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*Environmental Policies available for:*

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Environmental Protection Land Use and  
Development  
Transportation  
Renewable Energy  
Solid Waste and Waste Management  
Awareness, Education  
Outreach  
Buildings

Public infrastructure and facilities  
Community energy systems  
Climate action  
Parks and Trails  
Transportation and Movement  
People in Cars  
People on Foot  
People on Bikes