

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2  
**June 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Leif Wergeland (Chair), Hal Gibbard, Kevin Brown, Mary Haig-Brown, Roberta Hesselgrave, Jude Coates, , George Klima, Harry Drage

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services; Rebecca Newlove, Sustainability Manager; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Al-Nashir Charania

Guests: Fred Haynes, Councillor

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by H. Drage and Seconded by K. Brown: “That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held May 17, 2017 be adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

The Sustainability Manager presented the Committees with a progress report on the Climate Action Plan, and the following comments were noted:

- BC Climate Action Plan calls for a 33% reduction in community GHG by 2020.
- Corporate GHG targets aim for a 50% GHG emission reduction by 2020.
- The accuracy of the transportation data has had significant challenges.
- Saanich GHG Inventory for 2016 rose slightly due to temporary increase in natural gas consumption at the Gordon Head Recreation Centre as a result of renovations that required the building envelop to be opened during construction.
- Significant GHG reductions should be realized in 2017 with the Gordon Head Recreation Centre new air source heat pump and the lighting upgrades to Pearkes and SCP along with the REAL ice installation at Pearkes.
- The decrease in Public Safety Building GHG emissions reported from the Fire Department where offset by reported increased fuel consumption.
- Increase in Engineering GHG emissions due to Emily Carr Library and Les Passmore Senior Centre being included under the Engineering Department.
- Saanich GHG Inventory for Municipal Operations years 2007-2016 include committed projects of the Gordon Head Recreation Centre heating (completed) with at 450 ton reduction, Municipal Hall lighting upgrades resulting in 100 ton reduction. Proposed projects include: SCP heating, Pearkes heating, 25% fuel efficiency improvements over 2015 levels and additional EV fleet.
- Community GHG Emission Targets are comprised of:
  - Transportation fuel related emissions reduced by 45%
  - Building related emissions reduced by 30%
  - Waste related emissions reduced by 50%

- An additional 5% of building emissions to be reduced by sourcing energy alternatives
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities encouraging members to use the Global Protocol for Community-scale GHG Emissions Inventories (GPC).
- The GPC is consistent with the IPCC guidelines for National GHG Inventories.
- EcoCity Footprint-a project led by Dr. Jennie Moore, BCIT and funded by USDN.
- The pilot for the Eco-City Footprint tool was on 5 cities-compliant with GPC reporting. Examined consumption based inventory.
- Next steps:
  - More accurate community energy and emissions inventory to assist with forming the baseline for updated Climate Plans.
  - Update the Saanich Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

Committee discussion occurred and the following highlights are noted:

- The Ecocity Pilot Project will give Saanich an idea of what the municipal footprint is based on consumption data.
- The draft results of the Ecocity pilot project should be available in the fall 2017.
- Saanich is part of the CRD Climate Action Plan.
- Numerous networks and knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholder organizations.
- A “sister city” program to perhaps partner with another municipality for knowledge sharing could be explored.
- There is value in the length of time for these initiatives as this allows for time to implement step changes and progress targets.
- Most municipalities look to the ICPP for data.
- Educated guesses could be considered as there may not be time to wait for hard climate change data.
- What are the strategies for significant changes in GHG emissions outside municipal operations?
  - Active transportation plans
  - Addressing transit constraints
  - Increasing public and private partnerships
- Step codes will be coming into effect which increase energy efficiencies.
- Financing programs to allow more income groups the capital to improve their efficiencies.
- Electric vehicles (EV) are expensive to purchase. Many condos do not have EV charging stations. Could Saanich assist with retrofitting developments with EV charging stations?

The Committee thanked the Sustainability Manager for the progress report.

## **AGRICULTURE FOOD SECURITY PLAN**

The PLANNER updated the Committee on the draft Agriculture and Food Security Plan, and the following highlights are noted:

- The Agriculture and Food Security Plan (AFSP) will provide Saanich with a coordinated approach to enhance the viability and long term sustainability of Saanich agriculture and food systems.
- The AFSP contains high level actions that will guide the priorities.
- Issues related to household food insecurities and community food security will be addressed.
- Recommendations towards bridging gaps in the food system to strengthen and enhance local agriculture will be included.

- An Open House was held in January 2017 and two Open Houses are being planned for summer 2017.
- A draft of the Agriculture and Food Security Plan will be presented at Council following feedback at the second planned Open House.
- From the work done on the draft Plan to date seven themes and objectives have been identified.
- Seventy-one action items have been listed.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Urban greenhouses and urban farming should be addressed.
- Difficulties with greenhouses being placed on viable agricultural land need to be considered. Commercial greenhouse operations can be damaging to agricultural land.
- Allowing greenhouses to be placed in industrial areas should be investigated.
- Is there interest in rural lot farming/growing food for personal use?
- Real incentives need to be developed to encourage farming.
- Soil conservation education for addressing and maintaining soil health.
- Roof top gardening concepts, incentives and education. Currently not much interest from the development community and there can be issues with building code and water management associated with roof top gardening.
- Trade-offs to increase urban greenspace should be explored.

## **WEST COAST LAW INITIATIVE**

The Chair facilitated a continued discussion on the West Coast Law Initiative, and the following highlights are noted:

- The concept of requesting assistance from big oil companies to address climate change impacts in Saanich is supported by the Strategic Plan and aligns with Saanich efforts to reduce the municipal carbon footprint.
- Oil companies have a share of responsibility for climate change impacts to Saanich infrastructure.
- A letter could be sent to Saanich residents outlining how fossil fuel use impacts municipal costs.

**Motion:**        **MOVED by G. Klima and Seconded by M. Haig-Brown: “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee request that Council send a letter to major fossil fuel companies, modeled after the sample letter provided by the West Coast Environmental Law Group, addressing the fossil fuel industry’s roles and responsibilities in climate change effects on the Municipality of Saanich.”**

**CARRIED**  
**With H. Drage OPPOSED**

## **POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

The Chair facilitated a discussion on potential agenda items, and the following highlights are noted:

- ENA Awards: Social media was used to help promote the event this year.
- Significant Tree Bylaw: Updated TOR for ENA to reflect the delegation for approving significant tree grants to the Director of Parks and Recreation.
  - Ceremony June 16, 2017 to rename Christmas Hill Park to Vic Derman Park.
- Canada 150: Environmental Services will be at the Gorge Canada Day celebrations and at Beckwith MIP on July 18<sup>th</sup>
- The Conservation Tax Credit motion received Council's approval and has been forward to the province for consideration.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2017.

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Councillor Wergeland, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary