

AGENDA
SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To be held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
Thursday June 12, 2025 at 4:00 PM

The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. May 8, 2025

B. COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

1. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PLAN

- MOLLY ROSE, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PLANNER

2. ZERO EMISSION FLEET STRATEGY

- GLENYS VERHULST, SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST
- REBECCA NEWLOVE, MANAGER OF SUSTAINABILITY

3. FLEET E-BIKE PROGRAM UPDATE

- GLENYS VERHULST, SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST
- REBECCA NEWLOVE, MANAGER OF SUSTAINABILITY

4. SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) AND BATTERY STORAGE OPPORTUNITIES – UPDATE

- REBECCA NEWLOVE, MANAGER OF SUSTAINABILITY

C. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: September 11, 2025, at 4:00 PM

In order to ensure a quorum, please contact Angela Hawkshaw at 250-475-5494 ext. 3505 or angela.hawkshaw@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
May 08, 2025, at 4:05 PM

ROLL CALL

In Attendance: Councillor Judy Brownoff, Jane Cameron, Diya Courty-Stephens, Spencer Graham, George Klima, Leslie Miller-Brooks and Karin Nelson
Regrets: Lesley Bainbridge and Barb Sharpe
Staff: Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; Melissa Hauzer, Senior Sustainability Planner; Glenys Verhulst, Sustainability Specialist and Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Leslie Miller-Brooks and Seconded by Jane Cameron: “That the minutes of the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee held on April 10, 2025, be adopted as circulated.”

RESULT: Carried 7 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Courty-Stephens, Klima, Miller-Brooks, Nelson, Brownoff, Cameron and Graham

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Bainbridge and Sharpe

Note: The minutes were amended to include the statement, “Hydraloop is a Dutch company that focuses on recycling greywater for homes and businesses.”

CHAIR'S REMARKS

No remarks were made by the Chair

GREENER BY DEFAULT PROGRAM AND LOW CARBON FOOD

The Sustainability Specialist gave a presentation on the Greener By Default Program and Low Carbon Food (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Five departments participated in the pilot project.
- Continuing to offer a variety of food options, including plant-based choices, is a positive approach that encourages mindful decisions for health and the environment.
- The Canada Food Guide is an excellent resource for outlining the recommended daily intake of healthy foods.
- Climate-focused messaging is becoming more appealing to the public. Events in Saanich provide a strong platform to communicate it.
- Market gardens and smaller, locally owned farms are a strong presence in Saanich.
- Providing resources and support to Saanich businesses to promote vegetarian options could encourage more sustainable food choices.
- Relying on local agriculture encourages local food choices over external sources.
- Engaging youth and encouraging plant-based and vegetarian food choices could have long term effects.

****The Sustainability Specialist left the meeting at 5:06 p.m.**

ZERO WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

The Senior Sustainability Planner provided an update on the Zero Waste Strategy (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- The CRD is exploring adding soft plastics to curbside recycling.
- Waste and composting policies are guided by provincial regulations.
- Deconstruction bylaws vary across municipalities.
- Exploring options to relocate houses rather than demolishing them to reduce waste is ongoing.
- Increasing education and engagement can help build public confidence that recycling works and individual efforts make a difference.
- Public engagement can help build trust and show how individual actions contribute to the Zero Waste Strategy.
- There is an opportunity to develop a more efficient method for managing glass recycling.
- The August 2024 Zero Waste Survey received input from over 800 participants and showed strong public efforts to reduce waste.
- Saanich Municipal Hall features water taps that support reusable bottle use.
- For Saanich events, options like hiring a local water vendor or connecting fountains to fire hydrants could be considered.
- Cost considerations are leading to increased use of plastic over glass packaging.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by D. Courty-Stephens and Seconded by J. Cameron: “That the meeting be adjourned.”

RESULTS: Carried 7 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Courty-Stephens, Klima, Miller-Brooks, Nelson, Brownoff, Cameron, Graham

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Bainbridge, Sharpe

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

COMMITTEE CLERK