

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
April 10, 2025, at 4:03 PM

ROLL CALL

In Attendance: Councillor Judy Brownoff, Lesley Bainbridge, Jane Cameron, Diya Courty-Stephens, Spencer Graham, Leslie Miller-Brooks, Karin Nelson (via Teams), George Klima and Barb Sharpe

Staff: Melissa Hauzer, Senior Sustainability Planner; Renee Cenerini, Environmental Education Coordinator; Sarah Faria, Community Programmer II – Events, Volunteers & Film; Glenys Verhulst, Sustainability Specialist (via Teams) and Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk

Guest: Joel Ussery, Manager, Resource Planning, Watershed Protection Infrastructure and Water Services, Capitol Regional District (via Teams)

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by J. Cameron and Seconded by S. Graham: “That the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee held March 13, 2025, be adopted as circulated.”

RESULT: Carried 8 TO 0

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

OPPOSED: None

COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

CHAIR’S REMARKS

- The Capital Regional District (CRD) has approved working with regional partners to develop a bear awareness campaign. This initiative responds to recent wildlife incidents that were attributed to improper organic waste management. An education and outreach program will be created and shared across the region.

THE GOOD NEIGHBOURS: SAANICH BIODIVERSITY PARTNERS – PILOT PROJECT

The Environmental Education Coordinator gave a presentation on The Good Neighbours: Saanich Biodiversity Partners – Pilot Project (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- This project aligns directly with the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS).
- Extended support is offered to both small and large property owners.
- Collaboration with landowners continues. Future plans for this project is unknown.
- A habitat steward designation is currently only available through The Good Neighbour Program.
- A pilot project to address invasive species on private land could be considered.
- Set schedules for community engagement could support education efforts.
- Connecting with local high schools could provide volunteer opportunities for students.
- The Pulling Together Program is successful; expansion to other parks could be beneficial.

PLANNING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE CRD INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT

The representative from the Capitol Regional District (CRD) provided a presentation on Planning for Climate Resilience in the CRD Infrastructure and Water Management (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Despite rising summer temperatures and increased water demand, reservoir capacity and higher winter rainfall keep water supply stable. Demand management measures, such as low-flow toilets, are now included in building codes.
- The Hydraloop is a Dutch system that recycles greywater to reduce household water use.
- Automatic watering systems default to 4 a.m.; outreach to installers to stagger these times is ongoing.
- Water restrictions for residents, particularly regarding lawn watering, could be stricter.
- Reusing gray water could be considered, though health concerns need to be addressed.
- Saanich uses computerized sprinklers designed to reduce water waste.
- retardants
- Fire retardants contain phosphorous, which can promote algae growth; designated "no-retardant" zones help protect the water supply.
- Initial response to residents watering outside designated times is education on water restrictions, this is managed by the CRD.

SUSTAINABLE MEASURES AT SAANICH EVENTS

The Senior Sustainability Planner and the Community Programmer II -Events, Volunteers & Film provided a presentation on the Sustainable Measures at Saanich Events. The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- The Strawberry Festival is a popular community event in Saanich that draws large crowds and produces significant waste.
- Efforts are underway to reduce single-use items and improve waste sorting for attendees.
- A deposit/refund system for reusable bowls is being explored.
- Shuttles from Commonwealth and UVic help reduce vehicle traffic.
- A public-facing whiteboard could highlight sustainability initiatives during the event.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Jane Cameron and Seconded by Spencer Graham: "That the meeting be adjourned."

RESULT: Carried 9 TO 0

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

OPPOSED: None



CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

COMMITTEE CLERK