

**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.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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COMMITTEE CLERK