



## The Corporation of the District of Saanich

# Report

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Sheila Allen, Director of Corporate Services

**Date:** October 23, 2024

**Subject:** Climate Plan Targeted Update – Terms of Reference

**File:**

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council endorse the Climate Plan Targeted Update Terms of Reference (Attachment 1).

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this Report is to provide background information related to the development of a targeted update to the Climate Plan and seek Council endorsement of the proposed approach as outlined in the Terms of Reference in Attachment 1.

### BACKGROUND

Since the award-winning 2020 Climate Plan: 100% Renewable and Resilient Saanich was approved, we have implemented significant actions and completed detailed monitoring of key metrics on an annual basis. These reports show that as a local government, we have demonstrated considerable leadership on climate action and our emissions are trending in the right direction, with much to be celebrated. However, ambitious action on emissions must continue if we are to reach our climate targets and a greater focus is now required on adapting to the extreme weather events and climate hazards that are being experienced now and are projected to worsen in coming years.

The 2020 Climate Plan actions were developed around a five-year time frame, meaning most are now either completed or underway. However, there are a number of actions and metrics in the Plan, mainly related to climate adaptation and consumption-based emissions, that were very general in nature and required additional work and data to be further developed.

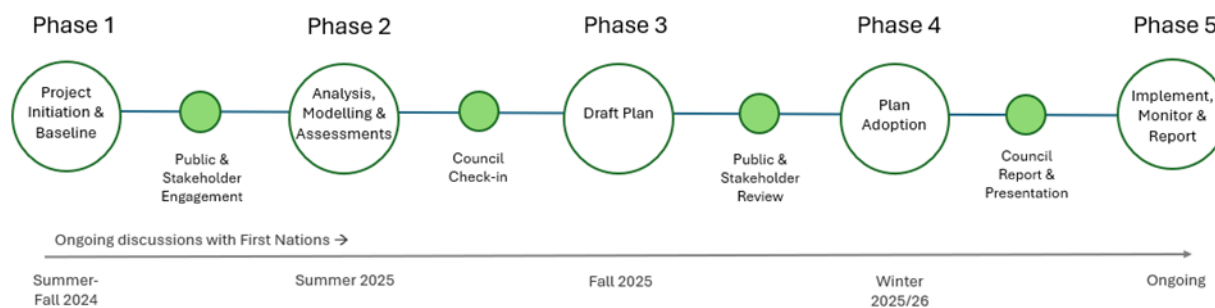
In addition, there have been considerable changes in the last six years since our Climate Risk Assessment was completed to inform the 2020 Climate Plan. BC experienced multiple devastating extreme heat, wildfire and flooding events; the COVID pandemic resulted in significant behavioural changes that influenced society as a whole and impacted climate change; and there have been substantial amendments to building codes, housing regulations and targets and local and provincial policies and programs that play a role in climate action. Further, the latest climate projections for our region have recently been finalized alongside the development of many data sources and tools that lend themselves to supporting an updated

Climate Risk Assessment. This is of critical need as our organization begins the development of individual departmental Risk Registers (as part of the Enterprise Risk Management Framework) and Asset Management Plans and moves forward with major densification of our community. As such, an update to our 2020 Climate Plan is now necessary and will be fully integrated with all aspects of our work as a municipality in addition to our region, BC and beyond.

## DISCUSSION

### Methodology

Attachment 1 outlines the Terms of Reference for developing the targeted update of the Climate Plan and provides details on the scope of work, roles and responsibilities, engagement process and key deliverables and timeline (Figure 1).



**Figure 1: Updated Climate Plan Timeline**

The updated Plan will be developed over the next 18 months in collaboration with regional partners. This will allow us to continue rapidly advancing climate work in the region through collaboration on target setting, engagement, procurement of consultants, joint initiatives, pooled funding applications, and aligned workplans. The updated Plan will tackle the twin challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation in our community and global context. In alignment with our new Official Community Plan (OCP), it will use One Planet Living Principles, commit to reconciliation and equity, and align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The key objectives of the Plan update include:

1. Complete an updated community and corporate Climate Risk Assessment, specifically utilizing the Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) green protocol methodology to ensure that the assessment has sufficient detail to inform suitable climate adaptation actions necessary to prepare for our future climate projections;
2. Establish a global fair share territorial GHG emissions stretch target;
3. Establish renewable energy supply, use and equitable access targets;
4. Establish community-wide and sectoral Consumption-Based Emissions targets;
5. Establish metrics for the Ecosystems and Community Well-Being sections, informed by/based upon the updated Urban Forest Strategy and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy;
6. Address the changing context and challenges, particularly related to affordability and the integration of land use and transportation with climate change;
7. Include water supply/use, air quality and embodied emissions;
8. Identify the SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) actions necessary to achieve the updated targets and prepare for projected future climate changes – referencing but not duplicating those already approved in other plans and strategies and designed to consider fiscal constraints and identify innovative funding and resourcing opportunities;

9. Model the proposed strategies and actions to ensure they are sufficiently robust to meet our climate targets (including the baseline, existing reach targets, and stretch global fair share target) and goals; and
10. Enhance public awareness and address misinformation about climate change through a targeted engagement strategy.

The updated targets will deliver on our Council Commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and are required to meet our global climate reporting through [CDP](#) (previously the Carbon Disclosure Program).

Given current fiscal constraints, the action plan will be designed to consider resource limitations and identify innovative funding and resourcing opportunities for delivering actions where funding is required.

### **Streamlined & Targeted Approach**

Given the integrated nature of climate change and interdependencies with other disciplines, there are many actions and policies that will help deliver on the climate goals and targets that are already adopted in recently updated plans and strategies. These include, in particular, the OCP, the updated Active Transportation Plan, the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, the updated Urban Forest Strategy, the E-Mobility Strategy, the Building Retrofit Strategy and the upcoming Zero Emission Fleet Strategy and Zero Waste Strategy.

The updated Climate Plan will not duplicate these policies and actions, but instead reference them and be informed by them, using them also for modelling purposes and to identify gaps. It will focus on the specific actions necessary to meet our goals and targets that do not already exist in other plans. As such, the updated Climate Plan will be a more streamlined document, outlining the key objectives, metrics and strategies to achieve the goals and targets, with an accompanying five-year targeted action plan.

Engagement with internal stakeholders will be focused on the updated strategic corporate climate risk assessment and identification of climate adaptation measures; work that is underway and that aligns with and supports the development of asset management plans and the departmental risk registers and is being completed in collaboration with the Asset Management Program Manager and Manager of Risk Services.

### **COUNCIL OPTIONS**

1. That Council approve the recommendation as outlined in this staff report.
2. That Council reject the recommendation as outlined in this staff report.
3. That Council provide alternate direction to staff.

Should Council provide alternate direction to staff that changes the scope of the updated Climate Plan, amendments would be required to the Terms of Reference.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The updated Climate Plan requires funding to support emissions modelling, climate adaptation analysis, honoraria and engagement, with a total budget of \$180,000. Staff have submitted a grant application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Net-Zero Transformation Offer fund seeking \$90,000 to support the targeted update of the Climate Plan. The remaining

\$90,000 District of Saanich share has been dedicated through the Climate Action Reserve Fund. Should the grant not be successful, Local Government Climate Action Program funding that is intended to be used for future climate action implementation in 2025 and 2026 will be used.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

A targeted update of the Climate Plan will deliver on the following 2023-2027 Strategic Plan initiatives:

- Initiative 1.3.1 - Review and update the Climate Plan and associated targets by 2025, based upon the latest climate science and best practice, that addresses consumption-based emissions and that considers our global fair share.
- Initiative 1.3.2 - Complete an updated Climate Risk assessment using the latest regional climate projections and use this to inform individual Risk Registers, Asset Management Plans, and a new Climate Adaptation Strategy. The Climate Adaptation Strategy should identify the actions, timelines and costs necessary to mitigate and become resilient to projected climate changes and innovative approaches to financing

## **CONCLUSION**

This Report summarises the work to be undertaken to complete a targeted update of the Saanich Climate Plan and seeks Council endorsement of the Terms of Reference outlined in Attachment 1. The 2020 Climate Plan actions were developed around a five-year time frame, meaning most are now either completed or underway and we are seeing great progress through their implementation. A number of actions and metrics, mainly related to climate adaptation and consumption, were very general in nature and required additional work and data to be further developed. The updated Climate Plan will address this and the considerable change that has occurred within the last five years since the current Climate Plan was approved, providing a streamlined document that includes updated targets, risk assessments, strategies and metrics supported by a targeted 5 year action plan. It will deliver on key actions within the Strategic Plan and Council's Commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, continuing to showcase Saanich as a local government leader on climate action.

Prepared by:	Rebecca Newlove , Manager of Sustainability
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Approved by:     Sheila Allen, Director of Corporate Services

Attachments:   1. Climate Plan Targeted Update: Terms of Reference

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:**

I endorse the recommendation from the Director of Corporate Services.

Brent Reems, Chief Administrative Officer