



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 6, 2018**

Date: November 28, 2018

From: Councillors Laurel Collins, Ben Isitt, Sarah Potts and Jeremy Loveday

Subject: Leadership for Climate Action

Background:

Humans and other occupants of Planet Earth are at a tipping point, with climate change threatening the long-time survival of species. The impacts of climate change are already being felt in this community and around the world, with rising sea levels, declining biological diversity and volatile weather patterns leading to more frequent and destructive storms, floods, droughts and wildfires.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned in a special report published in October 2018 that in order to avoid the worst consequences of climate change, global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions must start to decline before 2030, to keep global warming below 1.5°C. Debra Roberts, co-chair of the IPCC working group on the impacts of climate change, recently told the *Guardian*: "It's a line in the sand and what it says to our species is that this is the moment and we must act now. This is the largest clarion bell from the science community and I hope it mobilises people and dents the mood of complacency."

In 2018, the City of Victoria adopted the Climate Leadership Plan (CLP), committing the city to an 80% reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2007 levels and transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2050. However, there has been a pattern of Council making bold policy pronouncements for climate action followed by results that fall short of targets. For example, in 2007, Council pledged to reduce the City's GHG emissions by 30% by 2020, but so far, city operations emissions have declined by only 14%. Council now has the opportunity to lock-in actions today to guarantee we achieve our climate targets and to provide affected businesses with certainty about the coming changes. We can begin the transition now to more sustainable buildings, transportation, energy and waste systems, which are necessary to meet the emission-reduction targets in the plan.

It is therefore recommended that the City of Victoria consider expediting implementation of the Climate Leadership Plan, in order to align the municipality's efforts with the urgency of the climate crisis as indicated by the scientific community in the October 2018 IPCC special report.

Recommendation:

That Council direct staff to report back on options for expediting implementation of the Climate Leadership Plan, including options for:

1. Accelerating the reduction of the City of Victoria's corporate emissions.
2. Expediting the transition of the municipal vehicle fleet, as well as the transition of passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and the VicPD fleet to renewable energy.
3. Mandating electric-vehicle charging capacity in all new construction that provides on-site parking, including a possible exemption for affordable housing.
4. Accelerating the implementation of the BC Energy Step Code for new buildings.
5. Accelerating the retrofitting of existing buildings for energy efficiency, including incentives for the installation of solar hot water, heat pumps and other clean energy technologies.
6. Expediting waste reduction and the capture and re-use of methane.
7. Reviewing the targets in the Climate Leadership Plan to account for GHG emission reductions necessary to limit global warming to 1.5°C.
8. Increasing transparency of the City's annual reporting on emissions targets.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Collins



Councillor Isitt



Councillor Potts



Councillor Loveday

Attachments

1. UN IPCC, Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C (Summary), October 2018
2. City of Victoria Climate Leadership Plan, 2018