



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 14, 2019

Date: March 8, 2019

From: Mayor Helps, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday

Subject: Climate Emergency Declaration

Background

Council has received correspondence from Capital Regional District Board Chair Colin Plant encouraging the City of Victoria to join with all local governments in the region by declaring a climate emergency and work towards achieving carbon neutrality in each municipality and electoral area by 2030 (attached).

The rationale for declaring a climate emergency and working toward carbon neutrality by 2030 is outlined in the attached report from several CRD directors, notably, recent scientific evidence pointing to the necessity of limiting global warming to 1.5°C through concerted action between now and 2030.

In light of Council's prior directions regarding climate leadership, as well as the CRD request and scientific consensus on the necessity for climate action, it is recommended that Council declare a climate emergency and direct staff to report back on the resource implications and actions necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Declares a climate emergency and commits to the objective of achieving carbon neutrality in the City of Victoria by 2030.
2. Directs staff to report back at the next update on the Climate Leadership Plan on the resource implications and potential amendments to the plan necessary to meet this objective.
3. Requests that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Capital Regional District Board Chair, as well as Mayors and Councils of the 12 others municipalities in the Capital Region, advising them of this action and encouraging them to respond favourably to the CRD Board Chair's request to declare a climate emergency and work toward carbon neutrality in each municipality and electoral area by 2030.
4. Requests that the Mayor write to the Provincial Minister of the Environment, assert the City's support to help the Province close the 25% emissions gap in the *CleanBC Plan*,

and call on the Province to provide the powers and resources to local governments to make the Region's 2030 target possible as outlined in Appendix A.

5. Requests that the Mayor write to the Federal Minister of the Environment, assert the City's support to help Canada meet its Nationally Determined Contribution target made in the Paris Agreement and call on the federal government to provide the powers and resources to local governments to make the Region's 2030 target possible as outlined in Appendix A.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Lisa Helps



Councillor Isitt



Councillor Loveday

Attachments:

1. Appendix A Advocacy to Provincial and Federal Governments
2. Letter from CRD Board Chair regarding Climate Emergency Declaration
3. Notice of Motion to CRD Board re: Climate Emergency Declaration