

AGENDA
Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee
Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2.
Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- May 17, 2023

3. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Terms of Reference attached

4. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

- Megan Squires, Senior Transportation Planner
- Review draft documents here: [Sustainability & Climate Action Advisory Committee](#)

5. STRATEGIC OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

- Amber Walker, Planner, Community Planning
- Memo attached

6. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & EXTREME HEAT

- Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability and Erin Stockill, Emergency Program Officer

7. PLANT BASED CITIES MOVEMENT

- Karin Nelson, Committee Member
- [Climate crisis solution | Plant-based Cities Movement | We are in a code red for humanity \(plantbasedcitiesmovement.org\)](#)

8. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

* Adjournment *

Next Meeting: September 20, 2023 at 4:00 pm

In order to ensure a quorum, please contact Megan MacDonald at 250-475-5494 ext. 3430 or megan.macdonald@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue
Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Nathalie Chambers, Sarah Anderson (4:05 p.m.), Jake Douglas (4:02 p.m.); Kurban Keshvani (via Teams); Leslie Miller-Brooks, Karin Nelson, Mattias Spalteholz

Regrets: Jasmindra Jawanda, Ted Sheldon

Staff: Sharon Hvozdanski, Director of Sustainability and Strategic Initiatives; Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; Maggie Baynham, Senior Sustainability Planner; and Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Chair read the Territorial Acknowledgement and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members introduced themselves and spoke about their interest in sustainability and climate action. Staff also provided an introduction of the sustainability and climate action work currently being undertaken by Saanich.

REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEETING DATES

This item will be discussed at the June meeting.

CLIMATE PLAN AND 2022 REPORT CARD

The Manager of Sustainability presented the Climate Plan and 2022 Report Card (PowerPoint on file) and made the following comments:

- There is a need for staff positions dedicated to Climate Adaptation and Zero Waste.
- A Sustainability Specialist will be hired in the near future.
- Staff work collaboratively with other municipalities and utilities in the region, across the Province and Canada-wide.
- Grants and external funding is heavily relied upon.
- Saanich has won many awards for its climate action initiatives.
- The Capital Regional District provides analysis and detailed climate projections for Saanich and at the regional district level.
- Climate change does not impact residents equally; the marginalized population is at higher risk.
- Equity is a core principle in the Climate Plan.
- How development and growth is planned and encouraged has a major impact on greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation.
- The goals of the Climate Plan are to cut emissions by half by 2030 and be net zero by 2050, transition to a 100% renewable energy community, and fast track the reduction of the municipality's emissions.

- The Climate Plan will be updated in approximately 2025.
- Cities globally report out on territorial emissions; territorial emissions are all the emissions that come from energy used from cars and buildings and the waste that is generated within our boundaries.
- Ecosystems are critical for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and for adaptation for resiliency, ensuring there is shade, drainage and pollination to support agriculture.
- A Report Card has been completed every year for the past three years; the Report Card is a summary of highlights and progress to date.
- Saanich's emissions have decreased by 19% from the 2007 baseline; a 30% reduction was necessary to be on track.
- Personal vehicles continue to be the largest source of community emissions.
- More people are working from home since COVID which has resulted in a decrease in 25% in transportation emissions; building emissions have increased as a result of people working from home with gas or oil heating.
- The next updated Report Card will be presented in late 2023, early 2024.
- There is a need to have a dedicated staff member for the critical adaptation component; during the presentation to Council on the updated Report Card, staff will recommend budgeting to hire an Adaptation Specialist.

MOVED by L. Miller-Brooks and Seconded by K. Nelson: "That it be recommended that staff return to present their budget requests to the committee in late 2023."

CARRIED

BUILDING RETROFIT STRATEGY

The Senior Sustainability Planner presented the Building Retrofit Strategy (PowerPoint on file) and made the following comments:

- Buildings account for a large part of territorial emissions.
- Building retrofits could achieve an overall 18% reduction in community emissions.
- The Climate Plan identified extreme heat and poor air quality as areas of high risk for Saanich.
- There were 600+ deaths in BC in 2021 due to the heat dome; most deaths occurred indoors with residents not having access to cooling.
- A Retrofit Strategy will provide more information on how to address climate risks and achieve the greenhouse gas reduction targets.
- Key objectives of the Retrofit Strategy include improving building baseline data and modelling program and policy opportunities to understand if the targets are achievable.
- The Strategy will consider equity in terms of development and prioritization of actions.
- A funding plan for implementation will also be developed.
- The Province has committed to a 100% Clean Electricity Delivery Standard by 2030.
- Heat pumps deliver both heating and cooling.
- Affordability is an important consideration in terms of retrofits.
- 15% of Saanich residents are living in energy poverty or spending more than 6% on energy needs.
- The operating costs for heat pumps are similar or less than natural gas.
- Energy efficiency improvements such as insulation, new windows and air sealing can also help to lower costs.
- Saanich's oil to heat pump financing pilot project offered interest-free loans to households to switch out their oil heating to a heat pump.
- One of the biggest challenges for local governments is the lack of regulatory tools to require any type of standard for existing buildings.
- Incentives are also restricted in certain situations.

- The Highest Efficiency Equipment Standards will require that after 2030 all replacement space and water heating systems will have to be at least 100% efficient.
- The Provincial Government is recommending that local governments have an early adoption pathway to move ahead of provincial timelines.
- Currently, very few private sector buildings are undertaking retrofits because of the lack of incentives.
- Tailor-made incentives are needed for retrofits for multi-family buildings.
- The Strategy has 45 actions and 5 Strategy Areas that make up the framework of the plan; the five Strategy Areas are: Municipal Policy and Regulation, Advocacy for Provincial Policy and Regulation, Municipal Incentives and Support, Research, Partnerships and Collaboration and Demonstrating Leadership.
- 10 high impact actions have been identified to have the greatest impact in terms of emissions, resilience, equity and market transformation.
- There has been a shift to the installation of heat pumps.
- As part of a pilot project, when a single family dwelling is listed for sale, the energy rating will be included in posting.

Committee members made the following comments:

- There is a need for the public to be educated on the various programs available.

MOVED by S. Anderson and Seconded by J. Douglas: “That it be recommended that Council support adoption of the Building Retrofit Strategy.”

CARRIED

PLANT BASED CITIES MOVEMENT

This item was postponed to the June meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from S. Anderson the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Nathalie Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Mandate

The mandate of the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee is to provide recommendations, advice and information to Saanich Council and staff on matters that relate to the purpose of the committee and on any matters which are referred to the committee by Saanich Council or staff.

Purpose

The purpose of the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee is to:

- Advise Saanich Council and staff on matters related to climate change, green technology, renewable energy, energy efficiency, food security, consumption and waste, land use planning as it relates to achieving sustainability goals and climate targets and environmental sustainability.
- Provide a community perspective on services, programs, events and capital projects related to climate change, green technology, renewable energy, energy efficiency, food security, consumption and waste land use planning as it relates to achieving sustainability goals and climate targets and environmental sustainability.
- Foster public awareness, recognition and support for environmental sustainability, climate resiliency, food security and optimizing the use of the urban land base according to sustainability principles while recognizing the urban containment boundary role in preserving Saanich's rural character.
- Review and provide feedback on the implementation and periodic update of the Climate Plan: 100% Renewable and Resilient Saanich.
- Promote effective communication, engagement and collaboration between the Municipality and its citizens.
- Review and provide feedback on the Strategic Plan related to the above-noted functions.

Meetings

The Committee will meet a minimum of four times per year in accordance with its regular schedule of meetings established annually at the first meeting of the year. No meetings are held during the summer and winter breaks (July, August and December). Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chair. The meeting rules and procedures will be in accordance with the Council Procedure Bylaw. Quorum for the Committee is a majority of its appointed voting members, including the Chair.

Membership

To the extent possible, Advisory Committees will have a diverse membership with respect to gender, age and cultural-ethnic background.

The Committee will consist of nine (9) members qualified in the discipline relevant to the committee mandate or with a perspective necessary for fulsome consideration of the associated topic, including:

- A member of Council to serve as Chair, appointed by the Mayor; and
- Eight (8) community representatives appointed by the Council including, where possible, one youth voting member described as 16-24 years of age; and
- Where possible, at least one (1) member who is an Indigenous person.

Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Members may serve a maximum of seven years on an Advisory Committee, consisting of a one-year term followed by a potential for three, two-year terms. Members who wish to be re-appointed after the completion of a term must re-apply and provide the application and their resume for Council's consideration.

Staff Support

The Sustainability Section is the primary contact and together with the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department will provide the required professional support. Meeting preparation, agendas and minutes of meetings of the Committee will be provided by the Legislative Services Division. Staff from other Departments/Divisions will provide support to the Committee as required.

Memo

To: Sustainability & Climate Change Advisory Committee Members
From: Amber Walker, Community Planning, Planning Department
Date: Jun 5, 2023
Subject: Strategic Draft OCP Update

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding the upcoming presentation of the Draft Official Community Plan to the Sustainability & Climate Change Advisory Committee (SCA) on June 21, 2023.

The discussion at this meeting will include an overview presentation with a sub-focus on issues within SCA's mandate. In advance you are encouraged to learn more about the Draft Plan in general.

More information on the Strategic OCP Update project can be found on the project website: www.saanich.ca/ocp

This includes:

- New Draft Plan
- Short video introducing the project
- List of upcoming engagement events for the general- public, including a survey
- Link to the [overview presentation](#) provided to Council (May 15)
- Supporting documents
- Project contact information
- Link to sign-up for project updates

District staff are interested in hearing your feedback both as a committee, as it relates to your mandate, and as an individual resident participating in the broader process.

Amber Walker
Community Planner, Planning Department