

AGENDA
Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee
Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2.
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 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

- November 22, 2023

3. MANDATORY ENERGY/CLIMATE BENCHMARKING FOR BUILDINGS

- Maggie Baynham, Senior Sustainability Planner

4. CLIMATE ACTION TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM & FINANCING PROGRAM

- Maggie Baynham, Senior Sustainability Planner

5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- Visioning Session - members to provide ideas and areas of interest for future committee meetings.
- Victory Gardens
 - [Plant a Victory Garden During Coronavirus Quarantine | The Old Farmer's Almanac](#)
- COP 28

* Adjournment *

Next Meeting: February 21, 2024 at 4:00 pm

In order to ensure 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 and virtually via MS Teams
Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Nathalie Chambers, Kurban Keshvani, Leslie Miller-Brooks, Karin Nelson, and Mattias Spalteholz

Regrets: Jake Douglas and Jasindra Jawanda

Staff: Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability; Erin Stockhill, Emergency Program Officer; Glenys Verhulst, Sustainability Specialist and Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by K. Keshvani and Seconded by K. Nelson: “That the Minutes of the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting held October 18, 2023, be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair made the following comments:

- 2023 was the worst wildfire season on record in Yellowknife and the Yukon. The work that Saanich is doing to improve emergency response in the region is appreciated.

HEAT EVENTS – 2023 RECAP

The Emergency Program Officer gave a presentation (PowerPoint on file), and the following was noted:

- A heat warning is defined in the BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS) as a daily temperature forecast of 29°C with a minimum overnight low of 16°C for two days or more. An extreme heat emergency is when this temperature continues for over three days. In the summer of 2023 one extreme heat warning was issued.
- This past summer, the wildfire season was unprecedented in BC. Due to unpredictable and increasingly volatile impacts of climate change, this seems to be the new normal.
- Three emergency support service volunteers were deployed in person to the Kamloops region to support reception and call centers. Over 300 evacuees were assisted.
- Saanich is the only municipality trained in the region to offer a virtual reception centre. This allows volunteers to stay close to home who would otherwise be deployed.
- Increasing heat preparedness messaging and collaborating with regional and provincial partners will help to promote awareness in extreme heat emergencies.
- Cooling rooms are available for staff during the summer months at the Municipal Hall.
- The Capital Regional District (CRD) is generating a regional heat map which delivers data to better understand and explore vulnerable areas.
- Extreme heat preparedness guides were given to over 1,000 residents through various events in the region. Winter preparedness brochures are available now.
- Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) provided print materials during home care visits with instructions on cooling centre locations and identifying risks. Transportation is provided when needed.

Committee discussion ensued with the following comments:

- The Backpack Project could include readiness brochures with the donations distributed.
- The Victoria Native Friendship Centre is operating as a homeless shelter for the winter.
- The Provincial Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Fund provides funding for all emergency management activities including, preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation when needed.
- Heat wise information could be posted near sports fields and tennis courts.
- Consulting with the local First Nations about emergency preparedness is appreciated.
- Cost recovery is provided for translators during an emergency. Print materials are supplemented with images when translations are not accessible.

*** The Emergency Program Officer exited the meeting at 5:33 p.m. ***

ECO-FOOTPRINT AND COMMUNITY GHG INVENTORIES

The Sustainability Specialist and the Manager of Sustainability gave the following presentation (PowerPoint on file), and the following was noted:

- This report presents the Saanich's 2021 Consumption-based Emissions Inventory (CBEI) and ecological footprint (EF) assessment.
- CBEI quantifies all consumption related Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions attributable to a population of food, transportation, buildings and consumables. It is intended to help the community understand the impact of local consumption habits and global emissions.
- The GHG inventories measure the emissions and removals of GHGs within a given scope (global, a corporation, your household, etc.) and timeframe.
- National Governments report national inventories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Local governments are responsible to report their corporate (municipal operations) emissions to the province under the BC Climate Action Charter.
- The largest sources of territorial emissions are natural gas, diesel and gasoline.
- Saanich studies both our territorial and consumption-based emissions inventories to allow for balance and clarity.
- Natural gas is the largest contributor to GHG in both residential and commercial buildings. Space and water heating in residential and commercial buildings is a large contributor to energy consumption across the region.
- The Zero Carbon Step Code is a voluntary Provincial standard for reducing emissions in new buildings, which was adopted by Council on April 24, 2023.
- Transportation GHG emissions include, cars, marine and aviation. Saanich is the leading contributor to GHG emissions in the region because of the population.
- The community and territorial GHG emissions target baselines were established in 2007. These targets have been measured periodically and in 2020 it became yearly.
- Food waste and disposal is considered in the data.

Committee discussion ensued and the following was noted:

- Fracking is concerning. While the term "natural gas" implies it is natural, it is a fossil fuel. This misrepresentation could be acknowledged and included in the calculations.
- The territorial based emissions calculations mean that a portion of Saanich's GHG's are being deferred to other countries. The goal is to avoid double counting methodology.
- Messages to the community that shows the consumption vs. creating allows for clarity.
- A commitment has been made to the global share targets. This will be included in the Climate Plan update, which will be shared with the committee early in the new year.
- Providing education and including the Climate Plan Report in the Official Community Plan (OCP) is essential for change.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF BALLOONS

The committee had a round table discussion about the impacts of single use plastic and balloons on the environment and the following was noted:

- Removing balloons from stores may only encourage people to purchase them online. This may affect the local businesses and would not provide the desired reductions.
- Releasing helium balloons into the air could be banned.
- Offering an educational campaign on how balloons effect the environment and the impacts to wildlife may be one way to reduce the impacts.
- A new senior sustainability planner will start in January 2024 and will be researching a zero-waste strategy. A single use plastic ban will be part of this portfolio.
- Radio and Media advertisements are not reaching a wide enough audience. Campaigns on other platforms and joining with other partners like BC Hydro, could assist.
- Bus shelters, buses and garbage trucks are ways to advertise campaigns.
- A brainstorming event for the community could be a topic of discussion in the new year.
- A presentation from the new Senior Sustainability Planner will take place in early 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from M. Spalteholz the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Nathalie Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Secretary