

AGENDA
Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee
Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2.
Wednesday November 20, 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**
 - May 15, 2024
- 3. FUNDING STRATEGY: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND URBAN FOREST STRATEGIES**
 - Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks
- 4. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

* Adjournment *

In order to ensure quorum, please contact Angela Hawkshaw at 250-475-5494 ext. 3505 or angela.hawkshaw@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

1410-04
Report - Council

BANNING PLASTIC WADS ON SAANICH BEACHES

Notice of Motion from Councillor Chambers from the Council meeting of September 9, 2024.

To request the Mayor write a letter to the Minister of the Environment, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and levels of government tasked with the safeguarding of our waters and managing Canada's fisheries and ocean resources and ask them to ban plastic wads for shotgun shells that are washing up on Saanich beaches and go back to using papers so that recycling can happen.

MOVED by Councillor Chambers and Seconded by Councillor Phelps Bondaroff: "That Council request the Mayor write a letter to the Minister of the Environment, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and levels of government tasked with the safeguarding of our waters and managing Canada's fisheries and ocean resources and ask them to ban plastic wads for shotgun shells that are washing up on Saanich beaches and go back to using paper so that recycling can happen."

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- Plastic wads are washing up on Saanich beaches.
- This would be a small step in reducing plastic waste.

MOVED by Councillor Phelps Bondaroff and Seconded by Councillor Chambers: "That the item, Banning Plastic Wads on Saanich Beaches, be referred to the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee."

RESULT (REFER): Carried 7 TO 0

IN FAVOUR: Murdock, Brice, Chambers, de Vries, Harper, Phelps Bondaroff, Westhaver

OPPOSED: None

MINUTES
SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 4:02 p.m.

Present: Councillor Nathalie Chambers (Chair), Timio Colistro (via Teams), Diya Courty-Stephens, Ronald Jeffries, Kurban Keshvani (via Teams) 4:14 p.m., Leslie Miller-Brooks and Mattias Spalteholz

Staff: Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability and Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOVED by R. Jeffries and Seconded by M. Spalteholz: "That the Minutes of the Sustainability and Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting held June 19, 2024, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIRS REMARKS

- The Canadian Urban Forestry conference was valuable and educational.
- 90% of Toronto is rural and 10% is urban. The region takes its commitment to trees seriously, which is both inspiring and hopeful.
- There are approximately 700,000 trees in Saanich, but there is no provincial mechanism in place to protect them.
- Other regions have developed a "tree score" to promote equity among neighborhoods. This score assesses and compares tree coverage, ensuring equitable access to green spaces and funding.
- Trees in urban areas often have a shorter life expectancy than those in natural settings.
- Soil cells are intended to provide trees in urban environments with suitable conditions for healthy growth; however, they have not proven to always be effective.
- Future considerations could explore the possibility of integrating protected natural areas with recreational spaces, allowing both to co-exist.
- The Urban Forestry and Biodiversity Strategies have been endorsed by Council. Funding is in the early stages.
- The application for the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) grant to support green infrastructure has been endorsed, benefiting Tillicum Elementary School. A landscape architect has been consulted to provide guidance on design, evaluation, pollution mitigation, and shade cover.
- The Parks Department has been working with School District 61 (SD61) to explore opportunities for planting trees on school property.

CLIMATE PLAN TARGETED UPDATE: TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Manager of Sustainability gave a presentation on the Climate Plan Targeted Update: Terms of Reference (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Municipalities across the region continue to network and share best practices.
- Per capita greenhouse gas emissions are decreasing, aided by remote work, e-bike initiatives, and active transportation efforts.
- Sea level rise mapping conducted by the Capital Regional District (CRD), was updated in 2022. A UBCM grant has been secured to assist with addressing sea level rise in the Gorge area.
- An increase in population could negatively impact greenhouse gas emissions.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

The following was noted during the Round Table Discussion in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Bird-safe or bird-friendly glass could be considered for new builds.
- A suggestion was made to revise Saanich's documentation to refer to natural gas as fossil gas, as the term "natural" can lead to mixed perceptions.
- A coordinated effort from all levels of government is needed to address climate challenges.
- Community engagement occurs on various platforms, including talking with residents on buses and attending different programs around the municipality to connect with people.
- Shade protection should be considered a high priority.

MOVED by L. Miller-Brooks and Seconded by R. Jeffries “That the Sustainability and Action Plan Advisory Committee recommend that Council endorse the Climate Plan Targeted Update: Terms of Reference.”

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from R. Jeffries the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Councillor Nathalie Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk