



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: December 11, 2020
Submitted by: Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division
Subject: Cool it! Climate Leadership Workshop 2021 Funding

Purpose

To seek Council approval to continue the Cool It! Climate Leadership outreach program at Port Moody elementary schools in the 2021 school year.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT \$4,500 be approved to fund eight Cool it! Climate Leadership workshops for 2021 as recommended in the report dated December 11, 2020 from the Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division regarding Cool it! Climate Leadership Workshop 2021 Funding;

AND THAT the budget of \$4,500 be forwarded to the Finance Committee to identify a funding source.

Background

In 2017, Council supported a recommendation from the Environmental Protection Committee to partner with the BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA) and approved a budget of \$2,500 for this initiative. At the February 13, 2018 Regular Council meeting, Council endorsed funding of \$3,250 to support sessions for five Port Moody elementary schools, at one class per school.

At the September 10, 2019 Regular Council meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

RC19/373

THAT \$3,800 to fund six Cool It! Climate Leadership Training workshops be approved as recommended in the report dated August 21, 2019 from the Planning and Development Department – Policy Planning Division regarding Sustainability Outreach – Cool It! Climate Leadership Training Workshops;

AND THAT the budget of \$3,800 be forwarded to the Finance Committee to identify a funding source.

Discussion

Overview of Cool It! Program

Organized by the BCSEA, the Cool It! program brings Environmental Educators into classrooms to deliver a fun-filled, thought provoking, and empowering program that engages students on climate change and energy conservation.

During the workshops, Grade four to seven students and their teachers are engaged in discussions, animated videos and quizzes, skit activities, and games focussed on climate change and energy conservation. Their understanding of, concerns on, and current actions against climate change are discussed, followed by brainstorming ways to reduce their own impact. Afterward, students take home the Climate Leadership Challenge contest and work at home with their families to reduce their household greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The contest is a four-week, student-family challenge that supports students taking steps to set realistic and achievable goals, reflect on the outcomes, and share successes and challenges.

After the four-week Challenge, BCSEA's Environmental Educators return to each classroom to conduct a follow-up visit and collect Challenge forms. After the data from all Challenge forms is compiled, notifications for the winning class and winning students are sent out, and students, classes, and teachers are rewarded for their climate action efforts.

Continuation of the Cool It! training sessions will complement ongoing outreach by DreamRider Productions, a local youth engagement charity that has been supported by the City and provided environmental-themed performances to Port Moody schools since 2010. These performances focus on climate change and raise general awareness among the entire school population. The classroom-based Cool It! sessions educate students using a more direct and participatory approach that targets individual behavioural change. Having both outreach activities implemented at most elementary schools in the City would reinforce messaging on climate change action for students and their families.

COVID-19 Considerations

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all workshops are being delivered online by means of virtual conferencing technology. Approximately 70 classrooms have completed the challenge using this approach, and general feedback has been positive. Port Moody's programming is proposed for this spring, which provides ample time to receive additional feedback and refine workshop materials and management to ensure the workshops meet the needs of all participants. Additionally, the BCSEA has taken this opportunity to refresh the take-home climate challenge to make it more flexible for students and teachers and to ensure it is relevant to the current situation in schools and the city more broadly.

Previous City Support for Cool It! Programming

The City of Port Moody financially supported and coordinated Cool It! Climate Leadership Training workshops from 2017 to 2020. The number of workshops has steadily increased to reflect the demand for the program and the City's expanding efforts in climate action outreach. The results from each year are summarized below:

2017:

- four classes totalling 111 students;
- 1,520 energy saving actions taken; and
- a total estimated 65 tonnes of GHG emissions reduced.

2018/2019:

- five Cool It! workshops were delivered to 120 grade four to seven students;
- 1,905 energy saving actions taken; and
- a total reduction of 80.128 tonnes of GHG emissions (equivalent to more than 17 passenger vehicles being taken off the road for a year).

2019/2020:

- six workshops reached 151 students at three schools in Port Moody; and
- students' actions would result in the reduction of 141.917 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions (tCO₂e), if they continued their actions for one year (includes actions in every area in their life, from their food choices, to their transport, home heating behaviours, and consumption and waste).

The final report for the 2019/2020 workshops is included as **Attachment 1**.

Due to the high level of interest, staff recommend increasing the number of workshops offered, consistent with the trend in previous years and the Climate Action Plan's focus on promoting bold climate action. Continuing support for the Cool It! Leadership Training Workshops helps to ensure that youth are engaged and informed, and feel empowered to take action on climate change.

Climate Action Plan Alignment

Continuing education and outreach, particularly with youth in the community, is consistent with several actions in the Climate Action Plan. Although not specifically named in the Climate Action Plan, the City's continued support of the Cool It! Climate Leadership workshops falls under the climate mitigation education and awareness initiatives under the Buildings, Transportation and Mobility, and Waste Reduction and Management focus areas of the Climate Action Plan. The Climate Leadership workshops provide a cost effective and high impact opportunity to engage with a large number of youth and their families to mobilize climate action.

Since the last Cool It! workshops in 2020, Port Moody adopted its first Climate Action Plan, presenting a unique opportunity to align Climate Leadership workshop materials with local climate action priorities. BCSEA team members and staff will work together to customize one of the 25 actions in the Cool It! climate challenge based on local climate action priorities in the Climate Action Plan. Other municipalities have used this method to prompt further awareness of climate plans.

Other Option(s)

THAT a different number of Cool It! Climate Leadership Training Workshops be supported in the 2021 school year.

Financial Implications

Implementation of each Cool It! Climate Leadership Training classroom session costs \$500, plus a program management fee of \$500. A maximum of \$4,500 would be required to organize eight Cool It! Climate Leadership Training workshops in the 2021 school year (**Attachment 2**).

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

The Port Moody elementary school Climate Leadership Challenge results can be shared with the community through City communication channels (e.g., Focus newsletter, social media, and website).

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Partnering with external organizations to organize environmental workshops is consistent with the strategic outcomes in the area of Environmental Leadership identified in the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan.

Attachment(s)

1. 2019-2020 Cool it! Climate Leadership Workshop Final Report.
2. 2021 Cool it! Climate Leadership Workshop Funding Proposal.

Report Author

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Cool it! Climate Leadership Workshops.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - 2019-2020 Cool it Climate Leadership Workshop Final Report.pdf - Attachment 2 - 2021 Cool it Climate Leadership Workshop Funding Proposal.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jan 18, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Mary De Paoli, Manager of Policy Planning - Jan 14, 2021 - 3:20 PM

Kate Zanon, General Manager of Community Planning - Jan 14, 2021 - 3:32 PM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Jan 14, 2021 - 3:54 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jan 15, 2021 - 4:19 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jan 17, 2021 - 1:14 PM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Jan 18, 2021 - 11:32 AM