



# City of Port Moody

## Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: November 5, 2021  
Submitted by: Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division  
Subject: 2022 Cool It! Climate Leadership Program Funding Request

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### Purpose

To seek Council approval to continue the Cool It! Climate Leadership outreach program at Port Moody elementary schools and high schools in the 2022 school year.

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### Recommended Resolution(s)

**THAT \$6,300 be approved to fund seven elementary and three high school Cool It! Climate Leadership Workshops for 2022 as recommended in the report dated November 5, 2021 from the Community Development Department – Policy Planning Division regarding 2022 Cool It! Climate Leadership Program Funding Request;**

**AND THAT the budget of \$6,300 be forwarded to the Finance Committee to identify a funding source.**

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### 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 the September 10, 2019 Regular Council meeting, Council funded six Cool It! elementary workshops for a total cost of \$3,250. More recently, on January 26, 2021, Council passed the following resolution to fund eight Cool It! elementary workshops:

#### RC21/030

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.

## Discussion

### Overview of Cool It! Climate Leadership 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 and grade eight to 12 high school 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.

For the 2021/2022 school year BCEA is offering a high school program. Modelled on the success of the longstanding elementary program, the high school program has been developed over the past 24 months through a pilot project funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada. During this initial pilot program, BCSEA delivered 133 climate workshops to 54 classrooms across the province, working with more than 800 students. With the pilot phase of this program now concluded, BCSEA is seeking support from existing program partners such as Port Moody to begin delivering the high school program alongside the existing elementary program.

Continuation of the Cool It! workshops 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! workshops educate students using a more direct and participatory approach that targets individual behavioural change. Having both outreach activities implemented at schools in Port Moody would reinforce messaging on climate change action for students and their families.

### COVID-19 Considerations

Beginning in early 2020 and continuing over the last 18 months, BCSEA has adapted the Cool It! Program in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Workshop structure, activities and resources have all been updated to allow for online delivery through virtual conferencing technology and to ensure they remain as engaging as possible. These materials have been further refined based on feedback from students, teachers, and environmental educators. Environmental educators have received additional training and support to deliver workshops in a virtual setting. Several schools, including those in Port Moody in 2021 have received virtual workshops and general feedback has been positive.

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. During the 2021/22 school year BCSEA is equipped to offer both in-person and virtual workshops to classes in Port Moody. In determining which method of delivery is most suitable during the current school year, BCSEA will monitor ongoing provincial public health guidelines and consult school districts and individual schools on their own COVID-19 safety plans. BCSEA will work with schools and teachers in Port Moody to deliver the curriculum in the most suitable way depending on their own unique classroom requirements and available technology.

### 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 2021. 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 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 (tCO<sub>2</sub>e), 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).

## 2021:

- five workshops reaching 122 students so far in 2021;
- BCSEA is wrapping up the remaining 3 workshops in the fall of 2021; and
- so far completed more than 900 actions focused on climate change and sustainability resulting in 42.2tCO<sub>2</sub>e reduced if actions are continued for one year.

The interim report for the 2021 workshops is included as **Attachment 1**. The final 2021 Cool It! report will be presented to Council in the fall of 2022.

With the recent offer of high school work shops alongside elementary workshops, staff recommend providing funding in 2022 for a mix of both programs to expand the reach of information and engagement in climate action to students of various ages.

## 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 many youth and their families to mobilize climate action.

Port Moody's Climate Action Plan aligns well with the content of the Cool it! workshops, 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 2022 school year.

## Financial Implications

Implementation of each elementary school Cool It! Climate Leadership Training classroom session costs \$550 and each high school classroom session costs \$650. A program management fee of \$500 is also required. A maximum of \$6,300 would be required to organize seven elementary school and three high school Cool It! Climate Leadership Training workshops in the 2022 school year (**Attachment 2**).

## Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

The Port Moody elementary and high school Climate Leadership Challenge results can be shared with the community on the City website and social media channels.

## Council Strategic Plan Objectives

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

## Attachment(s)

1. 2021 Cool It! Climate Leadership Workshop Interim Report.
2. 2022 Cool It! Climate Leadership Workshop Funding Proposal.

## Report Author

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## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2022 Cool It! Climate Leadership Program Funding Request.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - 2021 Cool It! Climate Leadership Workshop Interim Report.pdf - Attachment 2 - 2022 Cool It! Climate Leadership Workshop Funding Proposal.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 16, 2021

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

Mary De Paoli, Manager of Policy Planning - Nov 8, 2021 - 11:21 AM

Kate Zanon, General Manager of Community Development - Nov 9, 2021 - 9:25 AM

Tracey Takahashi for Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Nov 12, 2021 - 11:10 AM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Nov 13, 2021 - 9:15 AM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Nov 14, 2021 - 10:47 AM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Nov 16, 2021 - 10:46 AM