



Report to Council

From the Offices of Councillor Amy Lubik and Councillor Meghan Lahti

Date: January 26, 2022

Subject: Requesting Port Moody Endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty

Purpose

To request Port Moody Council formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non proliferation Treaty.

Recommendation

WHEREAS the scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents one of the preeminent threats to global civilization; and

AND WHEREAS the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report in 2021, Code Red for Humanity, confirmed that without radical reductions in carbon emissions this decade, temperature rises above 1.5 degrees Celsius would be inevitable and irreversible;

AND WHEREAS changes in the City of Port Moody's climate are already being felt, including the heat dome this past summer, such as hotter/drier summers, increased exposure to wildfire smoke, warmer/wetter winters, and more than a billion sea shore animals perishing with shoreline temperatures surpassing 50 degrees Celsius;

AND WHEREAS our entire community is impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-income families, those experiencing homelessness, People of Colour and Indigenous people, youth, seniors, those experiencing mental and physical disabilities, and people with health conditions;

AND WHEREAS our youth and future generations have the most to lose from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious diseases, and natural disasters;

AND WHEREAS global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce about 120% more emissions by 2030 than what is needed to limit warming to 1.5°C and avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of our city to reduce GHG emissions;

AND WHEREAS the fossil fuel industry is currently claiming over 50% of COVID recovery funding from senior levels of government in the G20, thereby siphoning away recovery funding badly needed by cities and other industries;

AND WHEREAS the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels;

AND WHEREAS the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction;

AND WHEREAS community is committed, as part of our climate emergency response, to a just energy transition and to ambitious investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs and rapidly decarbonize our economy;

AND WHEREAS the City of Port Moody recognizes that it is the urgent responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel producers to lead in putting an end to fossil fuel development and to manage the decline of existing production;

AND WHEREAS a new global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, and accelerate equitable transition plans;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Port Moody formally endorses the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty;

AND THAT that the City of Port Moody affirms its ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the GHG reduction targets as called for by the IPCC, and pledges to meet its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris Climate Agreement;

AND THAT the following resolution be forwarded to the 2022 UBCM and FCM meetings: **WHEREAS**, global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce about 120% more emissions by 2030 than what is needed to limit warming to 1.5°C and avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of our city to reduce GHG emissions, and ignore the health, justice, and economic that a

Just Transition would bring to all communities, especially those where fossil fuel extraction is entrenched;

AND WHEREAS, the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels, including the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-income families, those experiencing homelessness, People of Colour and Indigenous people, youth, seniors, those experiencing mental and physical disabilities, and people with health conditions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT UBCM/FCM call on BC/Canada pledge to support a binding Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty based on climate justice including

- 1) Ending all new exploration and production of coal, oil, and gas,**
- 2) Phasing out existing production of fossil fuels, and**
- 3) pledging to work with other intra and international governments to accelerated a Just Transition.**

Background

In 2021, BC has seen an unprecedented amount of extreme weather, from the heat dome that killed approximately 700 people and millions of sea creatures, to the floods that took lives of 5 humans and thousands of animals. These events created billions of dollars in damages to local communities and it is only getting worse; scientists can now conclusively link these events to the changing climate; however, the BC and Canada governments continue to invest in and allow for fossil infrastructure expansion and new fossil fuel extraction projects, instead of just transition that could potentially lift millions of Canadians out of poverty while working toward the Paris climate targets meant to keep the worst impacts of climate change at bay, including the loss of whole communities located on permafrost and entire island nations, not to mention the catastrophic direct and indirect health impacts.

The FFNPT Initiative is a global collaboration of cities advocating that we move away from fossil fuels. The end goal is two-fold: (1) to continue to raise awareness of the importance of keeping fossil fuels in the ground; and (2) calling on our national government to endorse a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. This initiative advocates for three key goals:

1. End all new exploration and production of coal, oil, and gas
2. Phase out existing production of fossil fuels
3. A just transition/proactive plan for workers, communities impacted; implementing low-carbon energy solutions

This initiative began at the 2021 UN General Assembly. Global leaders and academics called on world leaders to focus efforts on limiting the production of fossil fuels, something [Canada](#)

[refuses to do](#)¹. That's in part because to hit the [Paris Agreement](#)² goal of holding warming to 1.5 C, global greenhouse gas emissions will have to fall 45 per cent by 2030, or six per cent per year between 2020 and 2030. The letter notes the global fossil fuel industry is planning to grow two per cent over that same period.

“Without international co-operation and policy processes focusing on the supply of fossil fuels, countries will continue to overshoot their already insufficient emissions targets.”

Discussion

A letter of support for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty has been signed by over 2100 academics, researchers, and health professionals.³ One of the many important themes is that richer nations, such as Canada, need to get off fossil fuels faster than on poorer countries which has contributed much less to the carbon burden of the atmosphere.

“We, the undersigned, call on governments around the world to adopt and implement a [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#), as a matter of urgency, to protect the lives and livelihoods of present and future generations through a global, equitable phase out of fossil fuels in line with the scientific consensus to not exceed 1.5°C of warming.

The fossil fuel system and its impacts are global and require a global solution. We call on governments to urgently commence negotiations to develop, adopt and implement a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty laying out a binding global plan to:

- **End new expansion** of fossil fuel production in line with the best available science as outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme
- **Phase out existing production** of fossil fuels in a manner that is fair and equitable, taking into account the respective dependency of countries on fossil fuels, and their capacity to transition;
- **Invest in a transformational plan** to ensure 100% access to renewable energy globally, support fossil fuel-dependent economies to diversify away from fossil fuels, and enable people and communities across the globe to flourish through a global just transition.

The scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for global climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents the greatest threat to human civilization and nature. [1]

The burning of fossil fuels - coal, oil, and gas - is the greatest contributor to climate change, responsible for almost 80% of carbon dioxide emissions since the industrial revolution. [2]

¹ [Canada's climate solution? Keep increasing fossil fuel extraction | Canada's National Observer: News & Analysis](#)

² [Paris Agreement | Canada's National Observer: News & Analysis](#)

³ <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/open-letter>

To keep warming to below the temperature goal of 1.5°C, as reflected in the scientific literature and the IPCC's special report on 1.5°C, global greenhouse gas emissions need to be *at least* 45% lower globally by 2030. [3]

According to the most recent Production Gap Report, this requires an average decline in fossil fuel production of *at least* 6% per year between 2020-2030. However, the fossil fuel industry is planning to *increase* production by 2% per year. [4] It is vital that the global transition towards a zero carbon world is equitable, based on countries' fair share of expected climate action, their historical contribution to climate change and their capacity to act. This means richer countries must reduce production of fossil fuels at a faster rate than poorer countries that require greater support to transition, including through the redirection of finance and subsidies from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

In addition to climate impacts, new research shows that the air pollution caused by fossil fuels was responsible for almost 1 in 5 deaths worldwide in 2018. [5] These significant health and environmental impacts are derived from the extracting, refining, transporting and burning of fossil fuels and are often borne by vulnerable and marginalised communities. At the same time, centralised, fossil fuel-generated energy often concentrates power and wealth into the hands of a select few, bypassing the communities in which extraction occurs. [6]

The current dominant approach to tackling climate change focuses on policies that restrict greenhouse gas emissions and the *demand* for fossil fuels, for example by fostering the growth of *substitutes* for fossil fuels such as renewable energy and electric vehicles. [7] But there has been limited focus on policies aimed at constraining the production and *supply* of fossil fuels at the source.

Yet efforts to reduce demand for fossil fuels will be undermined if supply continues to grow. Continued production means either that fossil fuels will continue to be burnt for energy - pushing the world towards catastrophic global warming - or that the industry and countries reliant on fossil fuels will face massive stranded assets, stranded workers, and stranded economies, as government revenue streams currently relied on for development and public sector employment and essential public services evaporate.

While the Paris Agreement lays an important foundation for action on the demand-side of the equation, without international cooperation and policy processes focusing on the supply of fossil fuels, countries will continue to overshoot their already insufficient emissions targets. [8]

Given the significant historical contribution of fossil fuels to climate change, and the industry's continuing expansion plans, we are calling for a solution commensurate with the scale of the problem. Phasing down coal, oil and gas in line with 1.5°C requires global cooperation, in a way that is fair, equitable and reflects countries' levels of dependence on fossil fuels, and capacities to transition. This, in turn, should be underpinned by financial resources, including technology transfer, to enable a just transition for workers and communities in developing countries and a decent life for all.

In this context, we add our voices to the call from civil society, youth leaders, Indigenous Peoples, faith institutions, cities and sub-national governments for a global treaty to address fossil fuels. [9] [1] World Economic Forum, "The Global Risks Report 2020," Insight Report (World Economic Forum; Marsh & McLennan; Zurich Insurance Group; National University of Singapore; Oxford Martin School; Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center, University of Pennsylvania, 2020); IPCC, "Summary for Policymakers," in Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Gas

Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty (World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 2018), <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>.

[2] Global Carbon Project (2020) 'Supplemental data of Global Carbon Budget 2020 (Version 1.0)' [Data set]. From Friedlingstein et al (2020) 'Global Carbon Budget 2020'. *Earth System Science Data*, 12 (4): 3269-3340.

[3] IPCC, above n 2

[4] SEI et al., "The Production Gap: The Discrepancy between Countries' Planned Fossil Fuel Production and Global Production Levels Consistent with Limiting Warming to 1.5°C or 2°C," 2019, <http://productiongap.org/>; International Energy Agency, CO2 Emissions from Fuel Combustion 2018, CO2 Emissions from Fuel Combustion (OECD, 2018), https://doi.org/10.1787/co2_fuel-2018-en.

[5] Vohra K et al (2021) 'Global mortality from outdoor fine particle pollution generated by fossil fuel combustion: Results from GEOS-Chem'. *Environmental Research*, 195: 110754.

[6] Burke M and Stephens J (2018) 'Political power and renewable energy futures: a critical review. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 35: 78-93; LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative (2017) Framework. Accessed from http://ldcreeei.org/arei_publications/ldc-reeei-framework/.

[7] Fergus Green and Richard Denniss (2018) 'Cutting with both arms of the scissors: the economic and political case for restrictive supply-side climate policies'. *Climate Policy*, 150: 73-87.

[8] Olhoff A and Christensen JM (Eds.) (2019) 'Emissions Gap Report 2019'. United Nations Environment Programme, <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2019>

[9] For the full list of endorsements, visit: www.fossilfuel treaty.org/endorsements"

As a community between increasingly dry forests and a rising sea, dedicated to justice-based climate action, Port Moody should lead in calling on senior levels of government work nationally and internationally for a binding fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty.

Other Option

THAT the report dated January 26, 2022 from Councillor Amy Lubik and Councillor Meghan Lahti be received for information.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

There are no internal and external communication and civic engagement initiatives related to this report.

Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Council's strategic plan objectives are met by demonstrating dedication to:

- The health and wellness needs of residents;
- Climate Justice
- Courage to lead and embrace new ideas.