



# City of Port Moody

## Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: June 22, 2020  
Submitted by: Planning and Development Department – Policy Planning Division  
Subject: Climate Action Plan

---

### Purpose

To present the draft Climate Action Plan for Council adoption.

---

### Recommended Resolution(s)

**THAT Council adopt the Climate Action Plan as recommended in the report dated June 22, 2020 from the Planning and Development Department – Policy Planning Division regarding Climate Action Plan;**

**AND THAT staff be directed to report back with a Two-Year Funding and Implementation Strategy for priority actions.**

---

### Executive Summary

Across BC and the globe, municipalities are taking a lead role to reduce the impacts of climate change in their communities through energy management, reduction targets, and preparing for future climate change impacts. In June 2019, the City of Port Moody joined many other local governments in declaring a climate emergency, bringing to light the need to take accelerated action on climate change.

Since 2018, Port Moody has been working to develop a Climate Action Plan that will launch Port Moody to become a leader in community low carbon resilience and put the community on a pathway to becoming carbon neutral. By choosing to act on climate change, Port Moody is ensuring a better future for the community and the world.

The purpose of this report is to:

- provide an update on the Integrated Climate Action for BC Communities Initiative (ICABCCI);
- summarize public engagement that helped shape the Plan; and
- present the draft Climate Action Plan for Council endorsement.

## Background

Council has passed several resolutions related to the draft Climate Action Plan that have enabled its development and guided its direction. A list of previous Council resolutions is included in **Attachment 1**.

## Discussion

Since 2018, Port Moody has been working to develop its first Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Climate Action Plan is an integrated community-wide plan that provides direction and a set of actions that will put the community on track to becoming carbon neutral along with preparing for future climate impacts. After a comprehensive two-year development process, staff are pleased to present the draft Climate Action Plan for Council adoption (**Attachment 2**). For a detailed summary of the plan development process, please refer to Appendix F of **Attachment 2**. For an update on the Integrated Climate Action for BC Communities Initiative and how the low carbon resilience framework has been applied in Port Moody, see **Attachment 3**.

### Climate Action Public Engagement

Throughout the Plan's development, staff received input from the community and used this information, in tandem with other stakeholder and expert input, to inform actions that will be included in the Climate Action Plan. Community feedback was collected through two open houses and coinciding feedback forms available in person and online. In addition, staff hosted a booth at several community events in 2019 such as the Community Fair and Car Free Day, promoting upcoming opportunities to engage in the development of the draft Climate Action Plan, providing information about climate change and climate action in Port Moody, and answering questions from the community. A detailed account of community engagement tactics and feedback can be found in **Attachment 4**.

### Moving Forward with Climate Action

#### *Port Moody's Continued Commitment*

Climate action has been a longstanding priority in Port Moody. **Attachment 5** contains a list of initiatives undertaken by the City departments that give testament to Port Moody's commitment to taking a proactive approach to addressing climate change. Included throughout the draft Plan are more details of successful actions undertaken in each of the focus areas. The draft Climate Action Plan is a major step forward in Port Moody's obligation to further respond to the threat of climate change.

In June 2019, Council unanimously approved a motion recognizing the climate emergency that the planet faces and acknowledging that Port Moody needs to do its part to reduce carbon pollution in response to the emergency. The resolution called for actions to ramp up the City's climate actions in line with efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Although limiting warming to 1.5 °C will directly come from mitigation efforts, the draft Climate Action Plan integrates action for both reducing GHG emissions and preparing for future climate impacts.

### *Achieving Carbon Neutral Resilience*

The draft Climate Action Plan represents the next level of commitment to respond to climate change in Port Moody. The focus areas in the Plan reflect Port Moody's jurisdiction, role and the range of climate related challenges and initiatives affecting the community. A total of 54 actions have been identified in the plan that will both reduce GHG emissions and prepare for future climate scenarios. These actions represent a mix of those targeted to reduce emissions and those to help the community prepare for future climate. Where possible, actions are identified as both low carbon and resilient and the synergies and co-benefits are recognized.

While global climate action has largely been focused at reducing emissions to prevent further and increasingly damaging impacts, the already changing climate cannot be ignored. There is a need to equally prioritize adapting to the quickly changing climate at the same time as swiftly and effectively cutting emissions. To do this, staff will continue to use the low carbon resilience framework to ensure that Port Moody identifies where these priorities and opportunities overlap.

Acknowledging the dire need to cut GHG emissions globally in half over the next decade in order to maintain global temperature increase to 1.5°C this century, the Plan outlines a scenario for Port Moody to achieve more than 40% reductions in emissions from 2007 levels by 2030 (over 50% reductions from current emission levels) and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Since the latest climate science urges communities to focus on the next decade, actions outlined in the Plan gives attention to the level of change required by around 2030.

At this point, action beyond 2030 that will be most impactful given anticipated changes in technology, best practices, global markets, and cost is uncertain. The scenario illustrates one path toward a carbon neutral community, based on resources, technology and regulation today. Although we have seen significant technological advances in many areas, we don't know in all sectors which technologies will be the most economic, equitable, and enable mass transition toward carbon neutrality. As a result, Port Moody's carbon neutral path is likely to evolve and adapt as technology, policy and market economics change over the next five to ten years. Staff are committed to staying informed on new opportunities and information as they become available and embedding new and revised actions into future priorities in the Climate Action Plan.

The carbon neutral pathway demonstrates that there is a lot of work to do in the next decade, and that continued bold efforts will be necessary to achieve emissions reduction targets and increase resilience. It is important to note that municipal actions are essential, but are insufficient on their own to meet the climate challenge. Achieving community climate goals and the pathway outlined in the draft plan, will require large scales of transformation and commitment from everyone, including residents, businesses, regional governments, and senior levels of government. Commitment may come in the form of bold action, financial dedication, compromise, and other methods. These actions and commitments may redefine a new sense of normal for humankind and for our community, however, so will climate change on its own.

These changes also provide other benefits including increased jobs, economic stimulus, and improved ecosystem services. Climate actions can also contribute to multiple goals of the Council Strategic Plan, the Official Community Plan, and other strategic plans and deliver many benefits to the community, both short-term and long-term. By undertaking proactive planning for climate change, we can ensure that opportunities and benefits are harnessed in the face of drastic change wherever possible.

The City's Policy Planning Division will lead implementation of the draft Plan, in collaboration with the staff climate action working group. The staff working group will continue to meet regularly and will guide prioritization of actions and implementation of the Plan.

### Next Steps

#### *Priority Actions*

Council has consistently been committed to making progress on climate action, integrating climate change and environmental considerations into City processes and the community where possible.

To ensure the climate emergency declaration and the draft Climate Action Plan remain meaningful and lead to transformation that matches the magnitude and urgency of the challenge, additional resources will be required. Staff are in the process of determining a list of priority actions for the first two years of the Plan's implementation, including additional resources needed to carry out these actions. A Two-Year Climate Action Funding and Implementation Strategy will be developed that includes details such as indicators for tracking action success, time frames, lead departments, staff capacity required, and financial needs. It is anticipated that this Strategy will be brought forward for Council consideration in the fall of 2020.

First wave priority actions may include those that have a major impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to enhancing community climate resilience and equity, integrate well with City priorities, and provide other co-benefits such as job creation and better air quality. Staff anticipate that the first wave of priority actions will target areas with the most GHG emissions output such as transportation and buildings, and areas where the vulnerabilities to climate impacts are highest such as health concerns from extreme heat and infrastructure impacted by increased rainfall and flood events.

During this time, staff will also prepare updates to the Official Community Plan (OCP) to ensure compliance with [Bill 27-2008, the Local Government Green Communities Statutes Amendment Act](#)<sup>1</sup> requiring local governments to include targets, policies, and actions for the reduction of GHG emissions in their OCPs. Similarly, staff will prepare submission documents to comply with Milestones 1 through 4 of the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) [Milestone Framework](#)<sup>2</sup> that guides communities when taking action against climate change by reducing community emissions. More details on the Plan development process can be found in the draft CAP.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bill 25 – 2008 Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act  
<http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/lc/billsprevious/4th38th:gov27-1>

<sup>2</sup> Partners for Climate Protection Milestone Framework <https://fcm.ca/en/programs/partners-climate-protection>

It is also important to consider that climate change will not affect everyone in the community to the same degree. Lower income, socially marginalized populations, and those with existing health conditions may be disproportionately impacted by climate change. Those with less financial resources may have fewer options to protect themselves when major weather events occur, and may have more difficulty recovering from impacts. Fairness, equity, and affordability will be central considerations in the implementation of the Climate Action Plan. Staff will develop an equity lens to be applied on all climate actions, ensuring where possible that the benefits and burdens of climate action are shared as equitably as possible.

### *Ongoing Monitoring and Review*

The proposed plan suggests renewal in the fifth year of implementation. Since our actions focus on the next decade and society is rapidly shifting to enable swift action, it is important to review the Plan at the critical five-year junction when the majority of actions are initiated and progressing towards maturity. The staff climate action working group will undertake ongoing research and review of best practices and emerging technologies and incorporate new opportunities into the next wave of actions in the Plan.

Monitoring of implementation will be carried out largely by the staff climate action working group. This group will develop and lead monitoring and evaluation programs to help ensure that the goals and actions in the Plan are implemented and are achieving results as intended. A first step in this process will be to develop targets and indicators to measure progress and determine how the required information will be collected. Staff have already begun by developing a preliminary list of indicators for each focus area. As actions in each focus area are initiated, indicators will be revisited and revised as necessary to best track and report out on the success of goals and actions.

To achieve the timelines committed to in the climate emergency declaration and in the Climate Action Plan, work will need to begin as soon as possible in order to avoid significant effort and cost in later years. The sooner actions are initiated, the better prepared our community will be for responding to climate change. The Climate Action Plan is a living document that will continue to be informed by, and in turn inform, community and City priorities, ultimately leading Port Moody to become a carbon neutral and climate resilient community.

### **Other Option(s)**

THAT staff be directed to report back with revisions as specified by Council to the Climate Action Plan.

### **Financial Implications**

The level of action outlined in the Climate Action Plan will require significant dedication of resources including capital and operational costs, existing staff time, creation of new positions, and consultant assistance. Without dedication of these resources, the implications are that:

- climate actions outlined and committed to in the Climate Action Plan and Climate Emergency Declaration may be delayed or abandoned;
- Port Moody may not be on track to meet its 2030 and 2050 climate targets; and
- climate change impacts may not be adequately addressed, potentially resulting in greater damage to infrastructure and amenities, loss of biodiversity, reduction of

services, threat to human health and safety, increased costs of repair and recovery, and other impacts.

Pending adoption of the draft Climate Action Plan, funding for the Plan will be phased in over time. Staff will report back with a Two Year Climate Action Funding and Implementation Strategy detailing how the first wave of priority actions will be realised. The Strategy will identify which actions have been prioritised, as well as related resourcing needs, funding opportunities, lead departments, and action monitoring details.

## Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

If the draft Climate Action Plan is adopted by Council, staff will prepare an announcement and will post the Plan to the City website. The Climate Action Plan includes ongoing monitoring of progress on actions and tracking towards achieving emission reduction and resilience goals. These results will be presented to Council in annual updates and communicated via the City's website and social media channels

## Council Strategic Plan Objectives

Adoption of the draft Climate Action Plan is consistent with the Environmental Leadership priority in the 2019-2022 Council Strategic Plan, which outlines a vision for the City to provide leadership in climate change by thinking globally and acting locally.

## Attachment(s)

1. Climate Action Plan Council Resolutions.
2. Draft Climate Action Plan.
3. ICABCCI Update.
4. Climate Action Plan Public Engagement Summary.
5. Port Moody Climate Actions Previous to the Draft 2020 Climate Action Plan.

## Report Author

Laura Sampliner, BES, LEED GA  
Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Climate Action Plan.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Attachment 1 - Climate Action Plan Resolutions.pdf</li><li>- Attachment 2 - Draft Climate Action Plan.pdf</li><li>- Attachment 3 - ICABCCI Update.pdf</li><li>- Attachment 4 - Climate Action Plan Public Engagement Summary.pdf</li><li>- Attachment 5 - Port Moody climate actions previous to the draft 2020 Climate Action Plan.pdf</li></ul>
Final Approval Date:	Jul 13, 2020

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

Mary De Paoli, Manager of Policy Planning - Jul 7, 2020 - 3:22 PM

André Boel, General Manager of Planning and Development - Jul 7, 2020 - 3:26 PM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Jul 8, 2020 - 2:41 PM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jul 12, 2020 - 5:06 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jul 12, 2020 - 6:43 PM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Jul 13, 2020 - 4:51 PM