



CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting – Tuesday, May 7, 2024

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm In-Person

District of North Vancouver Hall, Committee Room

Present: Ken Ashley, Keegan Cassidy, Jennifer Johnson, Eleanor Gill, Diana Leung, Mariko Michasiw, Irwin Oostindie, Lorna Pelly, Councillor Jordan Back

Regrets: Oliver Ng

Staff: Caroline Jackson, Director, Climate Action, Natural Systems and Biodiversity; Matt MacKinnon, Biodiversity Policy & Projects Manager; Bo Ocampo, Environmental Sustainability Specialist; Vanessa Alzate, Corporate Climate Action and Energy Manager; Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

Moved, seconded and resolved
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes

Moved, seconded and resolved
To adopt the November 1, 2023 minutes.

CARRIED

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Committee members were updated on a recent change to the Committee's terms of reference, moving from rotating positions to annual appointments for Chair and Vice chair. Following an outline of the duties associated with these roles, Ken Ashley volunteered to serve as chair, and Lorna Pelly volunteered to serve as vice chair. Ken Ashley and Lorna Pelly were elected by acclamation as Chair and as Vice Chair.

3. Climate Action Committee: 2024 Workplan and Meeting Schedule

Committee members were provided with the 2024 workplan and meeting schedule, as follows:

Invasive Plant Inventory Electric Vehicle Strategy	May 7, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review inventory of invasive plants on District-owned land and obtain Committee input on the recommendations Electric Vehicle Strategy update
North Shore Micromobility	June 12, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review tri-municipal North Shore micromobility initiatives such as the e-bike share program, e-scooter pilot, and e-cargo bike lending pilot program
Biodiversity Strategy Update	October 9, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review engagement and technical work completed to date
Community Event - Biodiversity Strategy	November 13, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and host an event that increases the public's understanding of biodiversity, raises awareness of the District's Biodiversity Strategy, and seeks input on the themes emerging as a result of technical and engagement work to date

Matt MacKinnon, Biodiversity Policy and Projects Manager, provided an update on the Nature and Biodiversity Strategy. He reported that staff are preparing a request for proposal for a consultant to assist with the technical aspects of the work.

Bo Ocampo, Environmental Sustainability Specialist, reported on engagement activities for the Strategy. To date, there have been three engagement events with staff and key partner organizations. The first workshop targeted internal District staff whose work indirectly relates to biodiversity (Planning, Engineering, Finance). The second focused on internal staff whose primary responsibilities are closely aligned with environmental protection and natural area management (Environment, Parks). The third workshop included external partners such as non-profit environmental groups, educational institutions, and local government partners.

Feedback from the workshops included: integrating a biodiversity perspective into all District projects when feasible, enhancing staff training on biodiversity topics, fostering interdepartmental collaboration, and engaging the community through citizen science initiatives.

Additionally, there has been specific outreach to local Indigenous communities. An engagement session was conducted with the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and the draft Strategy will be submitted to them for review. Furthermore, the səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) has been invited to begin the engagement process.

4. Invasive Plant Inventory - Study and Recommendations

Fiona Steele, from Diamond Head Consulting, presented the findings from a recent inventory of invasive plants on District-owned land. The purpose of the project was to create a spatial database of invasive plant occurrences on District property and to identify initial priorities for invasive plant removal. This project is important because once invasive plants are established, they cause negative environmental impacts and become challenging and expensive to control. Through managing invasive plants the District is achieving the following goals:

- Protect biodiversity and species at risk
- Prevent further degradation of sensitive habitats and aid in the restoration of already degraded habitats
- Enhance recreational opportunities by managing invasive species that may hinder access or enjoyment

Based on the recent inventory results, the following three categories of recommendations were developed:

1. District-Wide Target Species
 - Knotweed, English ivy and giant hogweed are considered the top three highest risk species across the District.
2. Target Areas
 - Recommendations were made to focus on areas with low concentrations of invasive species, where containment and eradication efforts are still feasible. Notable areas include Upper Lynn Canyon, small urban parks, and the North Shore mountain trail system.
3. Low Priority Areas
 - Certain areas were categorized as low priority due to the inefficiency and substantial effort required for effective invasive species management compared to higher priority sites

During the discussion, Committee members provided the following comments:

- **Health and Safety** - Although few invasive plant species are toxic to humans, those that are dangerous should be more prominently highlighted to the public.
- **Broader Ecological Impact:** The proliferation of invasive species is linked to broader climate change and ecological issues. Warmer climates are expected to allow more invasive species to establish.
- **Community Engagement:** The Parks Department supports community efforts such as ivy pulls through a volunteer program. While these initiatives make important

contributions, additional management efforts by staff and/or contractors are needed to effectively control invasive plants on District lands.

- **Nursery Practices:** Some nurseries have taken steps to stop selling invasive plants, contributing to the effort of controlling these species.

5. Break – 8:05 – 8:15 pm

During the breakout session, Committee members were asked to consider and brainstorm ideas for two key questions:

Question 1: What can we do to help residents understand the importance of invasive plant removal and to gain their support for managing the species?

Suggested Strategies:

- **Increased Access to Native Plants:** Encourage stores and nurseries to offer more native plants and those with cultural uses. It would also be useful to raise awareness that some stores may sell invasive plants.
- **Educational Initiatives:** Use native plants exclusively in fundraising events and provide education on how invasive plants impact North Shore ecosystems.

Question 2: Are there any innovative policies, initiatives or campaigns you are aware of that focus on invasive plant species management.

Suggested Strategies:

- **Legislation and Advocacy:** Advocate for changes in legislation to restrict the sale of invasive plants and prohibit certain harmful species.
- **Community Engagement and Resources:** Develop a public-facing map to display areas affected by invasive species. Provide information at community events, and through libraries, recreational centers, and other facilities. Consider opportunities for seed saving – ie collecting seeds from native plants for further propagation.
- **Policy Adjustments:** Consider imposing restrictions on watering permits and include information about native plants in watering restriction notices.

6. Electric Vehicle Strategy Update - Caroline Jackson, Director, Climate Action, Natural Systems and Biodiversity

Caroline Jackson provided an update on the progress of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy, summarizing work completed and ongoing activities. The purpose of the strategy is to

understand challenges and opportunities associated with EV adoption towards identifying policies, programs, and charging infrastructure needs.

In September 2023, the Committee participated in a workshop to discuss the EV strategy, focusing on identifying barriers and opportunities in transitioning to electric vehicles. Engagement efforts have included discussion with staff, this Committee, the development community, and other interested groups.

Council Direction and Actions:

Following Council direction, staff have been engaged in research and are moving towards finalizing the strategy for Council consideration before the summer.

Identified Barriers:

- Limited access to charging stations
- High costs of electric vehicles
- Challenges for residents in family buildings

Opportunities:

- The EV landscape is rapidly evolving with increasing adoption rates
- There are provincial and national sales targets for EVs
- New provincial requirements mandate electrical planning reports by strata's to facilitate EV charging
- Potential to integrate existing policies, incentives, and grants with low carbon credits

Strategy Action Areas:

1. Support Charging at Home

- Implement 'EV Ready' requirements for new homes
- Leverage incentive programs to encourage home charging installations

2. Expand Public Charging

- Increase the number of chargers in coordination with other charging providers BC Hydro
- Set 'EV Ready' standards for new workplaces and incorporate EV charging in car share and ride-hailing services

3. Lead by Example

- Develop a roadmap for fleet electrification
- Provide charging options for DNV employees

Feedback and Additional Considerations:

- Many EV owners live in secondary suites, impacting their ability to charge their vehicles.
- The District has implemented fees at public charging stations to encourage turnover and reduce congestion, enhancing availability for those without home charging stations.
- It was emphasized that EVs are not the sole solution; the role of public transit must also be considered. Addressing the transportation needs of lower-income populations is crucial to prevent reinforcing class privileges associated with EV ownership or car ownership more generally. Strategies should focus on improving access for renters and residents of secondary suites.

7. Committee Member Updates

- The BC Building Code and Electrical Code were recently updated.
- A public campaign will be launched focussing on the benefits of induction cooking. The campaign aims to shift the public mindset from gas to electrical cooking.
- Written correspondence has been received from the First Nations indicating their support for the Mosquito Creek phase 2 project.
- A recent workshop was held to discuss the effects of 6PPD on local streams.
- A conference on sea level rise is scheduled for August.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.