



CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting – Wednesday, October 22, 2025
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm District Operations Centre
1370 Crown Street, North Vancouver
In-person

Members: Ken Ashley, Keegan Casidy, Irwin Oostindie, Lorna Pelly, Councillor Jordan Back

Regrets: Eleanor Gill, Diana Leung, Oliver Ng, Jennifer Johnson, Mariko Michasiw

Staff: Caroline Jackson, General Manager, Climate Action & Parks; Zeralynne Te, Manager, Community Planning; Matt MacKinnon, Biodiversity Policy & Projects Manager; Bo Ocampo, Environmental Sustainability Specialist; Erin Roberts, Clerk, Parks Operations

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair provided the land acknowledgement.

Adoption of the Agenda

Moved, seconded and resolved

To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes

Moved, seconded and resolved

To adopt the April 9, 2025 minutes.

CARRIED

2. OCP Update

Zeralynne Te, Manager of Community Planning, provided an update on the Official Community Plan. Two different models of growth were presented.

- Option A allowed for additional housing diversity in key centres and corridors. This option proposes pre-zoning within these areas to expedite the delivery of housing.
- Option B reflected the current Official Community Plan, with no changes to existing housing growth targets. It leverages existing rezoning and development processes to determine land use and built form, with infrastructure and amenities negotiated on a project-by-project basis with developers.

The Province of British Columbia introduced new legislation (Bill 25) after District staff prepared their report to Council. Bill 25 expands provincial authority to enable small scale multi-unit housing in municipalities in BC. District staff recommended Option B to allow time for the community to respond and to return to Council with further advice on the impacts of Bill 25. Council supported this recommendation.

On completion of the presentation, the following items were discussed:

- A committee member noted the importance of considering environmental impacts when increasing density, including potential issues related to increased rainfall intensity and runoff on impervious surfaces.
- A committee member commented that affordability, equity, and climate equity are important considerations when developing housing strategies.
- A committee member enquired about the infrastructure associated with additional density given existing challenges with congestion. Staff commented that there would likely need to be investment from the District, Translink, and the Province to support transportation associated with increased density.

3. Break

4. Nature & Biodiversity Strategy Update

Cassandra Cummings from Diamond Head Consulting (DHC) provided an update on the Nature and Biodiversity Strategy, summarizing the technical assessment work completed to date. This work involved ecosystem mapping and analysis to identify high-value biodiversity areas and ecosystem corridors, a review of existing District policies informed by staff interviews, and a scan of best practices from other jurisdictions. A few example recommendations were also provided such as exploring mechanisms to enhance tree canopy on private and public land and increasing resources for invasive plant management and ecosystem restoration.

On completion of the presentation, the following comments and questions were discussed:

- A committee member inquired about the strategy for public engagement. A staff member responded that there would be a public information session, two pop up

events, and a survey. There would also be ongoing internal engagement as the Strategy is developed.

- A committee member asked about the status of First Nations engagement. A staff member replied that there was a separate stream of engagement with First Nations to engage with them directly. Engagement with each Nation will be ongoing.
- A committee member asked about key metrics that will be tracked over time. A staff member replied that these are still being developed; however, examples under consideration include tree canopy coverage and volunteer hours.
- A committee member asked how the Official Community Plan will interact with the Nature and Biodiversity Strategy. A staff member stated that the Official Community Plan already focuses on developing and densifying urban areas, as opposed to expansion into natural areas which is helpful in supporting biodiversity.
- A committee member recommended developing a triage system to identify habitat value, such as the colour coding system used for the Fraser River Estuary. A staff member noted that a biodiversity ranking system was developed as part of this project and could be used to help prioritize restoration efforts.
- A committee member commented that it will be important to educate the public on the importance of biodiversity so that the community will support initiatives in the Strategy.

5. Library Speaker Event at Lynn Valley Library

Bo Ocampo noted that the next event in partnership with the committee and the library is planned to focus on supporting 'climate ready' homes in the District. Due to scheduling conflicts, the event was postponed to 2026.

6. Committee Member Updates

A committee member asked for an update on new member recruitment. Staff noted this has been completed and will be brought forward to Council for approval.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.