



CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, May 6, 2026
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Skyline Room,
District of North Vancouver Municipal Hall

Members: Ken Ashley, Pierce Burns, Keegan Casidy, Daniel Harvey, Irwin Oostindie, William Scott

Regrets: Eleanor Gill, Diana Leung, Lorna Pelly, Councillor Jordan Back

Presenter: Mike Coulthard

Staff: Bo Ocampo, Environmental Sustainability Specialist; Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Bo Ocampo called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Committee members provided a brief introduction.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Bo Ocampo provided the land acknowledgement.

Adoption of the Agenda

Ken Ashley moved and Pierce Burns seconded:
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes

Ken Ashley moved and Keegan Casidy seconded
To adopt the October 22, 2025 minutes.

CARRIED

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Committee members indicated if they wished to serve as the Chair of the committee. Keegan Casidy put his name forward and as there were no further nominations, Keegan Casidy was acclaimed as the Chair.

Committee members indicated if they wished to serve as the Vice Chair of the committee. Pierce Burns put his name forward and as there were no further nominations, Pierce Burns was acclaimed as the Vice Chair.

3. Climate Action Committee 2026 Workplan and Meeting Schedule

Bo Ocampo provided an overview of the committee's 2026 workplan and meeting schedule.

4. Draft Nature and Biodiversity Strategy

Michael Coulthard, Diamond Head Consulting, presented on the draft Nature and Biodiversity Strategy which included the following highlights:

- Why develop a Strategy?
 - 2011 – The Official Community Plan Action Plan identified the need for an Ecosystem Management Strategy
 - 2017 – The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy called for the development of a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
- Nature & Biodiversity Strategy goals
 - Increase community awareness of nature and biodiversity in the District;
 - Identify and protect important ecosystems and corridors;
 - Recommend policies, plans, and operational practices that support long-term ecological integrity.
- Engagement to date
 - DNV Cross Departmental Workshop – November 2023
 - DNV Parks & Environment Workshop – November 2023
 - First Nations Engagement – January 2024 to present
 - External Organizations Workshop – February 2024
 - Internal Workshops on Draft Actions – November 2025
- Themes to guide actions to protect and enhance biodiversity
 - Planning and Policy
 - Protecting the integrity of natural features and ecological processes from the impacts of development and human activity.
 - Municipal Operations
 - Embedding biodiversity considerations into day-to-day municipal operations.
 - Habitat Restoration and Enhancement
 - Improving ecological health, habitat quality, and connectivity to increase biodiversity.
 - Education and Stewardship
 - Building community awareness, fostering stewardship, and encouraging participation in biodiversity conservation.
 - Data Collection and Monitoring
 - Building knowledge through monitoring, mapping, and research to inform decision making and adaptive management.

Related plans and strategies

- Key related policies:
 - Invasive Plant Management Strategy
 - Natural Areas Trail Strategy
 - People, Dogs, and Parks Strategic Plan
 - Sea Level Rise Strategy
 - Climate Adaptation Strategy
 - Integrated Stormwater Management Plan
 - Community Energy and Emissions Plan
- Next steps
 - Public engagement (May 4-24, 2026)
 - Council consideration

The following comments were provided during the presentation:

First Nations Engagement and Collaboration

Committee members asked questions regarding ongoing engagement with First Nations. Staff advised that engagement efforts will continue, and that future engagement will focus on relationship building and identifying opportunities for ongoing collaboration. Committee members also emphasized the importance of integrating Indigenous knowledge and building Council-to-Council relationships through collaborative work.

Watercourses, Watersheds, and Connectivity

Members emphasized the importance of ecological connectivity and watercourses, noting that many of the District's important biodiversity areas and corridors are associated with water. Committee members discussed the role of healthy watersheds and watercourses in supporting biodiversity, particularly in the context of hotter, drier summers and other climate change impacts. The consultant noted that the draft Strategy includes actions related to ecological connectivity through a proposed habitat network.

Staff also noted that the actions in the Strategy complement those in the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP) that is currently being developed. Once completed, the ISMP will identify key stormwater-related issues, values, objectives, and actions to help guide future decision-making related to hydrologic impacts, erosion, infrastructure resilience, and sustainable development.

Pressures

Committee members also highlighted the ongoing degradation of natural areas resulting from increased recreational use, population growth, and climate-related pressures. Concerns were expressed regarding the ability of forests and ecological systems to regenerate without active restoration efforts.

Biodiversity Protection and Restoration

Committee members discussed the extent to which the Strategy focuses on protecting existing biodiversity assets versus restoring degraded areas. The consultant advised that additional analysis would be required to determine the proportion of ecological corridors that remain

natural versus those requiring restoration. It was noted that many significant natural areas and wildlife corridors already receive some degree of protection.

Accountability and Monitoring

Committee members discussed the importance of establishing measurable performance indicators and maintaining long-term monitoring programs to assess biodiversity outcomes. Comments were provided regarding the value of tracking changes to ecological conditions, including tree canopy and habitat quality, over time. A committee member suggested comparing the District's key performance indicators with those of other municipalities to provide a benchmark against similar communities.

There was also discussion regarding ecological indicators and methods for evaluating Strategy outcomes. The consultant noted that species such as salmon, trout, woodpeckers, and other wildlife can serve as indicators of ecological health.

A committee member discussed the concept of shifting baselines, where gradual changes to tree canopy, habitat quality, and ecological conditions can become normalized over time. The member emphasized the value of establishing measurable indicators to monitor biodiversity and track changes relative to current conditions.

5. Break – committee members did not take a break.

6. Climate Action Advisory Committee Summary Report Review

Committee members reviewed the Climate Action Advisory Committee Summary report from 2025 which included the following:

- Official Community Plan (OCP) Update: Land Use Scenarios - April 9, 2025
- Nature & Biodiversity Strategy: Technical Work Review and Corporate Climate Action - Update May 22, 2025
- Official Community Plan (OCP) Update and Nature and Biodiversity Strategy Update - October 22, 2025

7. Committee Member Updates

Committee members provided the following updates:

- Simon Fraser University (SFU) could be a resource to the committee, particularly with respect to tree canopy analysis and related research.
- A committee member shared information about a course on integrating Indigenous Knowledge into climate action and a new monthly forum for elected officials focused on strengthening relationships and collaboration with First Nations on climate initiatives.
- A committee member noted that North Shore Stream Keepers has secured funding from a variety of sources and continues to undertake habitat restoration work in Mosquito Creek.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.