

The City has begun work on 'consumption-based' emissions including food, which in 2015 accounted for 21% of emissions in that category. This lens has not been used previously, however with the release of the Eat Lancet report, the new Canada Food Guide, and the IPCC work on climate change and land use, it will be a focus moving forward. Recognizing that local governments have limited influence over personal choice and the private sector, the goal is to identify best practices and ensure that policy approaches are equity-based.

A Greenest City Scholar did [a case study](#) on food procurement within the City's control to quantify associated emissions and determine future focus areas. The study found that food type is a stronger driver of emissions than where the food comes from. Models indicate that a 50-70% reduction in emissions can be achieved through switching from beef and pork to either chicken or plant-based options, and a further 10% by moving away from greenhouse-grown produce.

The Solutions Lab engages internal and external stakeholders on how to equitably accelerate access to diets that are healthy for the planet and people. The process began in July and will be completed by the end of the year.

Matt will report back in fall 2020. Public awareness will happen Oct-Dec with public engagement at multiple levels Feb- Apr 2020. The 2020 budget will have a strong climate lens. A progress report on accelerated actions is expected in mid-2020. In addition to the 6 big moves, staff will also include plans to address waste, food, water, nature, and adaptation.

3.1.2 Cross-Cutting Theme Definitions: Climate Emergency - Discussion

- VFPC can provide recommendations and support for this work.
- Transportation choice is a personal lever that can be pulled.
- Equity is a priority for city council.
- Beef and pork reduction is needs for significant reductions.
- VSB has also passed a similar motion to declare a climate emergency. It is important that students see people in positions of power taking action. VSB is collaborating with the City to build passive schools.
- There is alignment with the Province's plan to jumpstart the forestry industry and build more wood structures, as they are less carbon intensive. The City will update building codes once the Province after consulting with Building BC.
- There are tradeoffs in wanting to plant more trees, and to build more wood structures. A definition of sustainable forestry will be included.
- It is not clear what percentage of overall food in city establishments is beef and pork. This information could be determined by weight.
- Big move 1 and transport - aligned, also with development working group that looks at independent food retailers. Having stores with no parking part of communities could be a known asset. From land use lens, have you looked at what levers you may use? Trying to get better model of where we are at, have mapped food assets and categorized daily needs. Some don't have community centres, commercial zones - need to be viable commercial districts, housing is part of that
- There is a study underway to explore other pathway to sequester carbon in addition to planting trees.
- It is recognized that the post-consumer carbon foot print is high (39% in 2009), the city welcomes input on the role the City can play in addressing this. Partnerships will be explored under the overarching theme of collective action. The broader scope will include an explicit waste component.
- Because spray foam insulation has a high impact, the City may decide to not allow smaller buildings to use it. Larger Buildings could consider this as part of an overall plan to limit emissions.
- Vancouver senior management agrees to implement infrastructure projects to protect coastal areas.
- The potential actions were discussed on how the VFPC can support aggressive movement on the climate emergency. It was suggested that obstacle within current policy be identified and changes suggested. There is a lack of awareness on the link between food and climate. Specify suggestions for equity are needed.
- Staff are open to connecting with the development working group about how what levers the City has to ensure independent diverse retailers are encouraged. Social Policy is actively working on it and it will be part of the Broadway and City Plans.
- The conversations can continue online about motions regarding procurement, equity, land use and development.

3.2 Liaison Reports

- 3.2.1 Councillor Wiebe - No update available.
- 3.2.2 Councillor Bligh - This council has worked for 6 months before the summer break and are now working on budget cycles. Council began with some confusion over funding for school food programs. Council is supportive of VSB school food work. There is a focus on being proactive, funding at the school level gives opportunity to look at food in new ways, saving money spent on health care and climate action. The Broadway Plan will be on next council agenda. There are no related motions upcoming.
- 3.2.3 Commissioner Dumont - No update available.
- 3.2.4 Trustee Gonzalez - the motion to create an external food working group passed, and one facet is to prepare for a universal school food program. It is important to support political parties that also support it. VSB staff are now exploring the mechanics of the subject matter experts that will be invited to inform the framework. Equity is a big piece of this. There is a need to instill a love of healthy food in kids. The VSB faces challenges with facilities and is currently in a Long Range Facilities Planning process, which will have an impact on food programming. The VSB will attend the Nov 14th meeting of the BC Chapter of the CHSF, and plans for a motion for the VSB to join the Coalition as a member.
- 3.2.5 Katelyn Ling (PB staff) - The Van Plan report passed with consensus. There are asset targets and needs identified, including a review of the Local Food Action Plan. A status report for the four priorities will be submitted; staff is beginning interdepartmental conversations. The VFPC will have input on the scope and actions through Katelyn.
- 3.2.6 Rachel Telling (Sustainability Staff) - Staff is participating in the Eco-Cities conference and will report back on lessons learned.
- 3.2.7 Caitlin Dorward (SP Staff) - Staff requests time in the November meeting to brainstorm actions and priorities for the Greenest City Action Plan. Draft actions will be collected by December and included as part of the broader public engagement. There will also be other opportunities to provide input. There may be opportunities to look at the retail piece as part of the Broadway Plan. The Broadway Plan is in first phase, looking at community benefits (e.g. publicly owned assets). The City Plan has been approved for first phase engagement.

3.3 Working Group Updates

- Food Cultivation & UbAg - The group has not yet met, plan to meet soon. More members are welcome. Caitlin would like to connect regarding involvement in the Urban Farming review.
- Development/Retail -The group met and is fine tuning what projects to link to (e.g. sustainable large site rezoning, small, independent grocers). The group will look at the big picture of how spaces used for food. This includes the decision for no arterial route in the False Creek flats area.
- Food Waste - The group has met and identified key focus areas. Definition, goals, intersecting themes. The group welcomes other members. It is considering how to start sharing resources on the website to advocate, targeting students and children, and would like to engage the VCH about a "Bring your own container" program. The Good Samaritan bylaw is also in its purview.
- Children & Youth - There are no new updates, the group plans to meet before the November meeting. VFPC members were reminded to encourage organizations in their networks to become members of the Coalition for Healthy School Food.
- Leadership Team - The group helps to facilitate meetings and has found 2 new members. Emily is managing social media accounts.

It was recognized that there is another working group, Community Food Programming that is focused on assessing infrastructure. The group is co-chaired by Sarah, Kelsey, and Kaitlyn, and will invite some external members. The group's work will include consideration of the relocation of the Evelyne Saller Centre.

3.4 Eat Think Vote Town Hall update

The event that members went to was attended by the Green, NDP, and Independent candidates. Key issues raised were how to support young farmers and the role of technology in revitalizing systems. ACTION: Marc and Sarah to send updates.

4. Matters Requiring Discussion

4.1 Position & Call to Action

- Global Climate Strike - The possible roles of the VFPC were discussed. Members were reminded of the importance of the protecting water that connects all systems. Tools available include social media, writing

letters, passing a motion, and going to Council. Another option is to have a physical presence together at future strikes. There are food-related discussions, but not all are nuanced, VFPC could provide more well-rounded discussion. The item was tabled and will be considered as a link in future motions.

- Community Gardens (class 8 conversion) - There is an opportunity to provide input into potential changes on how the handles Class 8 conversions, when a vacant lot is turned into a community garden, allowing it to be classified BC Assessment in a manner that significantly reduces the property taxes owing to the City. Because the City collects the same amount of tax overall, the burden is shifted to other taxpayers in the city including residential owners. There are currently no standards in place; the VFPC can provide input on potential criteria for what qualifies as a community garden.

Discussion

- The City does not regulate community gardens or have a permitting process, so there is no required length of notice that the developer needs to provide before taking the site back.
 - Feedback is needed in the next two weeks.
 - One criterion could be that the benefits to the community should be evident.
 - The cost to the taxpayer is unclear; an analysis has been requested from Finance.
 - It is a complicated situation - this is the only incentive to have urban agriculture.
 - It is important to consider the intentionality (tax avoidance or creating benefits), engagement and access (how many people and who), and duration and notice on the farm, including consideration of time of year.
 - There are many times of uses under Class 8 (recreation).
 - There is not enough information to pass a motion. There are benefits to community gardens, but significant challenges to equitable use and access. Community gardens are generally not a public use of land. The allotment piece is also a challenge, as it is often for those who have resources (i.e. time, social capital, etc.) Maybe a provision could be included where a garden would be required as an amenity on the new site.
 - The reasons for the creation of the policy need to be explored.
 - ACTION: Clare will help set up a conference call with members and staff that will lead to a google doc that all can edit, which will be sent to Caitlin in the next two weeks. Martina, Clare, Marc, Evan, Andrew, and Darlene confirmed participation.
- BC Government Food Security Consultation (online) - Survey is open to all residents until October 15. Responses will inform the report with recommendations in early 2020. The impact will be greater if members respond individually. All members are encouraged to participate. ACTION: Martina to send link. ACTION: Emily can send through social media.
 - Other Business - none

5. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Moved by Andrew, seconded by Darlene, carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm