

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

"Kelley, Gil" <Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 7/28/2020 4:57:46 PM

**Subject:** Memo: GCAP/Climate Emergency Update to Council, July 7th 2020 - Response to Council Questions

**Attachments:** Memo to Mayor and Council - Climate Emergency Questions.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

At the July 7, 2020 presentation to council on Climate Emergency three questions were raised and staff have provided responses in the attached memo. The questions were related to:

- The Climate and Equity Working Group details,
- Greenest City Action Plan – next steps, and
- Food Security in Vancouver.

The attached memo provides more detail. Please contact Gil Kelley at [gil.kelley@vancouver.ca](mailto:gil.kelley@vancouver.ca) or Doug Smith at [doug.smith@vancouver.ca](mailto:doug.smith@vancouver.ca) if you have any questions.'

Best,  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver  
604.873.7627 | [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)

Pronouns: he, him, his



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*

**MEMORANDUM**

July 28, 2020

**TO:** Mayor & Council

**CC:** Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement & Communications Director  
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Doug Smith, Director of Sustainability  
Susan Haid, Deputy Director, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

**FROM:** Gil Kelley  
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

**SUBJECT:** **GCAP/Climate Emergency Update to Council, July 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 - Response to Council Questions**

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Dear Mayor and Council,

At the July 7, 2020 presentation to Council on Climate Emergency three questions were raised and staff have provide responses below. If you have any question please don't hesitate to follow up with myself or Doug Smith at [doug.smith@vancouver.ca](mailto:doug.smith@vancouver.ca).

**Question 1: Climate and Equity Working Group** – Can you provide some background on the group and its membership?

*Purpose*

The Climate and Equity Working group was developed with input from Vancouver's Social Policy Team in ACCS to complement our existing equity work across the City. Working Group members are committed to providing comments, advice, guidance, and strategic direction to inform the development of the Climate Emergency Response Plan through an equity lens.

*Membership*

The Working Group was designed to represent a cross-section of community sectors and be comprised of a majority of people who identify as Indigenous, Black, or as a person of colour. Using an intersectional lens, the Working Group also sought to be inclusive of people with disabilities, those who identify as women, gender diverse, and/or 2SLGBTQ+, and other identities.

Organizations and individuals were invited to participate based on a combination of expertise, interest, commitment to the topics being addressed, and strong community connections. Together the members represent a range of organizations and community sectors as well as diverse perspectives based on their lived experiences.

Membership was focused on organizations with expertise and experience working for Indigenous communities, communities of color, low-income populations, immigrants, or other equity-seeking groups whose voices are not adequately heard in City policy-development processes. Organizations with experience bridging between policy issues and grassroots/frontline work were also sought. Lived experience as opposed to professional academic knowledge was prioritized. As a result of this approach the group has over representation in non-profit and non-technical areas and less technical, business and seniors representation.

**Meetings**

The Climate and Equity Working Group met monthly for six months starting in January 2020. Starting in April meetings shifted to an online video conference format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meetings were 2.5 hour workshops that included a mix of presentations by City staff and group discussion. The group is likely to be engaged further as more policy is developed.

- January: Overview of Climate Change in Vancouver, projected impacts, GHG sources, Climate Emergency Response Six Big Moves
- February: Presentation of proposed actions related to buildings, small group discussions with Green Buildings staff.
- March & April: Presentation on proposed actions related to transportation, small group discussions with Engineering staff
- May: Joint meeting with the City’s Collaborative Leadership Advisory Group
- June: Open space for group to select topics for discussion. Discussion of an Environmental Justice Charter and what that might look like for the City, advice on how the City should approach developing a charter.

<b>CLIMATE AND EQUITY WORKING GROUP - 2020</b>	
<b>Working Group Facilitator:</b> Rhiannon Bennett of Hummingbirds Rising	
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Persons</b>
Collingwood Neighbourhood House	Eda Ertan
Disability Alliance BC	Justina Loh Cynthia Minh
Downtown Eastside Women’s Centre	Ekaterina Ungvitskaya
Ethos Lab	Anthonia Ogundele
EmpowerMe	Amy Hennessy Nabila Hussein
Grey to Green Sustainable Solutions	Dr. Love-Ese Chile
Hua Foundation	Kevin Huang

Indigenous Intern Architect, SCARP PhD student	Jake Chakasim
MOSAIC	Saleem Spindari
Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House - Indigenous Community Programming	Jolene Andrew
Offsetters	Rita Steele
Recycling Alternative	Louise Schwarz
UBC Climate Hub	Adriana Laurent-Seibt
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre	Sean Green
Individual	Ayan Mohamud Ismail
Individual – green building industry	Nicole Montgomery

**Question 2: GCAP 2.0** – Can you explain more about the continuity of the Greenest City Action Plan with the Vancouver Plan? How will they fit together?

The final report for the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (GCAP) will be brought forward to Council in 2021. It will include reporting out on all of the targets in GCAP over the 10 year duration of the plan. The report will also include a more fulsome review of what worked well with GCAP, and where we could improve upon going forward. GCAP is one of the longest-running and highest regarded sustainability plans in the world and, as such, provides a great opportunity for learning.

In parallel the Vancouver Plan has begun its public engagement and will continue to do so through much of 2020 and 2021 to help inform the development of guiding principles and a framework for the plan. As part of that framework, the priority areas for environmental sustainability will be identified, along with guidance as to how that work can be done to continue supporting and equity, reconciliation and other city priorities. It is anticipated that once that framework is in place staff will be able move forward with developing a more detailed environmental sustainability plan, similar to GCAP, which will include the Climate Emergency big moves and actions.

**Question 3: Food Assets** – How much long term security is there in Vancouver’s local food assets?

The table below outlines the current status and long term security considerations of Vancouver’s food assets. Note that while we have met our 2020 target of over 5,000 total local food assets, since adoption of GCAP some specific assets identified in GCAP have not been secured and additional food assets including cultural food assets and affordable food retail have been highlighted as being critical to a just and sustainable food system.

In general, while we have many local food assets in the City, they do not provide food security for all, and certainly not for those disproportionately impacted by factors such as income and housing insecurity and systemic racism.

A recent Metro Vancouver study<sup>[1]</sup> found that only 14% of Metro Vancouver's food is sourced within the region and 40% of BC's food supply comes from international sources. So while local food is important, food security also requires ensuring access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food via a resilient supply chain and adequate incomes. COVID-19 has increased individuals' vulnerability to food insecurity due to isolation, lack of mobility, and loss of income<sup>[2]</sup> and highlighted the precariousness of food supply chains as they have sustained impacts such as border closures, over-buying, and labour shortages. The current Recovery work-streams, Vancouver Plan, and existing unmet food-related objectives in the Vancouver Food Strategy and other Plans and Strategies present opportunities to address these concerns as part of the City's ongoing efforts towards a just and sustainable food system.

Food Asset	2020 Q2 Total (Approx.)	GCAP 2020 Projection*	Long Term Security Considerations
Community Garden Plots	4912	5500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>82/172 gardens and orchards in our inventory are on private land. Of those, we estimate a maximum of 30 may be on vacant land awaiting development. The City does not have policies to secure these in perpetuity.</li> <li>25/172 gardens and orchards are established as temporary uses on City land. Both those on Engineering right of ways and on land in the PEF/Capital portfolio could be displaced (eg by development, widening roadways or for infrastructure upgrades).</li> <li>Gardens and orchard Park Board land (61/172) may be most secure as they are integrated into parks' design and function.</li> <li>Regardless of land tenure security, the longevity of garden and orchards can be compromised if the stewarding organization loses capacity and/or funding to manage.</li> </ul>
Urban Orchards	49	60	
Urban Farms	9	35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One urban farm is located on City property (Sole Food Farm). This site is secured until 2October 31, 2023 after which site development is anticipated under the SE False Creek ODP.</li> <li>The City has secured, via Sustainable Large Site Rezoning Policy, a 1 acre urban farm site at the Pearson Dogwood Lands. Land to be owned by Park Board.</li> <li>Like community gardens and orchards, the City has no jurisdiction to secure urban farms on private land.</li> <li>Urban farms face challenges due to low profitability in the sector and relatively restrictive regulations.</li> </ul>
Farmers Markets	9	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 9 are permitted as temporary, seasonal events as permanent sites for farmers markets have not been secured.</li> <li>Staff have been requested are exploring options for relocation of several farmers market sites which will be permanently or temporarily displaced by development over the next 5 years.</li> </ul>
Community Food Markets	7	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Food Markets and Community Kitchens are typically operated by non-profit organizations in or around their facilities such as community centres and neighbourhood houses. The can be compromised if the stewarding organization loses capacity and/or funding to manage the projects.</li> </ul>

Community Kitchens	69	80	
Community Composting	0	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the best of staff's knowledge, no community composting sites currently exist.</li> </ul>
Food hub	0	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A food hub has not been secured.</li> </ul>

\* From *Greenest City 2020 Action Plan Part Two: 2015-2020*




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Gil Kelley, FAICP  
 General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability  
 604.873.7456 | [gil.kelley@vancouver.ca](mailto:gil.kelley@vancouver.ca)