Accelerate Action on Climate Change

In January 2019, City Council unanimously recognized the global climate emergency and signalled that Vancouver must do more locally to respond. In April, Council approved the Climate Emergency Response report, directing city staff to increase efforts to tackle climate change. With six big moves and more than 50 accelerated actions, we plan to build on past progress to reduce carbon pollution, improve energy efficiency, and advance the transition to renewable energy.

**Total Investments in 2020 Budget**

In response to Council’s identification of their priorities for the 2020 Budget, every division and department reviewed their existing and planned initiatives in their operating budgets. City staff looked for opportunities to better align existing and ongoing activities and investments to these priority areas, and also made sure there was strong alignment for the proposed new initiatives. Capital plan investments shown here reflect the work and costs included in the 2020 Budget from the multi-year approved capital plan. The total dollar investment includes specific initiatives and their associated costs that have been included in the 2020 Budget and are directly aligned to this priority. It is important to recognize that there is ongoing, everyday work across the City’s entire operations that can be difficult to capture but that also reflects the increased focus on this priority.

- **Existing and Ongoing Activities**: $42 million
- **New Investments**: $6 million
- **Capital Investments**: $51 million

Total: $99 million
Existing and Ongoing Activities in 2020 Budget (examples) - Estimated $42 million

Develop and report back to Council in fall 2020 with an implementation plan for six big moves to reduce Vancouver’s carbon pollution, and a progress update on implementation of 53 accelerated actions. (PDS)

Partner with the Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation, UBC and TransLink to secure federal and provincial commitment and financial support for Broadway Subway extension to UBC. (CMO)

Develop and report back to Council on the next phase of the Greenest City Action Plan, including the City’s environmental strategy out to 2030. (PDS)

Pursue opportunities to test electric vehicles for use in collection programs. (ENG)

Launch initial phase of strategy to reduce reliance of generator use by film industry by installing power tie-ins and introducing a fee for diesel generator use. (ENG)

Pilot program to integrate e-bikes and charging stations into bike share system will also address identified barriers and further the City’s Climate Emergency Response. (ENG)

Pursue a coordinated approach to meet needs for curbside power users, including food vendors, special events and e-bikes, in support of support climate change emergency goals. (ENG)

Advance long-term transportation planning through TransLink’s Transport 2050, the regional transportation strategy, including partnering with North Shore municipalities, TransLink and the provincial government on the Burrard Inlet rapid transit study. (ENG)

Provide legal advice on climate change adaptation and climate emergency response implementation, with focus on accelerated action initiatives, including financial incentives in support of zero emissions and zero waste programs, land use incentives for green buildings program, Passive House policy, flood hazard and sea level rise planning, expansion of the electric vehicle program, and the storm water and sewer management program. (Legal)

Coordinate all aspects of building resilience, from energy and seismic to water conservation, to ensure integrated approaches and optimal use of limited resources. (PDS)

Develop a corporate waste reduction target to encourage greater waste reduction as part of the City’s Zero Waste Strategy. (REFM)
New Initiatives in 2020 Budget (examples) – $6 million

Strategy to reduce emissions related to the building of new, City-owned buildings. (REFM) – $0.2 million

Analysis of urban freight/fleets, curbside management zones and zero emission vehicle zones. (ENG) – $0.3 million

Assess carbon sequestration options. (PDS) – $0.2 million

Development and oversight of the Climate Emergency Policy. (PDS) – $0.3 million

Establish requirements for safe, flood-resilient development in flood plains with applicable policies, guidelines and consequential bylaw amendments. (PDS) – $0.2 million

Analysis of new options to accelerate transition to active transportation and transit. (ENG) – $0.5 million

Major Capital Initiatives in 2020 Budget – $51 million*

Biodiversity projects for new natural areas in parks to provide enhanced biodiversity and access to nature; including stream daylighting work in Tatlow/Volunteer Park and completing the first phase of the Beaver Lake restoration in Stanley Park. (PB) – $0.8 million

Park and Street Trees program to plant trees on parks, streets, and private property to meet the Greenest City Action Plan target of an additional 150,000 trees planted by 2020. Increased focus in 2020 to plant trees on identified urban heat islands. (PB) – $3 million

Completion of the design phase for the new park in Burrard Slopes neighbourhood (West 5th Ave and Pine St/West 6th Ave and Fir St) adding much needed access to nature including more water porous surfaces, expanded urban forestry and natural spaces. (PB) – $0.5 million

Implementation of the Rain City Strategy including new drainage into green infrastructure, storm water filtration, and reuse opportunities. (ENG and PB) – $0.2 million

John Hendry Park master plan project to reimagine recreational uses, natural habitats, and green infrastructure opportunities, including improving water quality in Vancouver’s only accessible freshwater lake. (PB) – $0.5 million

Queen Elizabeth Park master plan project to rethink Vancouver’s second-largest park in the context of a new, emerging Cambie Corridor including new park amenities, growing and enhancing the urban forest canopy, biodiversity and enhanced natural spaces. (PB) – $0.4 million
West End Waterfront Park master plan project that will consider coastal habitat restoration projects, sea level rise resiliency, and new approaches to biodiversity in destination waterfront settings spanning from Stanley Park to Burrard Bridge. (PB and ENG) – $0.2 million

Active Transportation Corridors and Spot Improvement program to expand and improve walking, cycling, and greenways networks; to enhance safety and comfort for people of all ages and abilities and for all road users in support of climate emergency goals. The 2020 program will be focused on major green, complete street improvement projects. (ENG) – $14 million

Bridgeway Slope Stabilization project to improve the existing structure in areas including the Bridgeway east of Skeena (part of the Trans Canada Trail). (ENG) – $0.8 million

Establish a project office to facilitate and manage the design and construction of the Millennium Line Broadway Extension. (ENG) – $1 million

Cambie Corridor project to support the implementation of a complete street concept from King Edward to 37th Avenue including improvements to walking and cycling facilities, and opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure. (ENG) – $1 million

Gastown Complete Street Improvements project to deliver better streets for all users and promote sustainable transportation, advancing the redesign of the Blood Alley public space. (ENG) – $2 million

Complete street improvements to Georgia Street and adjacent streets to improve active transportation facilities and support redevelopment, delivering better streets for all users and promoting sustainable transportation. (ENG) – $0.3 million

Installation of new sidewalks towards completion of the City’s sidewalk network (250 kilometres remaining). (ENG) – $2 million

Installation/reconstruction of approximately 230 curb ramps at street and lane intersections to provide easier access to sidewalks, benefiting pedestrians including persons with disabilities, persons who use mobility aids and persons with strollers and shopping trolleys. (ENG) – $1 million

Rehabilitate sidewalks to provide a safe and functional pedestrian area. (ENG) – $1 million

Implement transit-related improvements to provide additional operational and passenger user benefits, accessibility upgrades, and enhanced public realm. (ENG) – $0.5 million

Conduct transportation planning studies to manage effective use of the City’s transportation network and plan for future outcomes. (ENG) – $1 million

Greenway improvements to Bute Street as part of the West End Plan; the future plan will be defined through public and stakeholder engagement. (ENG) – $0.2 million

Curbside Electrical Power Supply project to support the construction of infrastructure that enables continuous power supply at the curbside for the benefit of communities and businesses, including filming, special events, food trucks, eV charging stations, e-bikes, digital advertising and 5G networks. (ENG and PB) – $2 million

Accelerated transition to electric vehicles (EVs) for City-owned fleet starting in 2020; replacement of 80 additional non-emergency passenger vehicles with electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure. (ENG) – $5 million
Develop the detailed design and partial construction of structural protection measures along the Fraser River foreshore at East Fraser Lands. (ENG) – $2 million

Flood Management program to support drainage planning for areas of the City subject to frequent flooding; provide strategic investigation and rehabilitation planning for sewer outfalls. (ENG) – $2 million

Protect private property and public health from damage/stagnant water related to storm events, tidal cycles and sea level rise associated with climate change. (ENG) – $2 million

Encourage more zero emissions buildings in the city by: providing heat pump incentives; supporting zero carbon demonstration projects for new and existing homes (in partnership with non-market, rental and co-op housing providers and associations); supporting the development of zero carbon building educational installations at public facilities, and; initiating additional research required for future zero carbon capital initiatives. (PDS) – $4 million

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure to increase awareness, availability and use of lower carbon vehicles and fuels in Canada by supporting the installation of more than 20 charging stations across the city. (ENG) – $1 million

Investigate options to accelerate the Neighbourhood Energy Utility’s transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030. (ENG) – $0.2 million

Food Waste Prevention and Diversion programs to engage and communicate with businesses and residents, pilot new initiatives to prevent food waste and divert surpluses to the highest and best use; to address the thousands of tonnes of wasted food disposed to landfill annually. (ENG) – $0.3 million

Increase the One Water team’s flood planning capacity, and accelerate hydraulic and hydrological modelling as well as rainfall and storm water system monitoring, to enable better proactive actions and better response to climate change impacts. (ENG) – $2 million

* This list represents the major projects and does not include all capital investments included in the budget.

For more details about the City’s work supporting this priority, please refer to the associated Service Plans in the Budget Book.

Legend:

CMO – City Manager’s Office
DBL – Development, Buildings and Licensing
ENG – Engineering
 Legal – Legal Services

PB – Vancouver Park Board
PDS – Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
REFM – Real Estate and Facilities Management