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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
Date: 12/8/2021 5:12:31 PM  
Subject: [Upcoming NR: Big Move 6 - Natural Climate Solutions report \(December 9, 2021\)](#)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release tomorrow, December 9, related to Council's approval of the Climate Emergency Action Plan's Big Move 6: Natural Climate Solutions.

As one of the core actions identified in the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), natural climate solutions focus on capturing carbon pollution from the atmosphere and storing it in living systems. This is achieved by managing ecosystems in a way that reduces climate impacts and supports biodiversity. The quick-start natural climate solution actions will dependent on budget approval before implementation.

Best,  
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

**City of Vancouver**  
**News release**  
**December 9, 2021**

## **City takes next steps to advance natural climate solutions**

Vancouver City Council has confirmed its commitment to climate action by approving a report to support and enhance nature-based climate solutions to capture carbon on public and private land in the city.

"The interim target to increase carbon capture projects in the city is a win-win for residents, visitors, businesses and the climate," says Mayor Kennedy Stewart. "The benefits for people and ecosystems include reduced temperatures due to more tree canopy, better managing rainwater so that it doesn't flood our streets, and more biodiversity."

As one of the core actions identified in the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), natural climate solutions focus on capturing carbon pollution from the atmosphere and storing it in living systems. This is achieved by managing ecosystems in a way that reduces climate impacts and supports biodiversity. It both mitigates climate change by removing carbon from the atmosphere and supports adaptation through improving storm-water management, decreasing flood risk and reducing urban heat island effect by increasing trees, vegetation, green roofs and wetlands, and restoring soil, marine vegetation and marshes.

Yesterday, Council approved a number of quick-start natural climate solution actions that, dependent on budget

approval, staff from the City and Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation will implement over the next four years to 2025. These include:

- Advancing and improving our urban forest canopy and naturally managed areas;
- Moving forward with pilot projects to incorporate natural climate solutions through parks and green infrastructure capital projects;
- Working with First Nations and other levels of government and Metro Vancouver to explore opportunities for natural climate solutions outside city boundaries.

Natural climate solutions provide a great opportunity to take an equity-based approach to climate resilience and actions to better serve the community, which means we'll be looking for opportunities to increase our urban forest canopy in neighbourhoods that don't have these assets and have high summer temperatures.

Longer-term efforts to advance natural climate solutions within the city will be done via the Vancouver Plan's ecological networks, which will serve as a backbone for the City's carbon sequestration efforts, and provide a way to integrate natural climate solutions with urban growth. The Vancouver Plan is expected to be brought to Council for approval in June 2022.

### **Background**

Vancouver committed to take climate action to do our part to limit global temperatures to 1.5°C, as recommended by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to avoid irreversible and catastrophic climate change.

All pathways the IPCC modeled to limit warming to 1.5°C include negative emission actions, which means removing carbon from the atmosphere. Carbon removal technology is still new and emerging but capturing and storing carbon in natural systems is proven and provides many co-benefits for people and ecosystems.

Natural climate solutions means sequestering carbon from the atmosphere into living systems, which can either be land-based or ocean-based.

- Land-based sequestration includes forest protection and reforestation, improving farming practices, creating and restoring freshwater wetlands, composting and soil carbon storage. In Vancouver, Stanley Park, VanDusen Botanical Gardens and Queen Elizabeth Park are good examples of iconic urban forests that sequester carbon.
- Ocean-based sequestration, often referred to as blue carbon, includes creating, restoring or protecting coastal ecosystems like seagrasses, other marine vegetation and coastal wetlands and salt marshes. In Vancouver, the habitat restoration at New Brighton Park is a good example of a restored salt marsh that sequesters carbon.

There are many benefits for people and ecosystems, such as reduced temperatures due to more tree canopy, better managing rainwater so that it doesn't flood our streets, and more biodiversity.

For more information, visit: <https://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/how-we-capture-carbon-pollution.aspx>

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