

Ramping Up Vancouver's Climate Action in Response to the Climate Emergency

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The British Columbia government declared a provincial state of emergency in 2018 over record-setting wildfires:
 - a. Wildfires in BC broke the record for km² burned in 2018, surpassing the record of 12,161 km² and 65,000 forced from their homes in 2017;
 - b. Wildfires in California killed more than 100 people and caused over \$14.5 billion in insured losses in 2018;
2. The Legislature of British Columbia and the House of Commons of Canada acknowledged the growing crisis of climate breakdown by holding emergency debates following the release of the October 2018, UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report;
3. Local governments around the world are taking new actions to avoid the worst impacts of climate breakdown and calling on senior levels of government for a more urgent, emergency response;
4. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change finds that limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot would imply global net CO₂ emissions dropping to between 50% and 58% below 2010 levels by 2030, and between 94% and 107% below 2010 levels by 2050. Global net CO₂ emissions would need to continued to decline into the second half of the century reaching negative net emissions in all scenarios;
5. The costs to Vancouver for dealing with sea level rise and stormwater and sewer management are significant:
 - a. Staff estimate that approximately \$1 billion of flood management infrastructure is needed in Vancouver by 2100. To operate and maintain this infrastructure, the City will require additional staff and budget estimated at \$5 million a year;
 - b. Conservative estimates of the cost of a flood in Vancouver place the value in property and building damage at approximately \$7 billion. This does not include the economic impact of business disruption or the cost of clean-up and rebuilding;
 - c. Regionally, the Fraser Basin Council, a non-profit group that provides regional flood planning support, estimates the potential cost of a major coastal flood at \$25 billion for the Lower Mainland.
6. The world is currently on track for more than 3°C of warming based on policies currently in place, and those policies will need to be strengthened significantly to limit warming to 1.5°C. Vancouver, BC, and Canada are no exceptions:

- a. Vancouver's carbon pollution levels are 7% below 2007 levels, which represents an average reduction of less than 1% per year over the past decade. An average annual reduction of over 3% is necessary to meet the City's 2030 targets.
 - b. BC's carbon pollution has increased in four of the past five years and the province eliminated its 2020 reduction target because it was on track to miss it by a wide margin. On December 5, 2018, the province introduced a new climate change plan, which is expected to put the province on track for 75% of its 2030 target of 40% below 2007 levels.
 - c. Canada's carbon pollution was down 4% from 2005 levels to 704 million tonnes. Policies committed to in the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Action are only forecast to bring emissions down to 583 million tonnes in 2030, failing to meet the national target of 517 million tonnes;
7. The City of Vancouver has been taking action on sustainability through its Greenest City and Renewable City Action plans, setting a solid foundation for ramping up ambition and action to meet the moral and scientific urgency of climate change;
 8. Past City of Vancouver staff reports acknowledge that "climate change shocks and stresses do not affect all groups in our community equally. Frontline communities, those that have been affected by systemic vulnerabilities and inequities, are often at greater risk from the impacts of climate change and often have the fewest resources to respond and adapt.";
 9. A growing list of cities, districts and counties across the world representing over 15 million people collectively have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate emergency, including Los Angeles, Oakland, and most recently London, England.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council recognize that:
 - i. we are in a global state of climate emergency that constitutes a crisis for Vancouver including costs related to more extreme weather events, air quality deterioration and sea level rise;
 - ii. almost all governments have failed to meet targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the City of Vancouver which has only decreased emissions by 7 percent to date despite aiming for a 33 percent reduction over 2007 levels by 2020;
 - iii. we have a responsibility to respond to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) October 2018 call for all political leaders to take urgent action to keep average global temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees C in order to avoid catastrophic social, environmental and economic breakdown;

- iv. we need to evaluate the impact of the City's actions to date on GHG emissions to determine what is working well, what is not and why and then publicly report out the findings annually to track our progress;
- v. we need to incorporate a gendered intersectional lens into climate actions and the Climate Adaptation Strategy; and
- vi. we need to encourage residents, businesses and visitors to move towards carbon free transportation modes, including but not limited to, providing incentives by expanding and expediting electric vehicle charging stations privately and publicly;

Furthermore, we need to explore possibilities for reducing the cost of public pay parking for electric vehicles, bikes and other mobility devices; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back within 90 days on updating the City's Greenest City and Renewable City Action Plans and Climate Adaptation Strategy in order to:

- i. increase targets and accelerate timelines for actions in line with the IPCC call for 45 percent reductions in GHG emissions over 2010 levels by 2030, net zero emissions by 2050, and net negative carbon emissions in the second half of the century;
 - ii. add new actions to help the City achieve its new reduction goals; and
 - iii. create interim four-year targets and goals to reach new reduction goals.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to establish a remaining carbon budget for corporate and community emissions commensurate with limiting warming to 1.5°C, re-evaluate how to best measure such emissions, and report annually on the expenditure of the City of Vancouver's remaining carbon budget.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to establish a "Climate and Equity" working group to provide guidance and support for the City's efforts to transition off of fossil fuels in ways that prioritize those most vulnerable to climate impacts and most in need of support in transitioning to renewable energy.

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