

Office of the Chair
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December 15, 2021

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Mayor Darryl Walker and Council
City of White Rock
15322 Buena Vista Avenue
White Rock, BC V4B 1Y6
VIA EMAIL: dwalker@whiterockcity.ca

Dear Mayor Walker and Council:

Metro Vancouver's Clean Air Plan

At its September 24, 2021 regular meeting, the Board of Directors of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (Metro Vancouver) adopted the following resolution:

That the MVRD Board:

- a) approve Metro Vancouver's Clean Air Plan as attached to the report dated July 21, 2021, titled "Metro Vancouver's Clean Air Plan";*
- b) forward the Plan to member jurisdictions, the Provincial Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the region's Chief Medical Health Officers, local First Nations, TransLink, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the Fraser Valley Regional District, and other key partners indicating the Board's continuing interest in working with them to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions and continuously improve air quality in the Lower Fraser Valley airshed; and*
- c) direct staff to continue working with member jurisdictions and other partners to implement the actions in the Clean Air Plan.*

We are proud to share the *Clean Air Plan*, Metro Vancouver's regional plan for managing air quality and greenhouse gases over the next 10 years, which was adopted by the Metro Vancouver Board in September 2021. Metro Vancouver appreciates the contributions and feedback provided by staff and City Council from City of White Rock during the Plan's development. The Plan, available on Metro Vancouver's [website](#), provides a vision for Metro Vancouver to be a "carbon neutral region where residents experience healthy, clean and clear air" and sets out the necessary steps to achieve this vision.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions have been taking action on air quality and climate change for decades. Across the region, we have seen innovative examples, including investments in electric vehicle programs, low carbon home heating, the development of walkable neighbourhoods, and the establishment of carbon pricing policies to incorporate greenhouse gas considerations into decision making. However, there is still more we need to do, together.

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We must implement the actions in the *Clean Air Plan* to achieve the necessary deep reductions in regional greenhouse gas emissions. The actions in the Plan will also improve regional air quality, yielding health benefits estimated at up to \$1.6 billion. The *Clean Air Plan* is strongly linked with the greenhouse gas actions in the *Climate 2050 Roadmaps* (*Climate 2050* is Metro Vancouver's long-term strategy to address climate change in the region; see [website](#)). Furthermore, the Plan aligns with climate plans being implemented by member jurisdictions, as well as the recently announced provincial *CleanBC Roadmap to 2030*. Working together, we can achieve our shared climate goals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which in turn will help move each member jurisdiction forward with their own climate plans and targets.

The *Clean Air Plan* includes a variety of recommended actions such as developing policies, programs and regulations, crafting guidance documents, offering incentives, organizing awareness and outreach programs, adopting standards, and conducting research. The Plan includes 29 foundational “Big Moves” that need to be started as soon as possible, as well as 98 supporting actions. The Plan also commits to consider equity in actions and work to reduce disproportionate impacts. For its part, Metro Vancouver will implement the actions set out in the Plan through Metro Vancouver's regulatory and planning authority, delivery of regional services, and its role as a regional convener and advocate for issues of regional significance.

We will be seeking your input to further develop and implement the actions in the *Clean Air Plan*. Many of the “Big Moves” will require partnership with and support from City of White Rock and other member jurisdictions, including the following:

- Developing regulatory requirements to drive down regional emissions from existing passenger vehicles, and medium and heavy duty vehicles (Actions 1.1.2, 1.2.2, and 1.3.1);
- Developing regulatory requirements for existing buildings to meet stringent greenhouse gas emission performance targets (Actions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2);
- Developing and implementing regional guidance on procurement to prioritize low carbon products, equipment and services for construction and other projects (Action 3.3.1); and
- Collaborating with the provincial government and other governments on implementing actions under their authority; examples include mobility pricing (Action 1.1.2), establishing greenhouse gas requirements in building codes (Actions 2.1.3 and 2.1.4) and for industrial facilities (Action 3.1.1).

Member jurisdictions can take leadership in a number of areas that are aligned with your climate plans, for example:

- Expanding local active transportation networks so it's the most convenient choice for most shorter trips (Action 1.1.3);
- Updating or creating policies (e.g., procurement, design guidelines, zoning) to prioritize the use of building materials with low embodied emissions (Action 2.5.2); and
- Encouraging the use of low or zero emission non-road equipment for construction, film and other sectors through municipal approvals (Action 3.2.5).

We look forward to continuing to work with City of White Rock to support the development and implementation of the actions set out in the *Clean Air Plan*. Staff from Metro Vancouver are available to answer any questions about the Plan and would be pleased to meet with your City Council at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please contact Roger Quan, Director, Air Quality and Climate Change, Parks and Environment Department by email at Roger.Quan@metrovancover.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sav Dhaliwal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sav" and last name "Dhaliwal" clearly distinguishable.

Sav Dhaliwal
Chair, Metro Vancouver Board

SD/NC/jl