

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: June 27, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Anne Berry, Director, Planning and Development Services
Jim Gordon, Director, Engineering and Municipal Operations

SUBJECT: Staff Feedback on 2022 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)
Recommendations to Council

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the corporate report dated June 27, 2022, from the Director of Planning & Development Services and the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations, titled “Staff Feedback on 2022 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Recommendations to Council” providing staff feedback as it relates to recommendations from the Environmental Advisory Committee for implementation, for Council’s consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents staff feedback on the proposed 2022 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) recommendations to Council, considering the availability of resourcing needed to support objectives. Some of the work is in process or temporarily on hold due to capacity challenges or similar work being undertaken at the senior government levels. There are several tasks, however, that would require greater staff involvement, or the involvement of a consultant, and with resources being limited the task may not be feasible at this time.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

Motion # & Meeting Date	Motion Details
2022-258 June 13, 2022	THAT Council direct staff to bring forward a corporate report to the next regular Council meeting in regard to the Environmental Advisory Committee recommendation in regard to feasibility with staff workload: Direct staff to complete, during Council's current term, implementation of its directives on Bylaw and Policy amendments concerning Landscape Open Space and Electric Vehicle Parking (Council Motion 2022-142), the Energy Step Code (Motion 2022-143), Fossil Fuel Based Equipment (Motion 2022-207) and Single-Use Plastics (Motion 2022-208).

2022-259	<p>THAT Council direct staff to bring forward a corporate report to the next regular Council meeting recommendations 2 - 5 from the Environmental Advisory Committee in regard to feasibility with staff workload:</p> <p>Direct staff to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare, as a matter of priority, a Climate Vulnerabilities Report identifying current and prospective vulnerabilities, risks and potential costs of climate change to public health and safety, private and public property and infrastructure in White Rock; 2. Initiate work on a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Report suggesting short- and medium-term priorities for action to address or adapt to the challenges identified in the Climate Vulnerabilities Report, including appropriate operational, infrastructural, policy or bylaw measures; 3. Give priority to identifying any governmental or extra-governmental programs or funds that might be accessed to help inform or support the pursuit of the above noted priorities as well as any other climate change-related measures; 4. The CAO to establish appropriate organizational measures to facilitate completion of the above priorities and promote more systematic and sustained focus on the climate change priority in ongoing policy and operational processes. 5. Keep Council regularly apprised of developments regarding the City's climate change challenges and responses and that a staff report on the City's climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts be presented at least annually to a regular meeting of Council.
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INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

White Rock Council has established several committees to assist in the advancement of their strategic priorities while also pursuing other matters of local interest. Each year select committees prepare a work plan which identifies key objectives and the tasks / activities that will support such objectives. In response to direction at the June 13, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council, Planning and Development Services and Engineering and Municipal Operations staff have reviewed the Environmental Advisory Committee's recommendations to Council under the assignment of considering current staff workload and Council strategic priorities. A copy of Council's Strategic Priorities for 2021 – 2022 is attached as Appendix A.

Overall, some tasks identified by the committee can be incorporated into on-going Council priority projects, and align with Council values regarding the protection of the environment. Others will require additional resources, if intended to be undertaken by City staff, or it may be that the task is undertaken by the Committee members themselves. The following points summarize where the Task/Activity identified by EDAC may require additional resources; number references relate to those provided in Appendix A:

- **Motion 2022 -142 Landscape Open Space and Electric Vehicle Parking**
A package of proposed Zoning Bylaw amendments was introduced in 2021, and a

consultation process commenced to gather feedback on the proposed changes. Among them were proposed changes to the minimum landscaping standards in residential and commercial zones to improve permeability, reduce surface water pollution, and enhance the aesthetic of residential outdoor spaces along City streets, and proposed changes to introduce higher standards for electrical vehicle charging requirements in a range of residential and commercial building types.

The intent, following the October 27, 2021 Open House held on the proposed changes, was for staff to compile the comments received and make final edits to the Bylaw before presenting the material to the City's Land Use and Planning Committee. At this stage staff will recommend that Council give the amendment Bylaw first and second reading following which a formal Public Hearing will be held. In fall 2021 staff's capacity decreased significantly with the departure of two key members of the planning team. While the team's capacity is now back to full strength, there were several months where the division operated at a reduced capacity, resulting in a backlog of files and policy work needing to be processed. Staff do not expect to be able to resume the zoning bylaw review until later this fall.

- **Motion 2022 – 143 Energy Step Code**

Identified as High Priority in Council Strategic Plan (2021 – 2022)

Council directed that staff incorporate Step Code requirements into the Building or Zoning Bylaw, to Level 3, in alignment with the City of Surrey. Subsequently, the Province has provided notice of its intention to amend the BC Building Code in December 2022 when the base BC Building Code will require every new building to deliver a level of energy-efficiency performance equivalent to Step 3. This change renders the need for the City to amend its bylaws moot. Were the City to amend the bylaw, a grace period is typically included to give development opportunity to prepare for the bylaw change, likely taking until year end before the bylaw would take effect, at which time the code amendment will be in place;

- **Motion 2022 – 207 Fossil Fuel Based Equipment**

Staff are carrying out research into the current state of the art for replacing fossil fuel based vehicles and equipment. A preliminary report should be available in the fall outlining options, cost implications and a proposed staging plan. This information could then be incorporated in the upcoming five year Financial Plan.

- **Motion 2022 – 207 Single-Use Plastics**

Staff have begun to research this item. There are enforcement and communication components which have a significant impact on a community the scale of White Rock. These must be fleshed out before staff can report to Council on this item. Furthermore, the Federal Government has recently proposed a Single Use Plastics Prohibition Regulation. The opportunity for public comment closed in March 2022, the Government will use the feedback to develop the final regulations. Items being considered under the proposed federal regulations are consistent with those the City of White Rock would consider regulating, and more, including:

- checkout bags
- cutlery
- foodservice ware made from or containing problematic plastics
- ring carriers
- stir sticks

- straws

As the Federal Government is mid-way through its process, staff suggest it may be prudent to hold this item until the Regulations are finalized.

- **Prepare, as a matter of priority, a Climate Vulnerabilities Report identifying current and prospective vulnerabilities, risks, and potential costs of climate change to public health and safety, private and public property, and infrastructure in White Rock;**

Staff plan to initiate the report using consulting resources funded from the BC Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP); however, initiation and management of this detailed study is contingent on resources. It is anticipated that resources in Engineering & Municipal Operations (EMO) will be close to full compliment by fall, thereby enabling the project to proceed in early 2023.

- **Initiate work on a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Report suggesting short- and medium-term priorities for action to address or adapt to the challenges identified in the Climate Vulnerabilities Report, including appropriate operational, infrastructural, policy or bylaw measures;**

The Adaptation Strategy will build upon the Climate Vulnerabilities report. Community adaptation infrastructure is in place in some instances such as the upgraded Pier and armouring on East Beach. Grant applications will continue for drainage upgrades and plans are underway for cooling centres to improve community resilience in response to extreme heat. More extensive mitigation plans will be developed as part of the Adaptation Strategy Report.

- **Give priority to identifying any governmental or extra-governmental programs or funds that might be accessed to help inform or support the pursuit of the above noted priorities as well as any other climate change-related measures;**

The LCAP program as well as Federal and Provincial infrastructure programs are identified, and applications are/will be made wherever possible.

- **The CAO to establish appropriate organizational measures to facilitate completion of the above priorities and promote more systematic and sustained focus on the climate change priority in ongoing policy and operational processes.**

When EMO is fully staffed, the resources available to address climate change issues and high level Council Priorities will effectively double from one to two staff persons. The additional staff will be allocated, in part, to climate change priorities; although focus will continue on Council's Strategic Plan Top Priorities.

- **Keep Council regularly apprised of developments regarding the City's climate change challenges and responses and that a staff report on the City's climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts be presented at least annually to a regular meeting of Council.**

When EMO staffing is complete, the report can be done, subject to Council Priorities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The items identified by the EAC can be addressed with a full staff compliment and consulting resources, funded in part by grants. The cost of the City share of grants to be identified in the upcoming Financial Plan.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Council is committed to supporting actions which will protect and enhance the natural environment in the City of White Rock. The recommendations of the EAC support this important initiative and should be incorporated into staff work plans subject to appropriate resourcing and alignment with senior government regulations.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

Council may wish to consider postponing some of the EAC recommendations based on a review of the staff feedback presented in this report.

CONCLUSION

This report presents staff feedback on the proposed 2022 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) recommendations to Council, considering the availability of resourcing needed to support these objectives. Some of the work is in process or temporarily on hold due to capacity challenges or similar work being undertaken at the senior government levels.

Respectfully submitted,



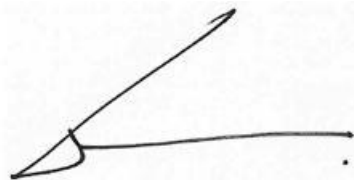
Anne Berry, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning and Development Services



Jim Gordon, P.Eng.
Director, Engineering and Municipal
Operations

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

I concur with the recommendation of this corporate report.



Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer