



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** November 17, 2015
From: John Irving, P.Eng. MPA **File:** 10-6125-07-02/2015-Vol 01
 Director, Engineering
Re: **Signing the Call for Action on Energy and Climate in the Building Sector**

Staff Recommendation

That the City join other regional stakeholders in the Call for Action on Energy and Climate in the Building Sector in support of a new provincial "Climate Leadership Plan", as presented in the staff report titled "Signing the Call for Action on Energy and Climate in the Building Sector," dated November 17, 2015 from the Director, Engineering.

pu John Irving, P.Eng. MPA
 Director, Engineering
 (604-276-4140)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Building Approvals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

The province announced its intention to develop a revised Climate Leadership Plan. This report recommends that the City sign a Call for Action on Energy and Climate in the Building Sector.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #4 Leadership in Sustainability:

Continue advancement of the City's sustainability framework and initiatives to improve the short and long term livability of our City, and that maintain Richmond's position as a leader in sustainable programs, practices and innovations.

4.1. Continued implementation of the sustainability framework.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #5 Partnerships and Collaboration:

Continue development and utilization of collaborative approaches and partnerships with intergovernmental and other agencies to help meet the needs of the Richmond community.

5.1. Advancement of City priorities through strong intergovernmental relationships.

Background

City Commitments

In 2008, the province of British Columbia released a Climate Action Plan, which outlined an array of climate action commitments. Correspondingly, in 2010, Council adopted targets in Richmond's OCP to reduce community GHG emissions 33 percent below 2007 levels by 2020, and 80 percent below 2007 levels by 2050. Council specified that these targets are "subject to the understanding that senior levels of government undertake necessary GHG reduction improvements within their jurisdictions."

Richmond's subsequent 2014 Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) outlines an array of strategies that the City is taking to pursue its energy and emissions goals. Modeling conducted for the CEEP suggests that City emissions reduction targets will only be achieved with "Big Breakthroughs," including:

- All new buildings being constructed to achieve zero carbon performance by 2025.
- Widespread uptake of deep energy retrofits to existing buildings.

The CEEP recognizes that these reductions are not achievable by the City alone; rather, they require provincial and federal regulatory changes, market innovation, increasing carbon pricing, and coordinated efforts between all levels of government and industry.

Provincial Climate Leadership Plan

On May 12, 2015, the province announced its intention to develop a Climate Leadership Plan. The province noted that a draft version of the plan will be released in December 2015, and a final version in March 2016. In September 2015, Council endorsed comments on a Climate Leadership Plan Discussion Paper released by the province. Among other items, these comments included requesting that the province articulate an energy code roadmap to achieve zero carbon new buildings, and a plan for widespread deep energy retrofits.

Analysis

The Urban Development Institute Pacific Region, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, and the Pembina Institute are seeking formal endorsement of a “Call for Action on Energy and Climate in the Building Sector” (Attachment 1). The statement and the list of its supporters will be delivered to Premier Clark to inform the development of British Columbia’s Climate Leadership Plan. The cities of Victoria, Vancouver, Smithers, Powell River, and North Vancouver are signatories to the Call for Action. Likewise, staff understand that other municipalities are considering supporting the Call for Action. A declaration supporting the inclusion of a “Roadmap” for low-carbon buildings has been developed (Attachment 1).

This declaration outlines key provincial policies and actions that are considered necessary to achieve low-carbon buildings and the province’s legislated goals to reduce GHG emissions 80% by 2050. The Call for Action asks that the Province:

- Set a clear target for the end performance goal for new buildings — for example, for new buildings to be net-zero energy ready by 2030.
- Lead by example by requiring that all new planned public buildings meet this goal starting in 2016, and by establishing a renovation program for existing public buildings to reduce their carbon emissions by half in the next decade.
- Launch a multi-year incentive program to accelerate market transformation for high performance new construction and deep retrofits, prioritizing affordable housing and high visibility projects.
- Develop financing mechanisms to redistribute incremental costs of high performance buildings to the beneficiaries of lower energy bills and more comfortable, healthy buildings (e.g. financing through property taxes or utility bills, or loans to strata).
- Ensure access to energy performance data to monitor progress and provide feedback on policies and behaviour.
- Support integrated land use and transportation planning to encourage location efficient development.
- Strengthen the price signal for efficiency and conservation through utility rates and carbon pricing.
- Support local governments and resource the Building Safety and Standards Branch to facilitate code changes, streamline approval of innovative solutions through variances or alternative solutions, decrease permitting times and increase code compliance.

The Call for Action is consistent with comments the City has already made on the provincial BC Climate Leadership Plan Discussion Paper, and with the actions identified in Richmond's CEEP as necessary to meet the City's emissions targets.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

This report recommends the City join other regional stakeholders in signing a Call for Action on Energy and Climate in the Building Sector.



Brendan McEwen
Sustainability Manager
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BM:bm

Att. 1: Text of the Call for Action on Energy and Climate in the Building Sector

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Urban Development Institute Pacific Region, and the Pembina Institute are seeking formal endorsement of a call for action on energy and climate in the building sector.

The statement and the list of its supporters will be delivered to Premier Clark prior to the release of British Columbia's draft Climate Leadership Plan, expected in early December 2015.

To sign on or for more information, please contact Karen Tam Wu: karentw@pembina.org, 778-846-5647. Deadline to sign on is November 20.

Call for Action on Energy and Climate in the Building Sector

We support the B.C. government's commitment to implement a new Climate Plan.

We expect the plan will include ambitious new actions that lead to:

- *a strong economy with opportunities for all British Columbians*
- *a province powered by clean energy*
- *a more equitable society*
- *cleaner air and water supporting healthy communities and ecosystems*
- *protection from a changing climate.*

We can't afford to delay. Now is the time to lead the transition to a clean energy economy.

In this transition, the built environment offers unique opportunities for carbon reductions and economic growth.

As energy and building professionals, trades and businesses, we provide world class products and services to meet customer needs, satisfy regulations and compete in the global marketplace. We are employers, taxpayers, community partners, and leaders in our field.

As local governments, we are committed to the sustainability of our communities. We engage our citizens and staff to reduce emissions, we foster local economic development, and we prepare for a changing climate.

Together, we are ready to transition to a resilient and efficient building sector. We call on the B.C. government to:

- Set a clear target for the end performance goal for new buildings — for example, for new buildings to be net-zero energy ready by 2030 — and work with stakeholders to develop, within six months of the release of the Plan, a roadmap clarifying the timeline and approach to meet this goal
- Lead by example by requiring that all new planned public buildings meet this goal starting in 2016, and by setting up an aggressive renovation program for existing public buildings to reduce their carbon emissions by half in the next decade
- Launch a multi-year incentive program to accelerate market transformation for high performance new construction and deep retrofits, prioritizing affordable housing and high visibility projects
- Develop financing mechanisms to redistribute incremental costs, e.g. financing through property taxes or utility bills, or loans to strata
- Ensure the construction and real estate industry, the government and the public have access to energy performance data to monitor progress and provide feedback on policies and behaviour
- Support integrated land use and transportation planning to encourage location efficient development
- Strengthen the price signal for efficiency and conservation through rates and carbon pricing.
- Support local governments and resource the Building Safety and Standards Branch to facilitate code changes, streamline approval of innovative solutions through variances or alternative solutions, decrease permitting times and increase code compliance.

By pursuing these opportunities, we can reduce our carbon footprint while saving money, creating local jobs, and opening export markets for B.C.-made components and designs. We can also ensure all British Columbians live and work in buildings that improve community health, happiness, and productivity.

Note: this statement is an extension of a more general [Call for Action](#) launched by the Energy Forum, a collaboration between industry and non-government organizations working to promote clean energy. The first three sentences (in italics) are shared between the two statements. You can sign on to one or both by contacting Karen Tam Wu: karentw@pembina.org, 778-846-5647.