



Report Number: EC2021-1525

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2021 November 09

REVISED NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Declaration of Climate Emergency and Call to Action

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Mayor Gondek, Councillor Carra, Councillor Dhaliwal, Councillor Mian, Councillor Penner, Councillor Spencer, and Councillor Walcott

WHEREAS...

- Climate change is contributing to billions of dollars annually in property and infrastructure damage worldwide, causing stress on local and international economies through food and water insecurity, as well as social instability;
- Half the world's population currently live in urban areas, producing more than 70 per cent of energy-related global greenhouse gas emissions, with projections that by 2050 about 2/3 of the planet's people will live in urban centers creating additional pressures on our urban environments; therefore, expert consensus indicates cities, towns and regions must play a central role in adapting to a changing climate and mitigating the causes of climate change;
- Calgary and Alberta were home to six out of the top ten costliest natural disasters in Canada on record and five out of the top five in the past 5 years, clearly signaling the need to mitigate climate impacts;
- Amongst large and mid-sized Canadian cities, Calgary is one of the few without a climate emergency declaration, compromising our city's ability to compete for global capital and talent;
- In the 2020 Citizen Satisfaction and Quality of Life Survey, 80 per cent of Calgarians stated they are "concerned about climate change" and 79 per cent agreed with the statement "I think we need to act now to address climate change";
- As corporations like Shell, Cenovus, Repsol and Teck have publicly committed to net-zero emissions targets by 2050, and campaigns like Race to Zero have spurred the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative that represents 220 signatories managing \$57 trillion in assets, investment in climate tech has grown to around \$60 billion US; and
- Immense opportunity exists to create a climate resilient city that transitions towards a low carbon economy to provide an inclusive, equitable and prosperous Calgary which includes support and respect for Indigenous Peoples, as well as people in positions of vulnerability.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED ...

- That The City of Calgary declares a climate emergency;
- That The City of Calgary will become part of the global community (not-for-profit, public and private sectors) taking action on climate change through international initiatives such as the Global Covenant of Mayors, Resilient Cities Network, and Race to Zero, **by adopting best practice and leveraging**

REVISED NOTICE OF MOTION

capital investment with the goal of becoming a global center of excellence in climate adaptation and mitigation, and energy transformation;

- **That The City of Calgary engage with First Nations, through the Indigenous Relations Office, to foster relations, ensure collaboration, integration of traditional knowledge and ensure intersectional Climate Change strategies;**
- That The City of Calgary makes climate change a strategic priority by accelerating the timelines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, updating the city-wide and corporate greenhouse gas reduction target to be net zero emissions by 2050;
- That The City of Calgary develop strategic business plans and budgets across all departments that **identify**, invest in and accelerate ideas such as high priority emissions reduction, climate risk reduction opportunities, **and implementation of a carbon budget;**
- That Council direct that The City of Calgary **to update agreements** with civic partners and subsidiaries **to support and ensure alignment with Calgary's emissions reductions targets;** and
- That The City of Calgary will advocate for funding from all orders of government for the purposes of accelerating immediate and near-term actions to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce climate risk to public built and natural infrastructure, deliver upstream flood and drought mitigation on the Bow River, **build community resilience**, seek disaster risk reduction from climate change **and support strategic opportunities for Calgary's economy.**

REFERENCES:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2021 *Billion dollar climate disasters* [2020 U.S. billion-dollar weather and climate disasters in historical context | NOAA Climate.gov](#)

Natural Resources Canada - NRCAN, 2021 *Costs and Benefits of Climate Change* [Canada in a Changing Climate: National Issues Report – Costs and Benefits of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation \(nrcan.gc.ca\)](#)

Flavelle, C., New York Times, Sept 22, 2021 [Climate Change Could Cut World Economy by \\$23 Trillion in 2050 - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

United Nations , May 16, 2018. [68% of the world population projected to live in urban areas by 2050, says UN | UN DESA | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#); (United Nations, n.d.)

Cities and Pollution.; [Cities and Pollution | United Nations](#); (UN Environment Programme, n.d.)

Cities and Climate Change. [Cities and climate change | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)

Climate Portal, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2021 [Cities and Climate Change | MIT Climate Portal](#)

IBC, January 18, 2021 [Severe Weather Caused \\$2.4 Billion in Insured Damage in 2020 \(Embargoed until January 18, 2021\) \(ibc.ca\)](#) (CatIQ, April 20, 2018).

100 Catastrophes From 200-2018 Cost The Canadian Insurance Industry C\$17.4 Billion. [100 Catastrophes from 2008-2018 Cost the Canadian Insurance Industry C\\$17.4 Billion - CatIQ](#)

Climate Emergency Declaration. Org 2021 [Climate emergency declarations in 2,037 jurisdictions and local governments cover 1 billion citizens - Climate Emergency Declaration](#)

City of Calgary, 2020 *Fall 2020 Quality of Life and Citizen Satisfaction Survey* [Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results \(calgary.ca\)](#).

Price Waterhouse Coopers, October 2021 *It's not easy being green: Tech towards net zero* (pwc.com.au)