



INFORMATION ONLY COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: April 18, 2023

From: Paul Gipps, CAO

File No: P 21-20

Subject: **P 21-20, Corporate Climate Action Plan Introduction**

Report Prepared by: Holden Blue, Planner II

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure

Foster Safety and Well-Being

BACKGROUND

As part of Council's 2021-2022 Strategic Priorities, Council's efforts are aimed at fostering safety and well-being; this includes climate action initiatives, mitigation and adaptation efforts for the City corporation and the community. The City has led several initiatives and projects in recent years, including adaptations and retrofits of its community facilities in an effort to be more sustainable. The City continues to look to further its efforts taken at a corporate level, including developing a Corporate Climate Action Plan.

Through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, the Community Energy Association (CEA) has been hired to assist with the development of the City's first Corporate Climate Action Plan. The CEA brings professional expertise and vast experience in developing over 120 Corporate and Community Climate Action Plans with a large majority of these being completed in British Columbia including experience with municipalities in the Okanagan. In addition to being an advisor to local governments, the CEA facilitates coaching and education for individuals and institutions, and supports local governments and indigenous communities in developing plans and implementing climate action.

CEA will assist the City in developing corporate emissions reduction targets, model emissions projections, review facilities assessments, conduct a remote fleet assessment and suggest actions and initiatives to reduce corporate emissions, with the goal of future energy savings and efficiencies. In addition, implementation and monitoring direction will be provided with each action where possible along with an evaluation matrix to help prioritize future projects and actions.

As part of plan development, the CEA will identify grant funding opportunities and other opportunities that will assist in the implementation of the plan. Along with monetary investments in climate action, corporate collaboration will be key in implementing the plan once complete. The plan will provide staff and Council with clear objectives, investment strategy and vision for the future with respect to budget decisions and capital projects and be used for greater discussion on climate change planning.

City of West Kelowna Emissions Reporting and Climate Action's to Date

The BC Climate Action Charter is a voluntary agreement between the B.C government, the Union of B.C Municipalities, and each of the local governments that are signatories to the Charter. In 2008, the City of West Kelowna signed the Charter and as a signatory of the Charter, made the commitment to:

1. Become corporate carbon neutral;
2. Measure and report on the community's GHG emissions; and
3. Create complete, compact, and energy-efficient rural and urban communities.

The plan will help fulfill our commitments to the BC Climate Action Charter. The City has previously reported greenhouse gas emissions as part of the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program and more recently the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP). By reporting through these programs, the City receives funding for various climate action projects. While still reporting emissions through the LGCAP Program, the City can use the Corporate Climate Action Plan to advance additional initiatives.

Next Steps

During the plan development process, the consultant will be engaging various staff including a corporate wide survey, one on one meetings with staff as necessary, and meetings with an identified Technical Committee that will advise and provide expertise on department specific actions and operations. A Council workshop will also be undertaken by the consultant with the assistance of staff at an appropriate time during the projects development. It is important to recognize that the plan will provide a baseline for future work as climate action is broad and various interventions are required to make progress.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The project has an approved budget of \$50,000 for the development of the plan. Additional investment is anticipated following the plans completion to implement actions from the plan. Any future costs associated with work resulting from the plan will require appropriate approvals. Development of the plan may aid in future grant applications related to climate action implementation and further work the city may undertake to make meaningful change related to climate mitigation, resilience and adaptation.

REVIEWED BY

Chris Oliver, Planning Supervisor

Brent Magnan, Director of Development Approvals

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager / Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes No