

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

To: Elizabeth Tracy, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Mia Bojic, Planning Analyst

Subject: Climate Action Work Plan 2025

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the Whole of the new planning analyst role and how it will contribute to implementing Community Climate Action Plan actions and strategies in 2025.

BACKGROUND

In March 2022, the Village of Pemberton, with support from the Community Energy Association, released its Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP). The plan outlines six "big moves", broad categories of actions aimed at significantly reducing the community's emissions. The big moves are *Shift Beyond the Car*, *Electrify Passenger Transportation*, *Step Up New Buildings*, *Decarbonize Existing Buildings*, *Close the Loop on Waste*, and *Organizational Leadership*. Each one of the six big moves has its own strategies and actions that are necessary for full implementation of the CCAP.

In the final quarter of 2024, the Development Services team added a new role to help address ongoing projects tied to the Province's Local Government Housing Initiatives and the Housing Accelerator Fund. This role, titled planning analyst, also presents an opportunity to address actions in the CCAP. The staff member holding this position will dedicate approximately one quarter of 2025 working hours towards completing the climate action initiatives outlined in the CCAP.

DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

The planning analyst will support implementation of the CCAP strategies through an evolving internal work plan, a consolidated version of which is included as **Appendix A**. The planning analyst will play a key role in leading events, conducting research, and collaborating with other departments to advance CCAP initiatives.

With a background in urban planning and community engagement, the planning analyst will help focus efforts on cultural and community-based initiatives. For example, the planning analyst will host pop-ups at the Farmers' Market throughout the summer to gather feedback for wider organization efforts, such as access to active transportation in the Village.

Internal discussions led to identification of one event, the "Bike Bus" initiative, to encourage efforts towards reducing community emissions in the community. This event, to be led by the planning analyst, will target local commuters, particularly groups that may not often engage in climate action efforts, such as school-aged children and their busy parents. By organizing a

regular bike to school group for local families, the initiative will reduce vehicle trips and associated emissions in the short term and encourage participants to use the connections they make at the event to further cut emissions and to continue their new habits of biking and walking to school. The Bike Bus has become popular in neighbourhoods in Metro Vancouver, and with Pemberton's close-knit community, staff believe it could be a great way to involve the community in climate action initiatives. As seen in the workplan attached as **Appendix A**, this aligns with the Big Move *Shift Beyond the Car*.

The planning analyst will assist other departments in completing their Big Move responsibilities. For example, the planning analyst is assisting the Finance and Development Services departments with completion of the annual LGCAP report (the Village's emissions reporting to the province). LGCAP reporting requirements, growing in complexity every year, offer the Village an opportunity to demonstrate the impact of decisions made on emissions reductions.

Staff are currently working on grant funding for a study that aligns with one of the Big Moves. Details will be shared with the public once the Village has signed the agreement.

Appendix A lists a variety of tasks that will contribute to implementation of the CCAP actions and strategies. Examples include conducting research to identify grant opportunities that support achievement of CCAP goals and working with the communications and engagement coordinator to highlight climate action related posts relevant to the wider community. The tasks included in the workplan are based on discussions around the CCAP goals and Big Moves and consideration of staff capacity. The workplan is intended to evolve during implementation; input from Council is welcome.

Village staff are excited to see what the new role will bring in terms of addressing climate action through the CCAP.

COMMUNICATIONS

A follow up report to Council is planned for the end of 2025 outlining the successes and lessons learned from the conscious focus of the new position on climate action initiatives.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no legal considerations for this initiative.

BUDGET & STAFFING

Budgetary impacts associated with the addition of the planning analyst role have been reflected in the draft budget. Staff hours would be impacted only if other staff are needed to make certain initiatives possible.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL IMPACT

This report has no impact on other departments.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The planning analyst will dedicate time towards meeting CCAP goals and strategies, with the primary goal being to address the Big Moves and their associated actions and strategies through various initiatives throughout 2025.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This initiative aligns with the strategic priorities to *Protect Our Environment* and *Operate with Excellence*. Dedicating time of a staff member to work on meeting the CCAP goals and executing the strategies highlights the priority of protecting the environment.

IMPACT ON THE REGION

This initiative has no impact on other jurisdictions.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A: Climate Action Workplan Spreadsheet

Prepared by:	Mia Bojic, Planning Analyst
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