
TO: CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER **DATE:** 2021 Aug 30

FROM: DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES **FILE:** 33000-01
*Ref: Urban Resilient
Futures Initiative*

SUBJECT: URBAN RESILIENT FUTURES INITIATIVE

PURPOSE: To seek Council approval for staff to engage in the Urban Resilient Futures Initiative partnership.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council authorize staff to:
 - a. partner with the Simon Fraser University (SFU) Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and Vancity on the Urban Resilient Futures Initiative as outlined in section 3 of this report.
 - b. enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and Vancity on the delivery of the Urban Resilient Futures Initiative.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In 2020, the City of Burnaby adopted a Climate Action Framework that outlines targeted big moves and quick-start actions to reduce the City's community emissions to achieve targets set out in the City's 2019 declaration of a Climate Emergency.

The Urban Resilient Futures (URF) Initiative is a proposed three-year, co-funded partnership between the City of Burnaby, the Simon Fraser University Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and Vancity to employ dialogue and engagement tools to support Burnaby to overcome barriers to climate action. Aligned with the Climate Action Framework's Big Moves on Climate Leadership, Resilient Neighbourhoods and Zero Emission Buildings-Retrofits, Burnaby is one of just two cities approached to take part in the Initiative. The URF Initiative will advance climate action work in Burnaby by connecting local government with community members and residents on how to apply and prioritize climate action issues on the ground.

This report outlines the components of the Urban Resilient Futures Initiative. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council for staff to partner with the aforementioned external partners to deliver the Urban Resilient Futures Initiative in the City of Burnaby.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

The Urban Resilient Futures Initiative leverages relationships with post-secondary institutions and private organizations to enhance community engagement on climate action, supporting Burnaby's Climate Action Framework (2020 July 06).

Specifically, the URF Initiative supports Big Move 1: Climate Leadership, Big Move 2: Resilient Neighbourhoods and Big Move 7: Zero Emission Buildings Retrofit (Climate Action Framework, Report to Environment Committee, 2020 July 06).

Big Move 1: Climate Leadership

Burnaby strengthens City Leadership, administrative capacity and community engagement on climate and energy.

Quick Start 3. Work with partners and advocate for action by others, including senior governments.

Quick Start 4. Expand climate awareness, engagement and dialogue.

Big Move 2: Resilient Neighbourhoods

Embed zero-carbon policy into land use planning and adapt to impacts.

Quick Start 3. Plan for zero-carbon communities in the Official Community Plan.

Quick Start 4. Develop a Climate Adaptation Strategy with associated 10-year capital plan.

Big Move 7: Zero Emission (ZE) Buildings – Retrofits

Encourage, assist, and partner to reduce emissions from existing buildings.

Quick Start 2. Advance low-carbon programs for existing commercial and multi-family buildings.

Quick Start 3. Develop a city-wide ZE Building Retrofit Strategy.

The Urban Resilient Futures Initiative also supports the City of Burnaby's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016) and the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (2016).

Burnaby's partnership in the Urban Resilient Futures Initiative aligns with the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the plan.

Goal

- A Safe Community
 - Emergency preparedness – Enhance plans, procedures and services so that we are better prepared to respond to emergencies and are able to maintain City services.

- A Connected Community
 - Social connection – Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby.
 - Partnership – Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments.
- An Inclusive Community
 - Serve a diverse community – Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community.
 - Create a sense of community – Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging.
- A Healthy Community
 - Healthy environment – Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability.
 - Lifelong learning – Improve upon and develop programs and services that enable ongoing learning.
 - Community involvement – Encourage residents and businesses to give back to and invest in the community.
- A Dynamic Community
 - Community development – Manage change by balancing economic development with environmental protection and maintaining a sense of belonging.
- A Thriving Organization
 - Organizational culture – Ensure that our core values are reflected in our policies, programs and service delivery.
 - Communication – Practice open and transparent communication among staff, Council and the community.

3.0 URBAN RESILIENT FUTURES INITIATIVE – KEY COMPONENTS

3.1 Context

In September 2019, the City of Burnaby declared a climate emergency, and followed this declaration with the approval of a Climate Action Framework and City Energy Strategy in July 2020, to map out the City’s path towards the carbon reduction commitments of the climate emergency. These targets, to meet corporate carbon neutrality by the year 2040, and community-wide carbon neutrality by the year 2050, are ambitious and require coordinated and collaborative work between the City, residents, businesses, civic organizations and institutions, and provincial and federal levels of government.

Urban Resilient Futures, initiated by a contribution by the Aqueduct Foundation and stewarded by Simon Fraser University's Morris J. Wosk Centre for dialogue, will use dialogue and engagement to accelerate climate action in two cities, Burnaby being the first. In Burnaby, the implementation of the URF Initiative will be facilitated as a three-way partnership between the City of Burnaby, the SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, and Vancity, with the following outcomes for the City of Burnaby:

- Accelerating action on retrofits for commercial and residential buildings
- Increasing resident awareness and capacity for climate action
- Creating a shared vision and direction for land-use planning
- Demonstrating how cities can advance a just transition
- Developing participatory systems for governance, learning and evaluation.

The City of Burnaby is a particularly well-suited local government in which to implement this Initiative, thanks to the City's leadership on climate action, participatory governance, and the upcoming Official Community Plan renewal. To increase equity in public participation and to accelerate climate action, this work will draw on the deep existing relationships between the City, SFU and Vancity, including with the Burnaby Public Library, the Burnaby School District and the Burnaby Board of Trade. Furthermore, Burnaby's rate of development and change exemplifies some of the most pressing climate change related land-use and building retrofit challenges faced by municipalities across the Canada. Developing models for collaboration through the Urban Resilient Futures Initiative can support learning for neighbouring jurisdictions.

3.2 Programming

The Urban Resilient Futures Initiative will work towards the aforementioned outcomes through programming from Q3 2021 to Q2 2024. This programming will focus on the following four approaches:

1. Zero Emission Building Retrofit Taskforce (Q3 2021-Q3 2023)

Buildings account for approximately 50% of the carbon emissions in Burnaby city limits. Aimed at tackling the most challenging body of buildings in Burnaby to reach carbon neutrality - existing buildings - the Zero Emission Building Retrofit taskforce will provide recommendations to City staff on the Zero-Emissions Building Retrofit Strategy (Climate Action Framework Big Move 7, Quick Start 3). The taskforce will bring together industry, energy utilities, commercial and multi-residential property owners, tenants, representatives of those living in energy poverty, homeowners, technical experts and government representatives.

2. Neighbourhood Climate Action Projects and Awareness Campaign (Q4 2021-Q2 2024)

Supporting neighbourhood-driven initiatives is crucial to the achievement of the City of Burnaby's carbon emission reduction targets. Supported through financing and in-kind expertise, the neighbourhood projects stream will aim to increase public awareness and unlock community capacity on climate action. This series of projects will support co-designed, place-based projects that are actionable by local groups, and build on partnerships with existing community-facing organizations, such as schools, religious institutions, libraries, service clubs and other community groups. Community projects will be showcased at annual celebration events.

3. Citizens' Assembly on Livable and Resilient Neighbourhoods and Official Community Plan (Q3 2022-Q2 2024)

The Urban Resilient Futures Initiative includes the development of a Citizens' Assembly on climate initiatives and resilience, including the development of recommendations by the Assembly, and the commitment by Council to take into consideration and respond to recommendations provided by the Assembly.

The engagement planned through the Citizens' Assembly will complement, but not replace the public engagement processes required for the City of Burnaby to update its Official Community Plan (OCP).

4. Participatory Governance (Q3 2021-Q2 2024)

Achieving resilience in cities requires new thinking and deep investment by community members. Building on this knowledge, the URF Initiative will provide a framework for piloting participatory governance structures that will bring longevity to the work facilitated by the URF Initiative on the ground in Burnaby, and can provide other municipal governments with lessons learned on participatory governance. The development of this framework will include:

- Relationship building and co-design processes with partners, City staff, community members, under-heard voices, stakeholders, experts and traditional knowledge holders.
- Mapping community assets for resilience, and how they can inform the OCP, Climate Adaptation Strategy and 10-year capital plan.
- Developing long-term systems to support participatory process beyond the Urban Resilient Futures Initiative, including communicating decision-making back to community.

3.3 City of Burnaby Commitment

Involvement in the Urban Resilient Futures Initiative partnership requires in-kind and financial resourcing by the City of Burnaby, in the following ways:

To: Chief Administrative Officer
From: Director Corporate Services
Re: Urban Resilient Futures Initiative
2021 Sept 20.....Page 6

- **Financial Contribution of \$150,000** over the course of three years (\$50,000 per year), included in the Climate Action and Energy Department's 2022 budget request to support the implementation of this partnership. Burnaby's contribution will be a fraction of the \$700,000-\$825,000 total budget for the delivery of the Urban Futures Initiative in the City, with a more than 1:4 return on every dollar spent by the City.
- **Staff project management** (in-kind) for coordination and implementation of the Urban Resilient Futures Initiative.
- **Staff expertise** (in-kind) for:
 - research and analysis, and information and facilitation (taskforce and Citizens' Assembly);
 - design input into taskforce structure, Neighbourhood Climate Action & Awareness Projects, governance structures, community ambassadors program;
 - integration of Citizens' Assembly considerations with the OCP;
 - evaluation of the impacts of policy options on equity-seeking communities and groups that face heightened vulnerability to climate change (i.e. OCP, Adaptation Strategy and Retrofit Strategy).
- **Collaboration** with City of Burnaby Parks and Cultural Services, Burnaby Public Library, Burnaby School Board and Burnaby Board of Trade.
- **Representation** from Council and Environment Committee on the taskforce (structure to be determined).
- **Input** from the City's Environment Committee and Climate Leadership Group.
- **Response from Council** on the Citizens' Assembly recommendations.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

In order to support the City's Climate Emergency Declaration carbon reduction targets, and the Climate Action Framework Leadership, Resilient Neighbourhoods and Building Retrofit big moves, staff seek approval from Council to partner with, and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Simon Fraser University Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue and Vancity for the delivery of the Urban Resilient Futures Initiative.



Dipak Dattani
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

EL:aab

Copied to: Director - Engineering
Director - Finance
Director - Planning & Building
City Solicitor