

TO: CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER **DATE:** 2022 July 20

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT **FILE:** 33000-02
*Reference: Urban Resilient Futures:
Building Retrofit Taskforce*

**SUBJECT: URBAN RESILIENT FUTURES:
ZERO-EMISSIONS BUILDING RETROFIT TASKFORCE**

PURPOSE: To present Council with an update on the Urban Resilient Futures Partnership Zero-Emissions Building Retrofit Taskforce and the next steps for Taskforce recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report on the Zero-Emissions Building Retrofit Taskforce for information.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 2021 Burnaby entered into a three-year Urban Resilient Futures (URF) Initiative partnership with Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Morris J. Wosk Center for Dialogue and Vancity. The partnership aims to employ people-centered dialogue and engagement processes to break through barriers to climate action in Burnaby. In this first year (2021-2022) of the URF partnership, the focus has been on Burnaby's largest source of community carbon emissions: existing buildings.

Facilitated through the URF partnership, the SFU Wosk Center for Dialogue, with content support from City and Vancity staff, has convened a cross-sectoral Zero-Emission (ZE) Building Retrofit Taskforce. Between March and July 2022, the Taskforce developed a suite of recommendations on advancing building retrofits in the City of Burnaby. This set of recommendations will serve as a foundation in the development of the City's ZE Building Retrofit Strategy.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the URF ZE Building Retrofit Taskforce, and to outline the next steps related to the development of the City's ZE Building Retrofit Strategy.

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

The URF Zero-Emissions Building Retrofit Taskforce 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).

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Specifically, the URF Initiative supports Big Move 1: Climate Leadership, Big Move 2: Resilient Neighbourhoods and Big Move 7: ZE Buildings-Retrofits (*Climate Action Framework*, Report to Council, 2020 July 06).

The URF 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 URF Initiative aligns with the City of Burnaby’s *Corporate Strategic Plan* by supporting the goals of a *Connected Community*, an *Inclusive Community*, a *Healthy Community* and a *Dynamic Community*.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Existing Building Emissions

In September 2019, the City of Burnaby declared a climate emergency. In 2020, the City followed this declaration with the approval of a *Climate Action Framework*, mapping out seven “Big Moves” that tackle the City’s largest sources of carbon emissions as the City moves towards the ambitious carbon reduction commitments of the climate emergency declaration, and the goal of carbon neutrality by the year 2050.

Modelling for the *Climate Action Framework* shows that building emissions are the largest single sources of carbon emissions in the City’s carbon footprint (*Figure 1*), and that retrofiting existing buildings represents the largest carbon reduction opportunity for the City. Focussing on existing buildings as a significant source of emissions requires coordination and collaborative work between the City, residents, businesses, civic organizations and institutions, property owners, and all orders of government.

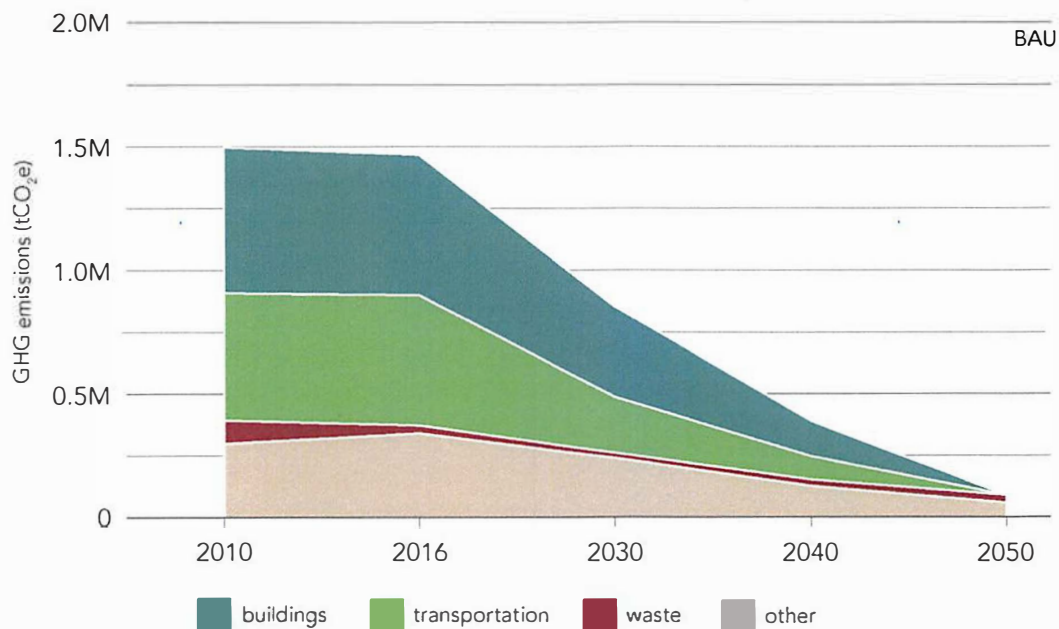


Figure 1. City of Burnaby Carbon Emission Sources and Pathway to Carbon Neutrality

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3.2 Urban Resilient Futures

In 2021, the City of Burnaby entered into the three-year URF Initiative partnership. This partnership is a co-funded initiative to accelerate climate action in cities and increase equity in public participation.

The outcomes of the URF Initiative span core community planning initiatives and target areas in the City's *Climate Action Framework*. The program outcomes are:

- Creating a shared vision and directions for consideration in community planning;
- Accelerating action on retrofits for commercial and residential buildings;
- Increasing resident awareness and unlock community capacity for climate action;
- Demonstrating how cities can advance the concept of a just transition; and,
- Developing participatory systems for governance, learning and evaluation.

Programming was designed and delivered as a part of the URF Initiative work to achieve a combination of these outcomes. Work in the first year of the URF partnership is focused on the program outcome of *accelerating action on retrofits for commercial and residential buildings*, through the convening and facilitation of a Zero-Emissions Building Retrofit Taskforce. This multi-sectoral taskforce is a new format in the region to tackle the widespread climate challenge of decreasing the carbon footprint of existing buildings.

4.0 ZERO-EMISSION BUILDING RETROFIT TASKFORCE

The 16- person Zero-Emission Building Retrofit Taskforce was designed and facilitated by SFU's Wosk Center for Dialogue. The Taskforce consists of Mayor Hurley, Councillor Keithley and Councillor Gu, representatives from the construction and homebuilding industry, representatives of commercial and multi-residential property owners, tenants, homeowners, groups reflecting the needs of residents, the City's vulnerable, technical experts, and representatives from the public sector and Burnaby's Intercultural Planning Table. Between March and July 2022, this group participated in seven half-day virtual meetings, progressing through context and vision setting, sharing and developing baseline and topic-specific knowledge, to developing and deliberating on building retrofit recommendations to present to the City of Burnaby.

As partners in the URF Initiative, Vancity and City of Burnaby staff provided contextual finance and municipal government information, as well as research and data to the Taskforce for members to consider during the Taskforce process. That information complemented the deep subject matter expertise of the Taskforce members and five targeted presentations from additional subject matter experts that occurred during the first four Taskforce meetings. These knowledge sources formed the basis for the Taskforce's development of and deliberation on recommendations to present to the City.

The ZE Building Retrofit Taskforce recommendations themselves are broken into two categories: priority recommendations for which the Taskforce has provided additional detail on how to initiate the recommendation and partners for the implementation of that recommendation; and general recommendations that provide broad direction to the City on advancing building retrofits. The URF Zero Emissions Building Retrofit Taskforce will present this suite of recommendations to Council, as a delegation, at Council's 2022 July 25 meeting. City staff have not conducted full feasibility and applicability studies on the Taskforce recommendations.

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5.0 NEXT STEPS

The recommendations presented by the URF ZE Building Retrofit Taskforce represent the culmination of scoping, analysis and subject matter expertise employed by the Taskforce through a deliberative and people-centered process. Aligning with the terms of the URF partnership, the next steps are as follows:

- City staff will develop a Citywide ZE Building Retrofit Strategy (Quick Start in the Climate Action Framework Big Move 7). This will include an analysis of the feasibility and applicability of the URF Taskforce recommendations.
- In early 2023, the City will share the City’s response to the Taskforce’s recommendations and the draft Building Retrofit Strategy with the Taskforce members for feedback.
- Staff will further refine the strategy based on Taskforce feedback, and will bring it forward for Council consideration.

The Taskforce’s work provides a foundational set of recommendations for the development of the ZE Building Retrofit Strategy. The Citywide strategy will build out evidence-informed policy direction for advancing building retrofits towards the City’s goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The City of Burnaby’s declaration of a Climate Emergency in September 2019 articulated the need for local government, residents, business owners, associations and non-profits to achieve deep and meaningful carbon reductions in the City of Burnaby, and beyond.

The Urban Resilient Futures Zero-Emission Building Retrofit Taskforce advances the City of Burnaby’s commitment to this work, focusing on the City’s largest source of emissions, existing buildings. This work sets a springboard for the development of the City’s Building Retrofit Strategy, a Quick Start in the City’s Climate Action Framework Big Move 7: Zero-Emissions Existing Buildings–Retrofits.

It is recommended that Council receive this report on the URF Building Retrofit Taskforce and the upcoming Building Retrofit Strategy for information.



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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

EL:aab

cc: Acting General Manager Engineering
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