

AGENDA INFORMATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Meeting	Date: July 8, 2019
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Date: _____

Dept. Manager	GM/ Director	CAO
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The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

June 25, 2019

File:

AUTHOR: Councillor Megan Curren

SUBJECT: Declaring a Climate & Ecological Emergency and Calling for Transformative Action

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the District of North Vancouver declare a climate & ecological emergency;

AND THAT staff are directed to incorporate more urgent climate action and ecological protection into strategic and financial planning processes;

AND THAT Council commit to meeting our carbon pollution targets which align with the most current IPCC science, and which were unanimously supported January 21, 2019;

AND THAT the District of North Vancouver establish an annual carbon budget for corporate and community carbon pollution beginning no later than January 2020;

AND THAT a North Shore Climate & Biodiversity Committee is formed;

AND THAT this declaration & climate commitment is shared with the community via dnv.org and via email to staff and partner agencies.

REASON FOR REPORT:

Despite decades of conclusive scientific data which directly linked the burning of fossil fuels with global warming, all levels of government have failed to take decisive climate action. These delays have led to the climate emergency we face today.

Without transformative climate policy action and system change, carbon pollution will continue to increase over time. We have witnessed the effects of 1.0°C of global warming and must recognize that there is no longer any “safe” level of carbon pollution. Our planet is already too hot.

Additionally, half of Canada’s monitored species (451 of 903) are in decline. And of those, the index shows an average decline of 83 per cent. Mammal populations fell on average by 43 per cent; grassland birds suffered 69 per cent loss; reptile and amphibian populations dropped almost 34 per cent, and fish populations declined by 20 per cent. (*source: WWF*

Canada, study period 1970 - 2014). Worse yet, following the 2002 implementation of the Species at Risk Act (SARA), many animals afforded protection under the federal conservation law have died off faster than they had before.

Biological diversity is the resource upon which families, communities, nations and future generations depend. It is the link between all organisms on earth, binding each into an interdependent ecosystem, in which all species have their role. (*source: WWF*)

If humans are to mitigate a mass species extinction there will need to be "fundamental, structural change," according to the recent IPBES report.

SUMMARY:

The Secretary General of the United Nations has stated, "if we do not change course by 2020, we risk missing the point where we can avoid runaway climate change, with disastrous consequences for people and all the natural systems that sustain us."

Future climate-related risks would be reduced by the upscaling and acceleration of far-reaching, multilevel and cross-sectoral climate mitigation and by both incremental and transformational adaptation. (*source: IPCC Summary Report for Policymakers 2018*)

Municipalities are on the front lines of climate change and are responsible for 60 percent of the country's transportation networks, water systems, and other public infrastructure that supports the country's economy and quality of life. Local action is critical to reaching our national climate goals, even more so considering that up to half of Canada's carbon emissions are under the direct or indirect influence of municipal governments. (*source: FCM*)

Biological diversity is undergoing such catastrophic declines that scientists, in peer-reviewed studies, are describing "biological annihilation" and warning of a sixth mass extinction in a historically unparalleled time-frame. (*source: WWF Canada*) System change is required.

BACKGROUND:

Climate change is caused by humans burning fossil fuels and the conversion of land from forests to agriculture. Carbon dioxide is the main cause of human-induced global warming and associated climate change. It is a very long-lived gas, which means carbon dioxide builds up in the atmosphere with ongoing human emissions and remains in the atmosphere for centuries. Global warming can only be stopped by reducing global emissions of carbon dioxide from human fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes to zero, but even with zero emissions, the global temperature will remain essentially constant at its new warmer level. (*source: Government of Canada*)

In October 2018, the IPCC sounded the climate crisis alarm and warned policymakers that limiting warming to 1.5°C (over 2.0°C) was required to reduce "climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth."

Canada's climate has warmed and will warm further in the future, driven by human influence.

Both past and future warming in Canada is, on average, about double the magnitude of global warming. Northern Canada has warmed and will continue to warm at even more than double the global rate. (*source: CCCR 2019*).

Canada ranks in the top 10 for GHG emissions and has one of the highest per capita GHG in the world. (*source: Western University*).

In Canada, and specifically in the District of North Vancouver, climate change impacts include flooding, wildfire, heat waves, invasive species, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, sea level rise, water shortages and landslides.

Damages to property and infrastructure, as well as costs for climate change adaptation will increase each year, and will continue to increase as the climate continues to breakdown.

Around the world, millions of people (primarily in the Global South) are already suffering from the effects of climate change. The people who have done the least to cause this crisis are impacted first and worst. Climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable populations and therefore all climate policy must be viewed through an equity lens.

Our planet is also facing an ecological breakdown. According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide. Ecosystems, species, wild populations, local varieties and breeds of domesticated plants and animals are shrinking, deteriorating or vanishing. The essential, interconnected web of life on Earth is getting smaller and increasingly frayed. This loss is a direct result of human activity and constitutes a direct threat to human well-being in all regions of the world.

EXISTING POLICY: (some are in progress):

[Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2017](#)
[Integrated Stormwater Management Plan \(ISMP\)](#)
[Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(CWPP\)](#)
[Strategic Energy Management Plan \(SEMP\)](#)
[Community Energy and Emissions Plan \(CEEP\)](#)
[Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program \(CARIP\)](#)
[The Municipal Natural Assets Initiative \(MNAI\)](#)
[NSEM](#)

Natural Hazards Management Program

Forest Resilience and Post-fire Rehabilitation

North Shore Sea Level Rise Risk Management and Adaptive Management Strategy

CONCLUSION:

We're in a climate and ecological emergency and transformative policies and action are required to avert catastrophic climate collapse.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Megan Curren

REVIEWED WITH:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office	_____	External Agencies:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Library Board	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Engineering	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> NS Health	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Services	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> RCMP	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Operations	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ITS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> NVRC	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum & Arch.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Environment	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw Services	_____		