

AGENDA INFORMATION

☒ Regular Meeting

Date: November 29, 2021

☐ Other:

Date: _____

Dept.
Manager

GM/
Director

CAO

The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

November 16, 2021

File:

AUTHOR: Megan Curren

SUBJECT: Endorsing the Call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the District of North Vancouver formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty;

AND THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, send a letter to the Premier of British Columbia and the Prime Minister of Canada urging the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to support the global initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty;

AND THAT the District of North Vancouver affirm its ongoing commitment to reduce community-wide carbon pollution emissions by 45%, over 2007 levels, by 2030 as indicated in our Community Energy and Emissions Plan and unanimously adopted by Council on December 2, 2019.

REASON FOR REPORT:

The District of North Vancouver (DNV) Council unanimously declared a Climate & Ecological Emergency in July of 2019 and called for transformative action to align policies with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) science.

Changes in the DNV climate are already being felt with the heat dome in the summer of 2021 causing more than 500 deaths in Metro Vancouver, flooding, extreme forest fire risk, drought, wildfire smoke, and sea level rise. Our entire community is impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion.

While there is much we can and must do at the local government level to keep DNV residents safe and healthy, local governments can also use our collective voices to drive system change at other orders of government.

The DNVs Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) indicates that, “...*federal and provincial action is not enough to meet these targets. Municipalities play a significant role in reducing our overall national emissions. They have jurisdiction over many decisions that affect the way we live, from the way we use our land, to the way buildings and transportation networks are designed. Reducing the District of North Vancouver's GHG emissions and supporting provincial and national targets will be needed to do the District's part and to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.*”

DNV residents have asked Council to join other local governments (including Toronto, Vancouver, Barcelona, Los Angeles, Cambridge, UK), as well as more than 100 Nobel Laureates, 2,500 scientists, academics and researchers, and 900 civil society organizations in joining the call for a global Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty (FF-NPT).

SUMMARY:

The FF-NPT is a global campaign to phase-out fossil fuels and propel a just energy transition globally.

The treaty is designed to complement the Paris Agreement - which critically does not mention coal, oil or gas. Global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce about 120% more emissions by 2030 than what is needed to limit warming to 1.5°C (source: 2019 Production Gap Report) and avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of our municipality to reduce GHG emissions. The construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global level.

A treaty would fill a fundamental gap to:

- Stop fossil fuels at source everywhere (non-proliferation);
- Phase-out existing fossil fuel reserves in line with a 1.5°C pathway (fair phase-out); and,
- support a global equitable transition to renewable energy (just transition).

BACKGROUND:

The idea of non-proliferation first emerged in the context of efforts to counter the threat of nuclear war through the creation of a nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Interestingly, parallels are increasingly drawn between the scale of the threat posed by nuclear weapons and that of runaway climate change by actors as diverse as the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) (Embury-Dennis, 2017), the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 2019) and the World Economic Forum, which names ‘weapons of mass destruction’ and ‘failure of climate mitigation and adaptation’ as the top two threats facing the world (WEF, 2019). The parallel was, in fact, perhaps most clearly articulated more than three decades ago in the statement from the Toronto Conference on a Changing Atmosphere in 1988 that

'Humanity is conducting an unintended, uncontrolled, globally pervasive experiment whose ultimate consequences could be second only to a nuclear war'.

There are also other precedents whose lessons could be further explored for the light they might shed on the politics of designing an FF-NPT. These include treaties on landmines and chemical weapons, or the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, whose definition of the scope of 'tobacco control' includes supply strategies, as well as demand and harm reduction. Restrictive supply-side policies have also played an important role in efforts to address other environmental challenges, including ozone-depleting substances (Benedick, 1991), asbestos (Waldman, 2011), and lead in petroleum products. (*Source: Towards a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty: Newell; Simms*).

Conclusion:

The DNV can lend our support to the collective call for a global FF-NPT in addition to continuing to align our policy and actions with science.

Options:

1. THAT the motion, as presented, is supported; or,
2. THAT the motion is not supported.

Respectfully submitted,



Megan Curren
Councillor

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	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Review and Compliance	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning	_____		

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