

MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, November 19, 2025

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Committee Room
Coquitlam City Hall
3000 Guildford Way
Coquitlam, BC

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 be approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Climate Action Plan Update (Presentation by Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment)

7:05pm – 7:35pm (30 minutes)

3. 2025 Year-End Review / 2026 Work Plan Development (Presentation by Victoria Elahi, Planner 1)

7:35pm – 8:05pm (30 minutes)

4. Committee Members' Roundtable / Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)

8:05pm – 8:20pm (15 minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – 2026

ADJOURNMENT



MULTICULTURALISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee convened on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Matt Djonlic, Chair
Councillor Brent Asmundson, Vice Chair
Parmis Bagher Zadeh, Citizen Representative
Tina Balachandran, Citizen Representative
Carolina Echeverri, Citizen Representative*
Honore Gbedze, Citizen Representative
Ann Johannes, Citizen Representative
Edgar Sanchez, Citizen Representative
Bibi Singh, Citizen Representative
Lucie Wee, Citizen Representative

ABSENT: Leo Chen, Citizen Representative
Nikki Kasravi, Citizen Representative
Bita Rezaei, Citizen Representative (Regrets)

GUESTS: Abigail Cameron, Associate Director Strategic Initiatives and Development, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (re Item 2)

STAFF: Victoria Elahi, Planner 1
Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025

The Minutes of the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership

The S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Representative gave a presentation entitled “Fostering Inclusive Communities: Immigrant Needs” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Lucie Wee entered the meeting at this point (7:04 p.m.).

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Importance of immigrants for economic, cultural, and social prosperity, and the importance of leaders at all levels and in all sectors to establish positive language about immigrants for the community to follow.
- Understanding the impact of American politics, misinformation, and disinformation including through social media, and other factors on incidents of hate in the community.
- The need to consolidate efforts across organizations including municipalities, schools, civic organizations, etc. to provide strength and unity of messaging.
- The need to be effective in intercultural campaigns and the use of different media and messages for different audiences by potentially using the press to share stories of immigrants with a suggested target audiences of 40-60 year olds and immigrants who hold anti-immigrant sentiments.
- Misunderstanding of immigration requirements such as the points system.
- The prevalence of underemployment relative to education and experience amongst immigrants.
- The impact of cultural and linguistic loss between generations in immigrant families and value of cultural education and reclamation.

Abigail Cameron left the meeting at this time and did not return (7:58 p.m.).

3. Canada Day Update

The Planner 1 provided introductory comments relative to the Canada Day Update. Appreciation of volunteers from the Committee.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The success of the map on which community members pinned their origins as an interactive tool.
- Suggestions to further engage the public using cultural food sampling, storytelling, swag, cultural dress, and/or a digital diary for visitors to write in.

- A suggestion to promote the Committee through a photograph of members or City of Coquitlam-branded clothing or buttons to wear at events.

4. Committee Members' Roundtable / Multicultural Communities and Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Immigrant Services Society of BC has a new location on North Road and there are open seats in a range of language classes, a new fast track to citizenship class and a new ASL class.
- DIVERSEcity is launching a Youth Eco Alliance program focused on civic engagement and leadership in reconciliation, inclusion, and climate justice and will offer grants.
- The Coquitlam Public Library is scheduled to host Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Day events on September 30 and a "Brave Spaces" multiculturalism series through the fall.
- Settlement workers are setting up immigration businesses as a result of loss of employment in civic organizations.
- Reports of employers exploiting the requirement for work permit holders to work 20 hours/week in order to register children in public school by selling falsified letters.
- The Simon Fraser University student groups are scheduled to host a Diwali event on October 10.
- Simon Fraser University international students are looking for English conversation groups.
- Consideration to re-establish "Welcome to Coquitlam" as an event that the Committee can lead in collaboration with other organizations.
- A project is underway to develop a book about the Venezuelan diaspora in Canada.
- The Vancouver International Film Festival, is scheduled for October 2-12 is an opportunity to support local filmmaking.

The Committee Clerk made the following announcements:

- Members are encouraged to promote the campaign to recruit volunteers to other City Boards and Advisory Committees.
- The annual Volunteer Recognition Event will take place in spring 2026, rather than fall 2025, and further information will be provided in the coming months.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Wednesday, November 19, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Matt Djonlic, Chair

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

City of Coquitlam

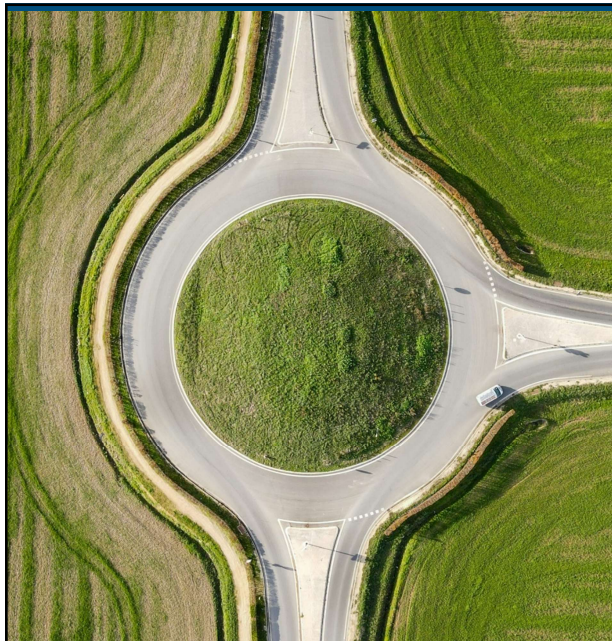
Climate Action Plan

Multicultural Advisory
Committee Presentation

November 19, 2025


coquitlam.ca/

Coquitlam



Purpose of Presentation

We are engaging your committee to:

1. **Provide an update** on the development of the Climate Action Plan.
2. **Present an overview of actions that** align with Multiculturalism Advisory Committee's priorities.
3. **Gather your input** on how we can work together to ensure effective implementation of actions.

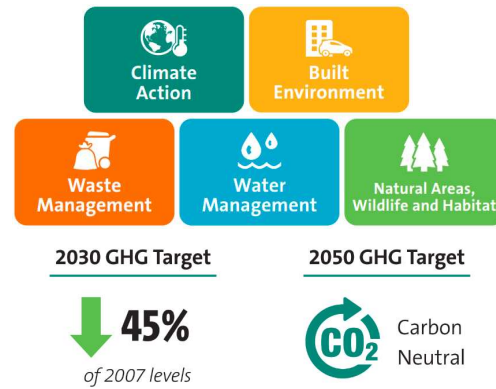
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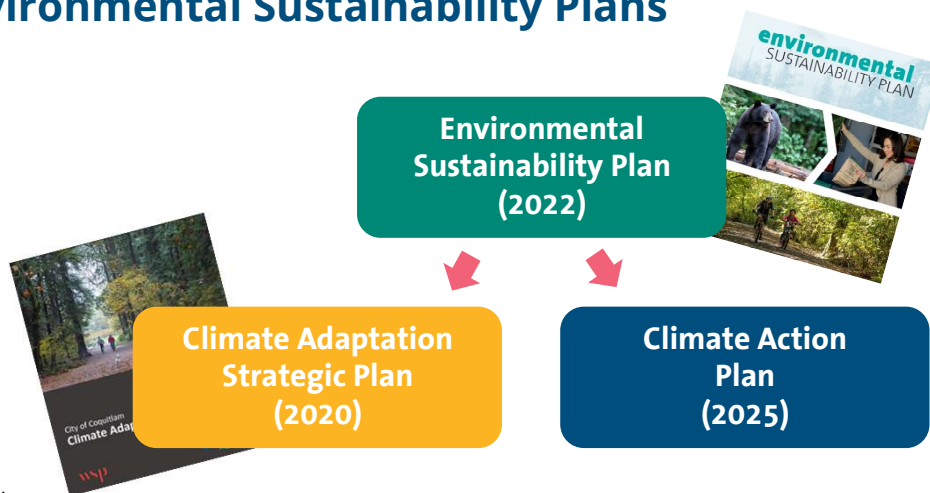
Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP)



Links existing and future environmental actions together in a single plan with clear goals, targets, and actions.

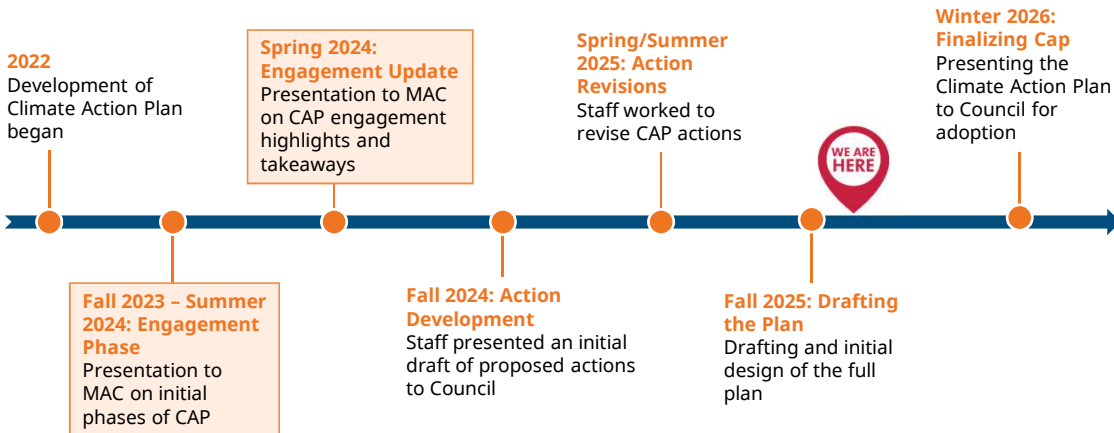


Environmental Sustainability Plans



- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- Adaptation + Mitigation

Climate Action Plan Timeline



Engagement



Climate Action Plan Structure



Guiding Principles



Alignment with Multiculturalism Strategic Plan



The Climate Action Plan puts forward actions that support:

1. Equity and inclusion of all residents in community climate action.
2. Communication, outreach and building partnerships with diverse communities.
3. Sustainable, resilient infrastructure and built environment supporting community wellbeing.
4. Innovation to address emerging community needs and environmental changes.

Action Highlights

FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS
How We Move	• Advocate with other local jurisdictions to TransLink and the Province for increased funding for more accessible, reliable and affordable public transit and active transportation • Support expansion and use of low carbon car sharing and shared micromobility.
How We Lead	• Engage community members and encourage climate action through public communication and education. • Explore and establish partnerships with external organizations, financial institutions and investors to help fund civic climate action. • Explore ways to equip and empower youth to navigate projected climate impacts through training and increased youth participation in climate discussions and initiatives.

Action Highlights

FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS
How We Build	• Advocate for and promote programs that increase local industry capacity and provide equitable homeowner access (including for multi-unit residential buildings) to energy efficient, low carbon, resilient and renewable upgrades and retrofits. • Advocate to other levels of government, NGOs, and utility partners to expand programs that address energy affordability, and educate the public on initiatives that increase energy efficiency, lower heating bills and improve thermal comfort.
How We Consume	• Explore Coquitlam's role in supporting and advocating for a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food system. • Participate in the regional Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan update and leverage this work to develop, implement and promote circular economy initiatives.

Action Highlights

FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS
	• Identify opportunities to integrate climate-resilient planting, shading features, and landscaping into design and improvement projects to enhance cooling, storm water management and storm resilience
How We Steward	• Work with regional partners to advance nature-based solutions to address climate risks and hazards. • Complete and implement the City's Urban Forest Management Strategy.

Discussion

We'd like to get your input on implementation



Discussion Questions

Culturally Inclusive Climate Communication

How can we make sure that our climate communication — both the language we use and the tools we choose — are inclusive and accessible for Coquitlam's diverse cultural communities?

(Think about communication formats or channels; language or narratives used; cultural traditions, stories, or practices related to sustainability that could be highlighted or built upon; ways to make climate conversations feel more meaningful across diverse cultural contexts)



Discussion Questions



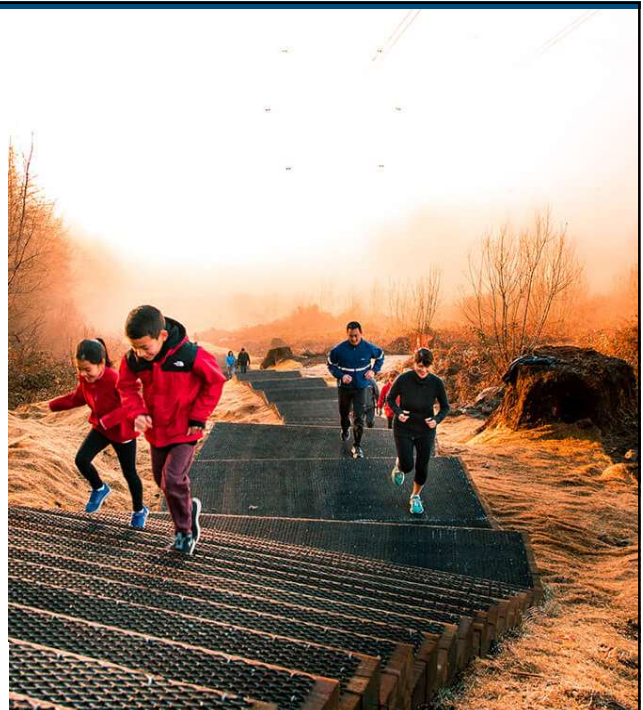
Culturally Relevant Climate Action

In what ways can climate action efforts be more culturally relevant and connected to community life?

(Think about how climate action can be integrated into existing cultural festivals/community events; community organizations we should collaborate with; how to highlight/build upon existing cultural sustainable practices/traditions, for example, reuse and repair)

Next Steps

1. Incorporate today's discussion in implementation planning
2. Present draft plan to Council in Winter 2025
3. Work toward final adoption of the plan in early 2026





Questions?

Coquitlam

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Thank you!

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Sustainability Programs Specialist

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