

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, November 25, 2025

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

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

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025**

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 be approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Urban Forest Management Strategy (Presentation by Kathleen Reinheimer, Senior Manager Parks)**
7:05 – 7:35 p.m. (30 minutes)
- Climate Action Plan (Presentation by Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment)**
7:35 – 8:05 p.m. (30 minutes)
- 2025 Year-End Review / 2026 Work Plan Development (Presentation by Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment)**
8:05 – 8:25 p.m. (20 minutes)
- Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**
8:25 – 8:40 p.m. (15 minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – 2026

ADJOURNMENT

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

** Indicates Virtual Attendance*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Mark Ashton, Citizen Representative
Grayson Barke, Citizen Representative
Reza Berry, Citizen Representative
Craig Busch, Citizen Representative
Linton Chokie, Citizen Representative
Daryoush M. Hassani, Citizen Representative
Edward Lau, Citizen Representative
Sarah Ramji, Citizen Representative*
Hasina Razafimahefa, Citizen Representative
Nadia Springle, Citizen Representative
Azar Varasteh, Citizen Representative

ABSENT: Councillor Steve Kim, Vice Chair (regrets)

GUESTS: Esther Berube, Division Manager Air Quality Bylaw and Regulation,
Metro Vancouver (re Item 2)
Gaurav Singh, Air Quality Planner, Metro Vancouver (re Item 2)

STAFF: Tobi May, Director Major Capital Projects
Julie Kanya, Manager Environmental Education and Enforcement
Wei Duan, Capital Project Manager
Madeleine Lemaire, Solid Waste Program Specialist
Nilou Rajaei, Urban Wildlife Coordinator
Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Proposed Amendments to Metro Vancouver Air Quality Management Fees

The Metro Vancouver Representatives gave a presentation entitled “Proposed Amendments Air Quality Management Fees” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The organizations to which Metro Vancouver air quality management fees apply, and which are the most significant emitters.
- The extent of possibilities for organizations to make changes to operations to respond to these fee changes by 2030, and how those organizations making investments in emissions reductions can be accommodated.
- The importance of buy-in and feedback from affected industries.
- The outsized impact of small gas-powered equipment and fireplace emissions.
- The potential for organizations to be delinquent in fee payments.
- The proportion of the air quality management budget spent on monitoring.
- The function of regional planning and municipal zoning in industrial land management, the location of emitting facilities, and the mitigation of odour complaints based on residential proximity to industrial uses.
- The anticipated impact of fee proposals and related emissions limits set by permits to facilitate better monitoring, management, and response to complaints, the historical record, and relationship to public health.
- The online portal for citizens to file complaints and its role in supporting investigation and compliance.

In response to Committee discussion, the Metro Vancouver Representatives noted the following:

- Private entities that hold related permits are assessed fees; municipal agencies managing solid and liquid waste are regulated by and pay fees to the provincial government.

- Actions to reduce emissions and fees could include improved capture and treatment (i.e. sealing, vacuum, and filtration) and material management practices. The provision of short-term permitting supports investment in new technologies by allowing for emissions measurement before transitioning to a long-term permit once a technology is proven.
- Notable contributors of air contaminants are cement plants and refineries, and those of odorous air contaminants are composting and rendering plants.
- Affected industries recognize the cost-recovery principle, and request transparency, predictability, and a phase-in of fees and measures. Requests to remove fees for specified odorous emissions will not be met because of the impact on the community, and the importance of the fee to incentivizing reductions and recovering specific associated costs.
- Small equipment and fireplace emissions are addressed by education programs through tax requisitions rather than regulation and cost-recovery fees.
- The consequences of failure to pay fees include loss of permits after 75 days, and fines or prosecution for operation without permits.
- Odorous contaminants have more indirect public health costs (ex. overheating, inactivity, inability to work) that are more difficult to quantify and fee rates are proportional to health and community impacts, as determined by the Air Quality Benefits Assessment from Health Canada.
- The program is proven in its impact on particulate matter and ozone, but while industrial emissions have improved significantly, new challenges arise from climate change and ground level ozone from vehicles and buildings.
- Approximately 2,000 odorous emissions complaints are received per year.

Esther Berube and Gaurav Singh left the meeting at this point and did not return (7:34 p.m.).

3. Burke Mountain Community Centre and Burke Village Park Update

The Director Major Capital Projects and Capital Projects Manager gave a presentation entitled “Burke Mountain Community Centre and Burke Village Park Design Update” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

The Solid Waste Program Specialist and Urban Wildlife Coordinator entered the meeting at this point (7:46 p.m.).

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The environmental strategies being taken for the Zero Carbon Building Standard, and comparisons with LEED Certification, Zero Carbon operations, and Zero Carbon Step Code.
- The possibility of on-site energy production.

- Tree retention on the site, particularly in the northeast where there is no site development planned.
- The extent to which the water element of the park constitutes a construction, reconstruction, or diversion of a stream, and what ecological impact it will have.
- Consideration of how the site might serve as a wildlife corridor.
- Suggestion of a pollinator garden on the roof.
- Suggestion of a hiking trail connection between this site, Town Centre Park, and on to the Pitt River.
- Anticipation of demand for EV chargers and AC versus DC charger types.
- The community consultations used to determine “unique” needs in a neighbourhood that is still developing.
- A suggestion of including local plants with Indigenous significance and Indigenous art accompanied with educational information (ex. Mundy Park Pool).
- A suggestion to use greywater for irrigating the park.
- A suggestion to include signage to promote sustainability features.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- The Zero Carbon design standard is voluntary and rigorous, while the step code is regulatory and sets minimums, and the City’s current focus is on design to achieve net zero building functionality, including full electrification, while decisions regarding operations and related costs will be made later.
- Photovoltaic panels are being considered and have a strong business case.
- The stream in the park is part of overall water management in the area, and constitutes an enhancement of a watercourse with the addition of site runoff as required by federal regulation.
- A green roof is not feasible due to the structural span over large spaces such as the pool and gyms but the park may include pollinator species.
- EV changers will be provided for 30% of parking spaces with AC rather than the rapid-charging DC that creates too much electricity demand.

The Director Major Capital Projects and the Capital Projects Manager left the meeting at this point and did not return (8:18 p.m.).

4. 2025 Environmental Volunteer Celebration Debrief

The Solid Waste Program Specialist gave a presentation entitled “2025 Environmental Volunteer Celebration Debrief” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The importance of recognizing community groups in this way.
- A suggestion to focus on engaging middle school students in sustainability education, programs, and activities to ensure continuity across generations.

5. 2025 Urban Wildlife Update

The Urban Wildlife Coordinator gave a presentation entitled “Urban Wildlife Program Update” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- A suggestion of using trail cameras to share wildlife with the community online.
- A perception that wildlife reporting is reduced due to familiarity with wildlife.
- The need for increased education regarding fruit tree harvesting.
- Means to target education efforts to new residents, who may be unfamiliar with coexisting with wildlife.

Edward Lau left the meeting at this point (8:43 p.m.)

- Effectiveness of various communication methods used to share education and awareness.
- The timing and impact of coyote breeding season and dispersal season.
- Notice that dumpsters are attracting bears at Mundy Park Outdoor Pool and a suggestion to develop a protective structure.

Edward Lau returned to the meeting at this point (8:46 p.m.).

- The relationship between the Urban Wildlife program, endangered species management, and conservation/habitat protection.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- Information on wildlife regulation is provided annually with utility slips.
- Door-to-door education visits are undertaken in new residential neighbourhoods such as Burke Mountain.
- The most effective communications method has been social media.
- The City's Urban Wildlife program focuses on co-existing with wildlife and reducing human wildlife conflict.
- The Species at Risk Act (SARA) is federal and establishes legal protection for listed species.
- The Conservation Officer Service is provincial.

The Solid Waste Program Specialist and the Urban Wildlife Coordinator left the meeting at this point and did not return (8:55 p.m.).

6. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging sustainability and environmental issues and events in their communities.

Discussion ensued relative to the significant scale of the Fraser River salmon run this year due to conservation efforts.

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 – Tuesday, November 25, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

City of Coquitlam
Parks, Recreation,
Culture and Facilities

Urban Forest Management Strategy - Early Findings and Key Directions

Sustainability and Environmental
Advisory Committee
November 25, 2025


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Agenda

1. Benefits of the Urban Forest
2. Baseline Research and Analysis
3. Community Engagement Outcomes
4. Recommendations
5. Next steps



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Urban Forest Benefits

Quality of Life / Livable Community

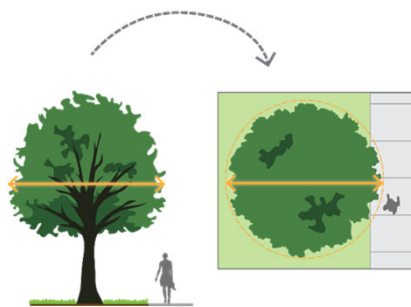
- Mental and physical human health
- Recreational amenities
- Shade/cooler temperatures
- Increased property values

Environmental Benefits

- Wildlife habitat
- Cleaner air
- Storm water management
- Carbon capture



Urban Forest Extent – Current Conditions

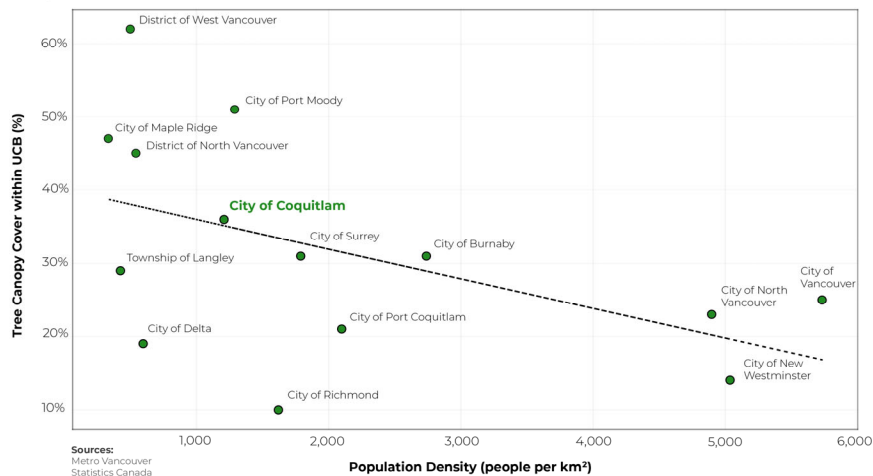


City-wide: 52%

Outside Urban Containment Boundary: 69%

Urban Containment Boundary: 33%

Regional Tree Canopy % (2020)



Urban Forest Management Analysis: Strengths

The City has demonstrated good or optimal performance in several areas, including:

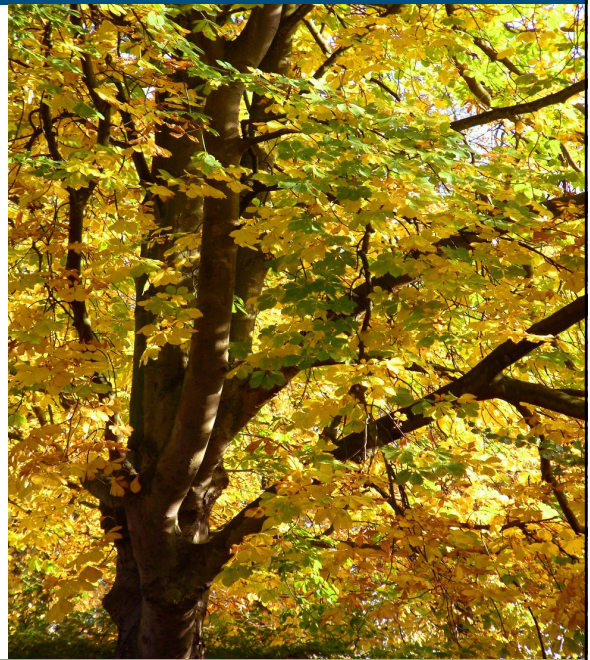
- Preservation and protection of natural forests - Mundy, Coquitlam River parks, Hoy/Scott, and Boothe Creek
- Recognition of the importance of the Urban Forest
- Tree risk assessment
- Engaging the public in Urban Forestry initiatives



Urban Forest Management Analysis: Gaps

Identified gaps in our Urban Forest management program include:

- Comprehensive data in the current tree inventory
- Species diversity
- City-wide planning for tree planting
- Compensation funding and tree planting securities
- Strategic direction for natural area management



Community Engagement: What We Heard

The City engaged over 780 people:

- 473 online survey respondents
- 188 attendees at pop-up events
- 100 online mapping tool
- 975 written response comments
- 41 Council Advisory Committee participants
- 30 community group participants



Insights from the Community

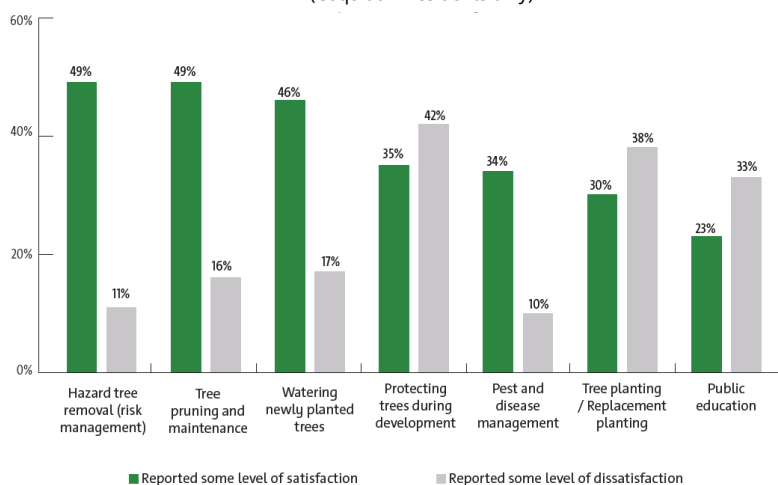
- Strong community support for the Urban Forest
- Consensus that Urban Forests are vital to the City's environmental health and quality of life
- Concern about the impact of development on the urban forest
- Recognition of the importance of public engagement and education
- Barriers to planting trees on private property related to space, cost, and knowledge
- Satisfaction with the City's Urban Forestry services

- The engagement process was initiated prior to the Provincial housing legislation.
- These insights require the context of the legislation, which limits our ability to manage trees on private property.



Satisfaction with City Services

Service Areas – Total Satisfied compared to Dissatisfied
(Coquitlam residents only)



Building on Success

Focus on Impactful Action:

- Proactive care of forested land (approx. 812 Hectares)
- Enhanced tree planting requirements City-wide
- Strategic tree planting plan
- Increased species diversity for street trees and forested areas
- Expanded public education and participation



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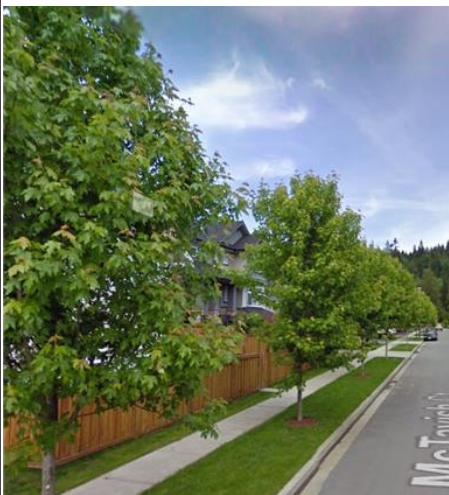
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Tree Growth Over Time

Recently Planted

5-10 years

15-20 years



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Achievable Goals Rather Than City-wide Canopy Cover Target

The Strategy will focus on meaningful actions with measurable outcomes within the City's control:

- Enhanced planting and stewardship on City property
- Creative planting solutions in high density areas
- Opportunities for planting on school properties through agreements with School District 43
- Increased community engagement, education and volunteer opportunities
- Incentives to encourage private property tree planting and care



Focus on Incentive-Based Tree Planting and Replacement Requirements

Staff recommend retaining the City's current Tree Management Bylaw.

- Focuses on regulatory protections for private property trees that provide high ecological value or slope stability
- Low administrative burden
- Does not discourage tree planting - homeowners know they have the flexibility to manage their trees in the future
- Ultimate goal to ensure a thriving Urban Forest through expanded public education and community participation



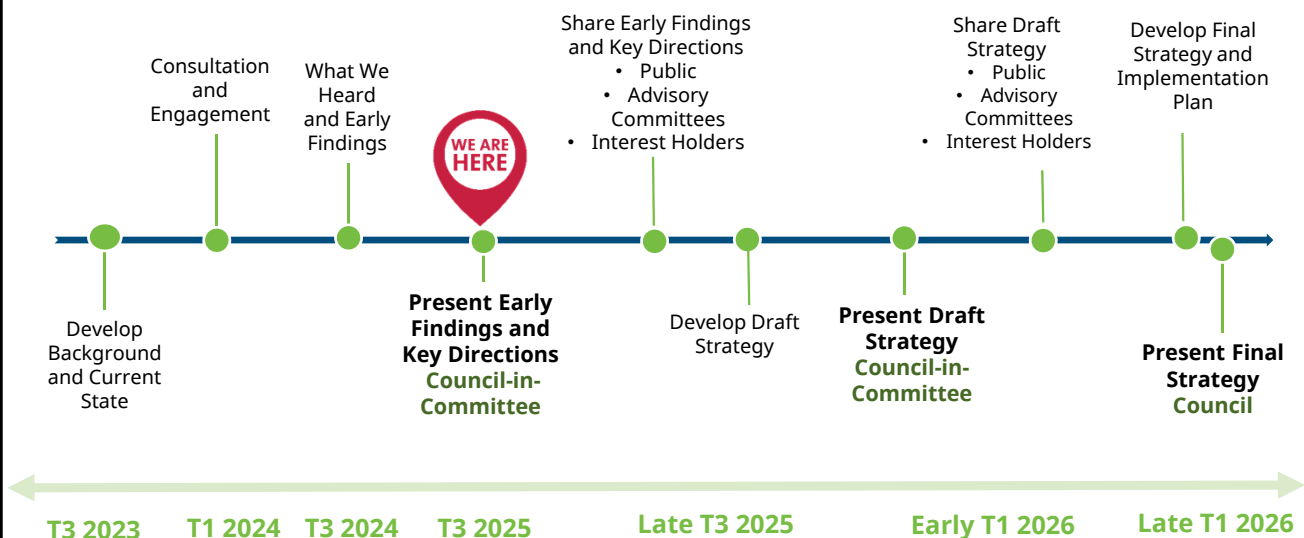
Planting Requirements for All Development Sites and Cash-in-Lieu System

The funding would support Urban Forestry activities, including:

- Tree planting on City property
- Public education and incentive-based planting programs
- Maintenance activities to ensure the ongoing health of forested areas in Parks



Strategy Update Timeline





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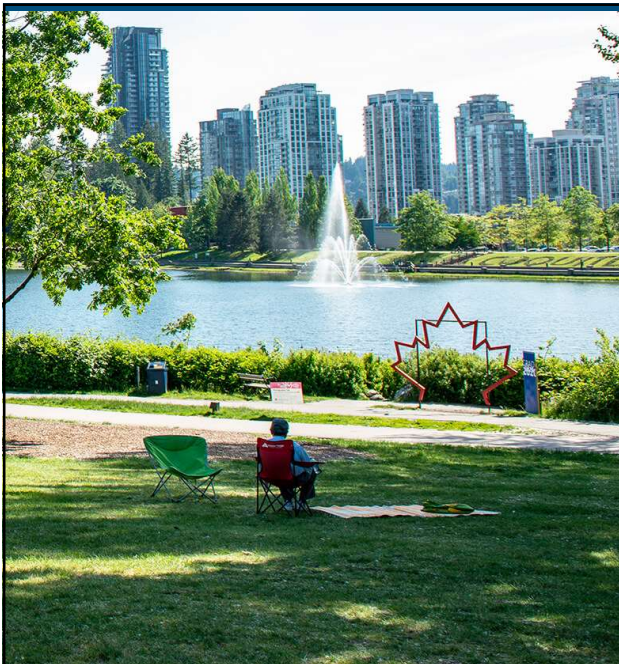
Climate Action Plan

Sustainability and Environmental
Advisory Committee Presentation

November 25, 2025


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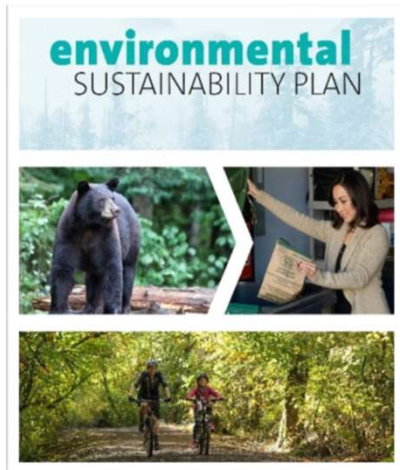
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Purpose of Presentation

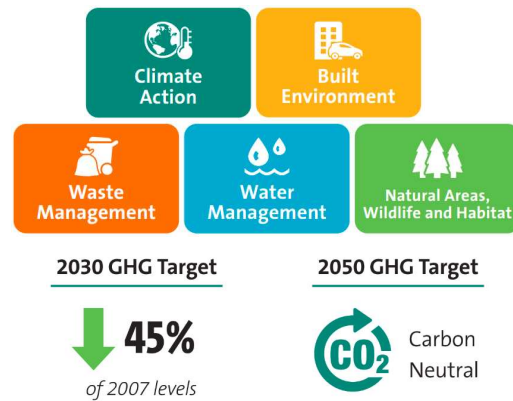
We are engaging the committee to:

1. **Provide an update** on the development of the Climate Action Plan.
2. **Present an overview of CAP strategies and actions.**
3. **Gather your input** on how we can work together to ensure effective implementation of actions.

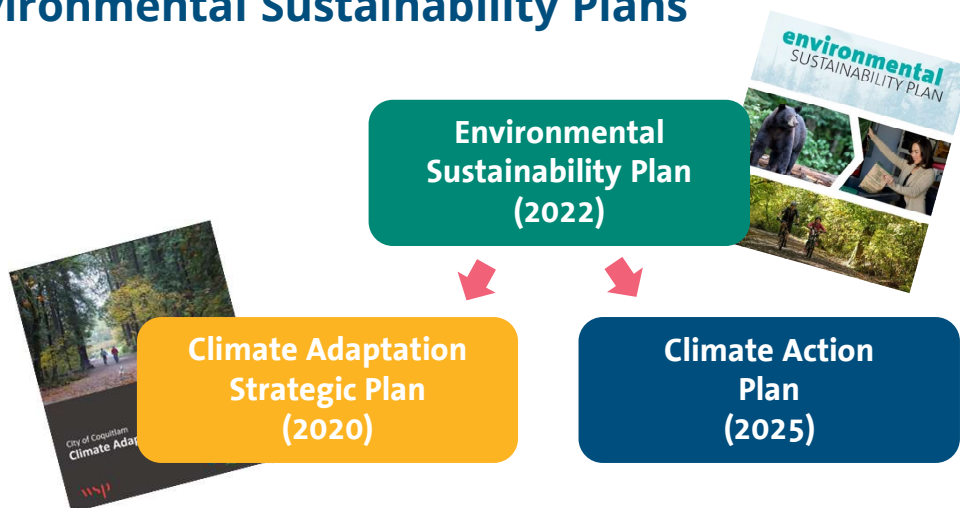
Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP)



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

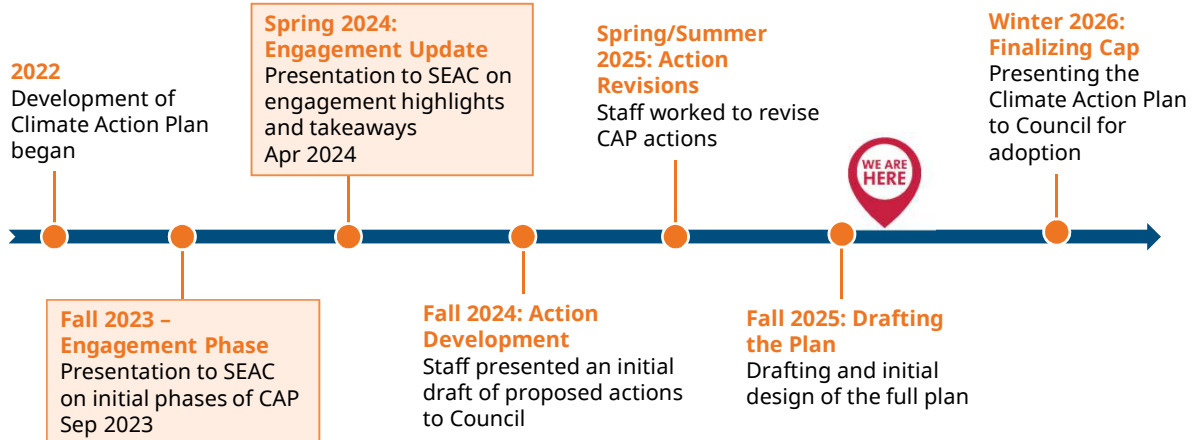


Environmental Sustainability Plans



- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- Adaptation + Mitigation

Climate Action Plan Timeline



10 interviews with community organizations serving vulnerable or marginalized communities to inform engagement approach

Public survey
435 submissions

Council Advisory Committee discussions*
44 participants across four committees with a relevant mandate

Seven in-person 'pop-up' events throughout the community
engaging over **350** people

Five community group engagement sessions
engaging over **65** participants

One engagement session with the Urban Development Institute
UDI engaging **40** attendees

Two online information sessions
engaging **22** attendees

Two public event presentations
engaging over **130** attendees

Three youth-focused events
engaging over **100** youth

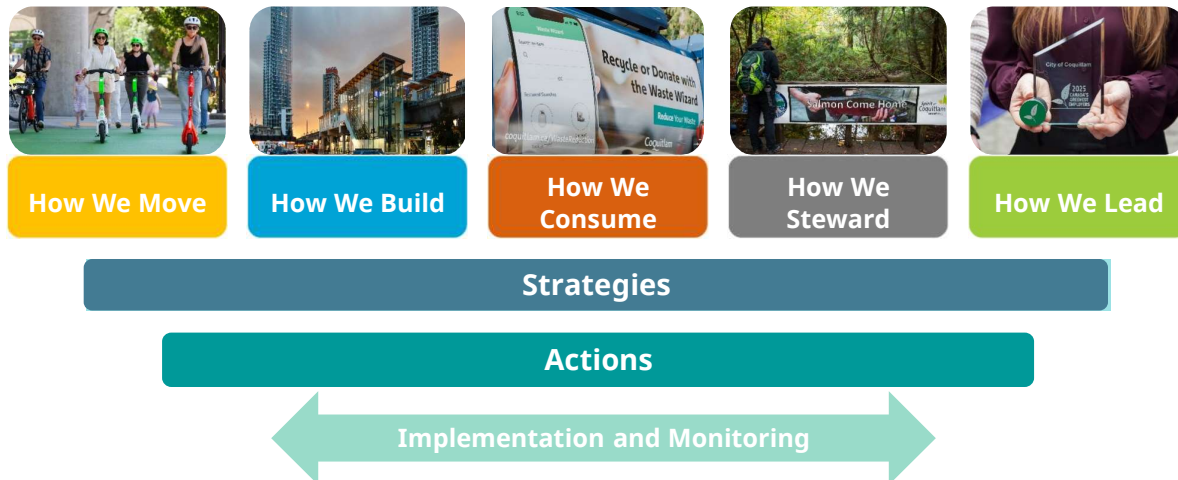
Visits to [Let's Talk Coquitlam.ca/ClimatePlan](https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca/ClimatePlan)
Let's Talk Coquitlam **1,500+** visits

Over 48,000 people reached on the City's social media channels (Facebook, Instagram)
48,000+ people

Engagement



Climate Action Plan Structure



Guiding Principles



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. • Support the expansion of the electric vehicle charging network further by creating a supportive policy environment, addressing regulatory barriers, and communicating opportunities and information to businesses, stratas, and institutions.

Action Highlights

FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS
HOW WE BUILD	• Explore opportunities to encourage innovative low carbon and resilient construction, including heating and cooling solutions in new residential construction. • Explore ways to support and promote programs and initiatives that help protect vulnerable individuals from extreme weather events including initiatives that support access to cooled indoor spaces and cleaner air spaces, as well as income-qualified programming available through government and utility partners. • 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.

Action Highlights

FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS
HOW WE CONSUME	- Participate in the regional Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan update and leverage this work to develop, implement and promote circular economy initiatives. - Develop initiatives to reduce solid waste generation and increase diversion at all City facilities, as well as City-hosted and City-led events.
HOW WE STEWARD	- 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. - Support the protection, enhancement, restoration and connectivity of ecosystems.

Action Highlights

FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS
HOW WE LEAD	- Continue to assess existing facilities for opportunities to improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions and enhance climate resilience and implement this work as part of asset renewal and capital planning processes, leveraging funding opportunities where possible and realizing cost and operational benefits. - Transition fleet vehicles and fuel sources to low carbon alternatives in alignment with the Green Fleet Strategic Plan and fleet replacement schedule. - Work with partners to develop and implement awareness and outreach programs that inform residents and businesses about climate action opportunities within their sphere of influence.

Discussion

We'd like to get your input on implementation



Discussion

Communications and Engagement

- How can the City build greater public awareness and buy-in for the actions outlined in the CAP?
- Are there specific approaches or types of messaging that would resonate most with the community?

(Think about approaches, as well as types of messaging, for example climate change and health, future/youth focused messaging, emissions reduction, resilience, energy reduction and cost savings)



Discussion



Collaboration

- What opportunities do you see for partnerships with local organizations, institutions, or businesses to help implement the plan?

(Think about community groups, not-for-profit organizations, schools and institutions, as well as industry, businesses, and the private sector)

- Are there any examples of Coquitlam organizations already doing great climate action work that the City could support and/or learn from?

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?

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Thank you!

Caresse Selk, cselk@coquitlam.ca
Senior Manager Environment

Juan Martinez, jmartinez@coquitlam.ca
Sustainability Programs Specialist

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City of Coquitlam
Engineering and Public Works

SEAC 2025 Year-end Review & 2026 Work Planning







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Date	Topics
February 11	• 2025 Work Plan Review and Adoption • Established Environmental Volunteer Celebration Event Planning Sub-committee • Active Transportation Project Engagement • Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing Implementation and Transit-Oriented Areas Update
April 8	• Stormwater Treatment Facility Update • Reducing 6PPDQ in Fish-Bearing Watercourses • Inflow and Infiltration Update
June 7	• Environmental Volunteer Celebration
June 24	• CANCELLED
September 16	• Metro Vancouver Proposed Amendments to Air Quality Management Fees • Burke Mountain Community Centre and Burke Village Park Update • Environmental Volunteer Celebration Debrief • Urban Wildlife Update
November 25	• Urban Forest Management Strategy • Climate Action Plan • Year-End Review and Work Planning

SEAC Feedback

- Which items were of most interest/relevance to you?
- Which items were of the least interest/relevance to you?
- Do you prefer virtual or in-person subcommittee meetings?
- Do you have any other comments or thoughts on your experience?



2026 Work Plan Input

What topics should be considered for the 2026 work plan?

Are there items that should be brought to the committee annually?

Rollover of items from 2025:

- Joint Flood Mitigation Program
- District Energy Update
- Blue Mountain Park Master Plan
- Glen Park Improvement Planning
- Demolition and Deconstruction Policies
- Transportation Plan

Departmental Priorities:

- Park and Facility Plans
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Engineering and Environmental Initiatives



Thank you

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