

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Tuesday, November 25, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 7:01 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
Councillor Steve Kim, Vice-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
Hasina Razafimahefa, Citizen Representative
Nadia Springle, Citizen Representative
Azar Varasteh, Citizen Representative

ABSENT: Sarah Ramji, Citizen Representative (Regrets)

STAFF: Kathleen Reinheimer, Senior Manager Parks
Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment
Julie Kanya, Manager Environmental Education and Enforcement
Juan Martinez, Sustainability Program Specialist
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 Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025

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

Craig Busch and Linton Chokie entered the meeting at this point (7:05 p.m.)

NEW BUSINESS

2. Urban Forest Management Strategy

The Senior Manager Parks gave a presentation entitled “Urban Forest Management Plan” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Concern about unintended costs arising from planting impacts on the structural integrity of buildings.
- Appreciation of tree replacement requirements for development, and a desire to understand the replacement ratio performance versus goal.
- Suggestion that use of more appropriate tree and plant species could improve outcomes in, for example, parking lots, and that those species might be made available by the City growing them directly, through a regional approach, or with provincial incentives for industry.
- Desire for alignment between urban forestry and storm water management.
- Desire for alignment with Climate Adaptation Strategic Plan recognizing that trees are necessary as temperatures rise in hot spots like parking lots and high-rise towers.
- Suggestion to undertake mapping to support tree selection that integrates heat inequity and site permeability, as done in the City of Surrey.
- Suggestion to develop a list of opportunities for partnerships and for planting on provincial lands so that citizens can support asks of the regional and provincial governments.
- Suggestion to investigate and select climate-resilient tree species.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- A goal to increase substantially the citywide canopy cover with current rates of development would be unachievable for many decades, so the Strategy proposes incremental targets and performance indicators for each implementation action.
- Specific neighbourhoods have greater potential for planting, and the Strategy will ensure preparation to take advantage of opportunities

The Senior Manager Parks left the meeting at this point and did not return (7:45 p.m.)

3. Climate Action Plan

The Senior Manager Environment and the Sustainability Program Specialist gave a presentation entitled “Climate Action Plan” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of the development of the Plan following multiple years of engagement with the Committee.
- Suggestion that the public awareness and buy-in are built best in relation to the stewardship and leadership focus areas.
- Suggestions to increase public awareness through an online Climate Action Plan dashboard or signboards in City facilities to highlight the climate-related features of the facility.
- Suggestions to collaborate with the school district and Public Library to educate and engage youth in the Plan; for example, by creating a Climate Lab or a Climate Hack-a-thon.
- Suggestion to implement a Climate Ambassadors or Champions program in schools, neighbourhoods, and business, with gamified approaches to encourage action.
- Suggestion that messaging on climate action should use eco-positivity, make abstract concepts tangible, and highlight personal benefits of action.
- Suggestion to make use of social media for youth engagement.
- Suggestion to investigate the creation of a district energy system using heat exchange from the sewer system.
- Concern that political and economic circumstances will create challenges with provincial and federal funding for public transportation.

4. 2025 Year-End Review / 2026 Work Plan Development

The Senior Manager Environment gave a presentation entitled “SEAC 2025 Year-End Review and 2026 Work Planning” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of Grayson Barke’s presentation as a Committee member.
- Appreciation of learning about wide range of City programming and action.
- Appreciation that Work Plan items reflect Committee input over the years.
- Appreciation of the variety of items, which reflects a holistic conception of sustainability.

- Desire to meet in person for subcommittees where the work demands it; for example, in determining awards.
- Suggestion to limit time on presentations to facilitate more discussion and feedback given that agenda packages are distributed in advance for review.
- Suggestion that presentations have specific prompts to consider in the advance and that they be tailored to this Committee.
- Suggestion to limit agendas to two to three presentation items to avoid rushing consideration and limiting discussion and feedback.
- Desire to give project feedback on-site where appropriate.
- Suggestions for items in the 2026 Work Plan including land use management topics such as Transit-Oriented Areas, Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing, and Neighbourhood Plans; development of a riparian and wildlife corridor plan; policy on pollinator gardens in City projects; Cedar Drive Upgrade Project updates; Joint Flood Mitigation Program updates; circular economy actions; Climate Action Plan updates; Urban Forestry Management Strategy updates; and investigation of stream base flow.

5. **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 a workshop to be held by a group of community organizations on November 29, 2025 entitled “Building an Affordable, Green, and Climate-Ready City”.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk