

**THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
RAVEN ROOM, MUNICIPAL HALL  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024**

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Committee Members: C. van der Vorm (Chair), C. Castro, A. Gallet, E. Grdina, P. Payne, P. Scholefield; and Councillor P. Lambur attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall. Absent: S. Kosari and F. Umedaly.

Staff: H. Keith, Senior Manager, Climate Action & Environment (Staff Representative); and M. Wise, Climate Action Coordinator (Committee Clerk) attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the November 5, 2024 Environment Committee meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the October 8, 2024 Environment Committee meeting minutes be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

**REPORTS / ITEMS**

**4. Metro Vancouver's Initiative to Reduce Emissions from Small Non-Road Engine Equipment**

M. Richter and D. Mazarura provided a presentation to the Committee on Metro Vancouver's Initiative to Reduce Emissions from Small Non-Road Engine Equipment and answered Committee questions with support from staff.

Committee members and the public provided comments and queries regarding:

- The deadline for feedback to Metro Vancouver from the public;
- Clarification about the data presented;
- The type of equipment the District uses;

- Different ways to consider the full life cycle of equipment components, repair, and recycle options; and
- Ways the Committee could support advancing educational resources about the impacts of small gas-powered equipment within the District.

G. Powroznik (member of the public), inquired about the percentage of emissions that small gas-powered equipment generate compared to other emissions sources.

D. Reinsch (member of the public), inquired about bans in California and New York for personal or professional small gas-powered equipment, and what approach BC will take for similar equipment.

T. Reinsch (member of the public), inquired about when the personal use feedback survey will be open and available to the public.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the presentation regarding Metro Vancouver's Initiative to Reduce Emissions from Small Non-Road Engine Equipment be received for information.

CARRIED

## 5. Enhance Sustainability in the Building and Permitting Department

The following actions were reviewed and considered, as written, by the Committee with the Committee agreeing to put forth the actions as the following motion:

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the Environment Committee recommends to Council to consider the following actions to improve building, planning, and permitting processes in the District of West Vancouver:

1. **Require Energy-Efficient Measures:** Mandate energy-efficient upgrades as part of renovation permits, tailored to the scope and cost of the project. This could include requirements for better insulation, energy-efficient windows, LED lightings, motion controls for lights, and heating/cooling systems and/or other low carbon energy systems and controls;
2. **Incentivize Green Building Practices:** Revise the permit application process to prominently feature green and sustainable measures on the first page. Implement incentives such as reduced permit fees or expedited processing for projects that include sustainable practices. Implement a grant to cover the cost of a home energy assessment that would be payable upon proof of implementing at least one of the energy-saving recommendations;
3. **No Idling Reminders:** Require construction sites to display no-idling stickers next to their permit signage to remind crews to ensure that all crews strictly comply with vehicle anti-idling enforceable policies. Additionally, increase no-idling signage in public spaces such as schools and neighborhoods and to make a downloadable and printable anti-idling sticker on their website to allow, not only construction enterprise, but any community members to promote the good practice of turning engines off by printing and displaying the visual;

4. **Educational Resources:** Enhance the DWV website with comprehensive information on sustainable construction practices and materials. Provide guides, case studies, and links to resources that help builders and homeowners make informed decisions about sustainable building. Display a booth at high traffic areas such as the West Vancouver Community Center, events or other locations with information. Add presentations on the screens of the West Vancouver Community Center on environmental topics; and
5. **Training and Workshops:** Offer training sessions and workshops for builders, contractors, and homeowners on sustainable building practices, energy efficiency, rebates and grants, and the benefits of green renovations. This can help ensure that everyone involved in the construction process is informed and capable of implementing sustainable practices.

CARRIED

#### 6. **Review of 2024 Work Plan and 2025 Priorities**

The Heat Pump Survey feedback was reviewed-by the Committee.

It was Moved and Seconded:

WHEREAS the recent heat pump survey reveals key trends within the community, including:

- The majority of respondents reside in single-family homes and are homeowners;
- Most homes are between 1,000-4,000 sq. ft., suitable for heat pumps, whereas large homes that often rely more heavily on gas heating are typically owned by residents with greater financial capacity for sustainable investments;
- Homes are over 35 years old, which may require upgrades, such as insulation and electrical work, to support heat pump installation;
- Approximately 85% of respondents currently use gas for heating, with 43% of these systems being less than 10 years old;
- 70% of respondents rely on gas for water heating, with 64% of these systems also being less than 10 years;
- 24% of respondents expressed interest in adopting a heat pump system;
- Over 60% of the community is concerned about CO2 emissions; and
- There is a strong need for further guidance and education on the benefits of heat pumps, and cost remains a significant barrier to adoption.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council considers the following actions to support heat pump adoption and low-carbon energy systems within the District of West Vancouver:

#### **ENFORCE: Low-Carbon Energy Systems for Major Renovations**

Require the inclusion of low-carbon energy systems, such as heat pumps or geothermal systems, as a condition for permit issuance in substantial renovations.

**EDUCATE:**

**Heat Pump and Low-Carbon Energy Systems Information Booth and Resources.** Set up an informational booth at the West Vancouver Community Centre (WVCC) to provide materials on heat pump rebates (CleanBC, Federal, Municipal), the "Jump on a Heat Pump" campaign, district top-up programs, and additional information on other low-carbon energy options such as solar, induction/electrical cooking systems as alternatives to gas stoves.

**Distribute educational posters on heat pump advantages.** Include guidelines recommending minimum and maximum temperature settings for thermal comfort in residential and workplace environments.

**ENFORCE: Decision on Gas Ban for New Construction**

Evaluate instituting a ban on gas installations in new constructions.

**INCENTIVIZE: Green Building Practices**

Modify the permit application process to highlight green and sustainable options upfront, providing reduced permit fees or expedited processing for renovation projects with sustainable components. Implement a grant to cover the cost of a home energy assessment, with payout contingent on adopting at least one energy-efficient recommendation.

**RESOURCES: Increase Dedicated Environmental Staff, Budget, and Use of the Environmental Fund**

Designate additional resources and a targeted budget for achieving climate goals by appointing staff dedicated to environmental initiatives and developing community-level low-carbon systems, with support from consulting firms as required for broader initiatives.

**REPORT: Present Findings to Council**

Share the heat pump survey results with the Council, emphasizing community concerns regarding CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the critical need for accessible low-carbon solutions.

**EXPLORE: Heat Pump Financial Assistance**

Based on survey insights, homeowners face financial barriers related to necessary electrical upgrades for heat pump installations. Recommend evaluating subsidies, rebates, or municipal incentives to alleviate upgrade costs and encourage widespread heat pump adoption.

CARRIED

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the discussion regarding the Review of the 2024 Work Plan and 2025 Priorities be received for information.

CARRIED

**7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

A. George, commented on the usefulness and importance of the Jump on a Heat Pump house assessment service.

D. Reinsch, queried about how much funding is currently in the Environmental Reserve Fund and the possibility of using the Environmental Reserve Fund for staffing.

G. Powroznik, queried about permitting, local development, and ways to support affordable housing pathways that integrate sustainability and high efficiency.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the next Environment Committee meeting be scheduled for January 14, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. and held in-person in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

CARRIED

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the November 5, 2024 Environment Committee meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Staff Representative

