Attachment 2

The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: **Mayor and Council**

From: **Sharon Hvozdanski, Director of Planning**

Date: **September 16, 2019**

Subject: **Response to Saanich's Climate Emergency Declaration – Accelerated Actions**
File: 2560-50 • 100% Renewable Saanich

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse the following community climate actions:

    1) Accelerate personal transportation electrification;
    2) Convert all oil heating systems to renewable heating systems by 2030 or sooner;
    3) Enhance support for efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in existing buildings;
    4) Double the rate of planting trees to enhance the urban forest; and
    5) Catalyze community actions.

2. That Council endorse the following corporate climate actions:

    1) Implement a Climate Friendly Commuter Program for Saanich employees;
    2) Include a climate alignment scorecard in development application reports to Council;
    3) Incorporate a carbon pricing in business case analysis;
    4) Develop a corporate fleet strategy to reduce carbon emissions starting 2020; and
    5) Model a low carbon diet through corporate catering.

3. That Council direct staff to establish a new Climate Action Reserve Fund.

4. That Council dedicates up to $220,000 from the Council Strategic Initiatives Contingency Fund to support the Home Energy Retrofit Municipal Financing Pilot project.

PURPOSE

At the March 25, 2019 meeting, Council responded to correspondence from the Capital Regional District with respect to declaring a Climate Emergency and made a motion that:

> "Staff be requested to prepare a report for Council on the initiatives that Saanich would be able to move forward on."

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Provide information on proposed climate actions, their potential impacts on climate mitigation and adaptation as well as their potential financial implications.
2. Seek Council endorsement for the proposed accelerated climate actions that Saanich could initiate in the next 6 to 24 months to help meet the District's recently approved new climate targets. If these actions are endorsed, staff will proceed with the necessary preparation and financial requests for implementation through separate follow-up reports or the annual budgeting process.
3. Seek Council's approval for dedicating up to $220,000 from the Council Strategic Initiatives Contingency Fund to support the Home Energy Retrofit Municipal Financing Pilot Project.

DISCUSSION

Background and Work to Date

On October 2, 2017, Council gave direction for staff to update Saanich's Climate Action Plan, and endorsed the following community-wide targets:

- To become a 100% Renewable Energy Community by 2050; and
- To achieve an 80% reduction in community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 (below 2007 levels).

During the plan development, a community energy and emissions inventory was completed to measure GHG emissions from different sectors in Saanich (see Figure 1 below).

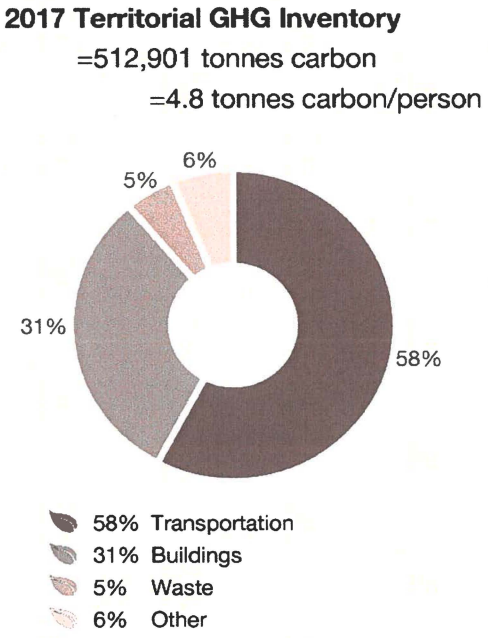

Figure 1: 2017 Territorial GHG Inventory

Energy and emissions modeling was used to develop scenarios and inform draft climate actions to achieve the set targets. Below is a wedge diagram that illustrates a pathway to achieve 100% renewable energy and 80% GHG reduction targets by 2050.

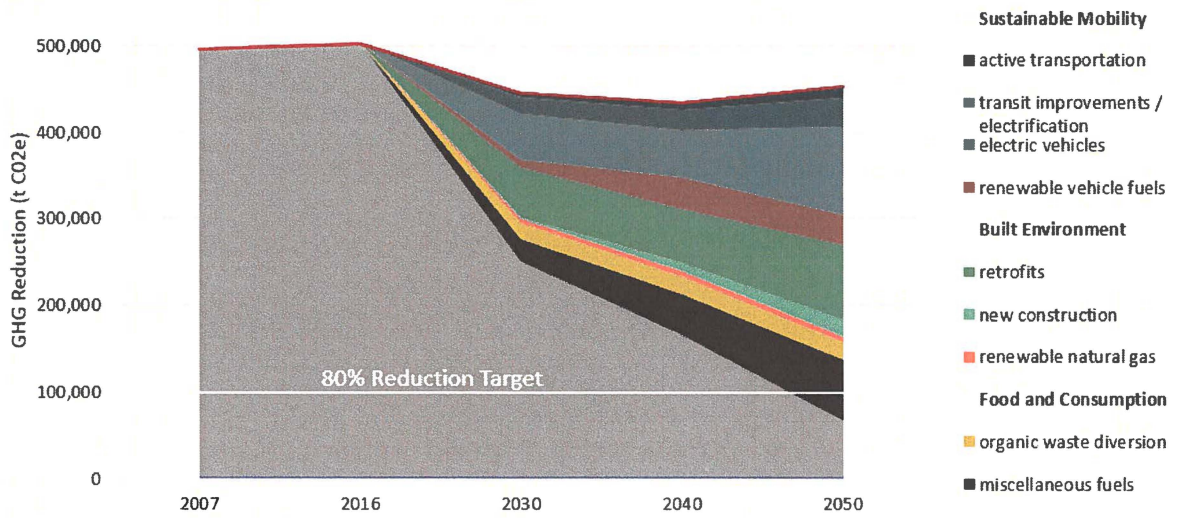

Figure 2: 80% GHG Reduction by 2050 Pathway

The key findings from the scenario development exercise include:

- Vehicle electrification and existing building retrofits have the biggest GHG reduction potential (20.5% and 17.9% of total community GHG reductions respectively); however,
- They alone are not sufficient (halfway to the 80% reduction target). A host of other measures have to be taken as well.

Saanich's New Climate Targets

In August 2019, Saanich Council adopted new targets of 50% GHG reduction (below 2007 levels) by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. These targets are intended to compel more ambitious climate action and be more consistent with the global GHG reduction needed to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

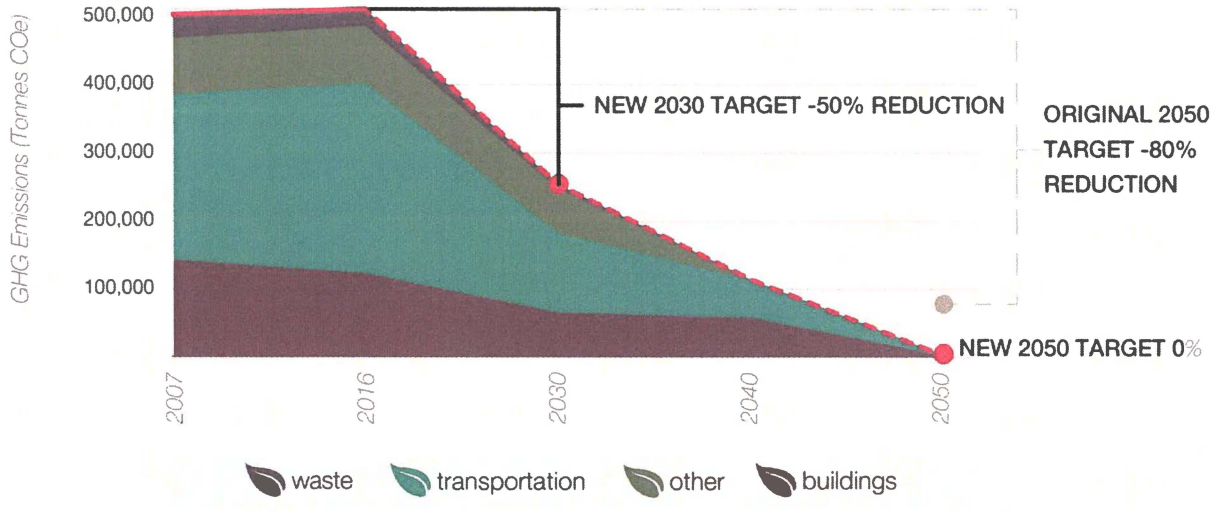

Figure 3: Original and New Climate Targets

An accelerated GHG reduction pathway will help avoid significantly greater costs and efforts to adapt to climate change.

Maximizing Synergies of Mitigation and Adaptation
Although limiting warming to 1.5 ºC will directly come from mitigation efforts, the updated Climate Plan: 100% Renewable and Resilient Saanich and this report include both mitigation and adaptation actions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report emphasizes maximizing the co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation and minimizing their trade-offs. Preparing for climate change will be critical in maintaining community well-being, as the impacts of climate change are already being experienced, while continued efforts to reduce emissions will help avoid significantly higher risks to human and community health.

Climate Emergency Demands Bold Actions and System Change
To illustrate the magnitude of change required to reach a new 2030 target of 50% GHG reduction below 2007 levels, preliminary energy and emissions modeling shows one pathway to achieve the target includes:

- 36% of all vehicles be zero emissions by 2030;
- 100% of oil tanks replaced with low-carbon energy systems by 2030; and
- 40% of homes and business' heating and hot water systems retrofitted to efficient, renewable energy systems by 2030.

To ensure a climate emergency declaration is meaningful and leads to the transformation that matches the magnitude of the challenge, Saanich must show its leadership through:

- Embedding climate change considerations into all major decisions that have long-lasting GHG impacts (i.e. land use, transportation, and new developments), as well as the day-to-day operations (i.e. facility upgrades, fleet operation, purchasing, business travels); and
- Mobilizing necessary resources, including staff time, policy tools, financial resources, and potentially additional municipal authorities, to support informed decisions on climate actions.

The recommended actions are meant to reflect the initial effort to live up to the expectation that Saanich is seriously committed to working towards achieving carbon neutrality.

As climate actions are still being developed and new opportunities (e.g. grant funding, new technologies, provincial or federal legislation) may emerge, staff will pursue the most impactful actions and seek direction from Council if needed.

Community Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Actions (Recommendation #1)
Over 100 draft climate actions are being considered for the updated Climate Plan. A short list of initial climate actions has been created based on their potential impacts, window of opportunity for acceleration, and the feasibility of an initiation/implementation timeline within the next 6 to 24 months. The updated Climate Plan, including overall strategies, sectoral targets and actions, along with an implementation plan, will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption in late 2019.

Table 1: Community Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Actions

#1	Accelerate personal transportation electrification
#2	Convert all oil heating to renewable heating systems by 2030 or sooner
#3	Enhance support for efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in existing buildings
#4	Double the rate of planting trees to enhance urban forest
#5	Catalyze community actions

1. Accelerate personal transportation electrification

Potential Impact

Mitigation: **Very High**

Personal transportation accounts for over 50% of Saanich's community GHG emissions. Based on the modeled scenario to reach the new 2030 target, 36% of all vehicles need to produce zero emissions. This could reduce 11% of community GHG emissions by 2030.

Adaptation: **Low**

The adoption of zero emissions vehicles has limited adaptation benefits. However, as the battery technologies develop, batteries in electric vehicles could potentially serve as a source of back-up power in the future.

Description

The majority of personal transportation emissions are coming from driving gas engine vehicles for personal trips that are longer and thereby producing more GHGs. In addition to shifting to active modes of transportation for half of all trips (estimated 3% reduction of community GHG emissions), electrifying vehicles and bikes will play an important role in driving down emissions from personal trips. The key steps Saanich can take include:

1. Requiring new buildings to be EV-ready (i.e. there is sufficient electrical capacity and EV infrastructure in a new development to allow for future installation of EV chargers) starting 2020;
2. Supporting EV infrastructure development in existing buildings, especially condos and apartments where more affordable housing options are available, as part of the community wide EV strategy;
3. Doubling the number of Saanich-owned public charging stations from 12 to 24 by 2025;
4. Promoting and incentivizing electric bicycles in partnership with the Capital Regional District and the Province; and
5. Advocating through FCM and UBCM to federal and provincial governments their continued and substantial support for clean vehicles and the development of EV infrastructure network.

Having 36% of all vehicles be Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) in 11 years would roughly translate to having half of all new vehicles in Saanich be ZEVs every year. Local governments have a key role to play on the demand side of ZEV adoption by removing barriers to charging. Access to convenient charging, especially at home, is a necessary condition to enable broad uptake of electric vehicles.

Support from senior levels of government is critical in making this ambitious transition. The B.C. government passed new legislation requiring all new vehicles sold in the province to be zero-emission by 2040 and also mandated that 10% of new light-duty vehicle sales be zero-emission by 2025 and 30% by 2030. Saanich needs to exceed the provincial interim target to reach the 2030 target. Up to $14,000 incentives are potentially available for the purchase of a ZEV from provincial and federal programs, making ZEVs more affordable to consumers.

Building on existing work
Recommendations on EV-ready requirements for new construction will be brought to Council in Q3 2019 in response to January 2, 2018 Council Motion.

The City of Victoria commissioned a study on the development of an electric bicycle incentive program and proposed it to be a region wide initiative.

Financial implications
1. The estimated EV-ready infrastructure costs for new construction, borne by developers, range from $300 to $760 per stall depending on the type of buildings, if an EV Energy Management System is utilized for multi-unit residential buildings.
2. The estimated ballpark costs of retrofitting existing multi-unit residential buildings to be EV-ready, likely borne by building owners, range from $1,500 to $3,000 per parking stall.
3. The costs of 12 Level 2 public EV charging equipment at Saanich facilities ranged from $5,000 to $7,000 per station in 2013. The costs of EV infrastructure design and potential electrical upgrade would be highly dependent on specific site conditions and are not included in the estimates above. There are likely external funding sources from provincial and federal governments to be sought to cover a portion of the cost for additional public EV charging stations.
4. The estimated budget for an electric bicycle incentive pilot program is $50,000.

2. Convert all oil heating systems to renewable heating systems by 2030 or sooner

Potential Impact
Mitigation: **High**

Buildings make up 31% of Saanich's community GHG emission. There are approximately 4,600 oil heated homes (14% of single-family buildings) representing a disproportionate 22% of our building emissions. If all oil heating systems are converted to heat pumps, it would reduce 6% of community GHG emissions.

Adaptation: **High**

Supporting the transition to heat pumps will equip these homes with cooling and air filtration capabilities, which enhance their resilience in the face of more extreme summer temperatures and increased incidence of wildfire smoke and poor air quality events.

Description
To convert all oil heating by 2030, it means on average converting approximately 460 oil furnaces each year over the next 10 years. The two key initiatives Saanich can take in the next 6 to 24 months include:

1. Working with the province and other local governments to develop a strategy for mandatory oil tank removal.

To eliminate oil heating, Saanich will partner with the province to require oil tank removal. A number of other local governments, including Victoria, have identified this as a key climate action. The City of Montreal declared in May 2019 its intention to ban oil heating furnaces by 2030 to protect the environment and fight climate change.

2. Dedicating up to $220,000 in District funding to support the Home Energy Retrofit Municipal Financing Pilot Project.

   With funding support from external sources, the pilot program will finance 25 oil to heat pump conversions each year for 2 years, and enable homeowners to repay the District through energy cost savings over time.

   The high upfront cost is a significant barrier to many homeowners, especially to low- and medium-income households, and those with fixed incomes. Even though Saanich has one of the highest uptakes on the provincial "oil to heat pump" rebate program, only 140 households participated in it over a 3-year period, falling far below the rate of conversion needed. This suggests the rebate model alone is not sufficient to close the gap.

   Staff is exploring two administrative options to enable financing (property tax and utility billing) and will update Council on the recommended approach in a timely manner, if this action is endorsed.

Building on existing work

Staff presented a concept design in the Home Energy Retrofit Municipal Financing Pilot report to Council on Feb 25, 2019 and subsequently submitted funding applications to the Real Estate Foundation of BC ($95,000 approved) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities ($350,000 pending). The total cash contribution required for the project is $665,000 with $220,000 from the District of Saanich, and the remaining amount from external sources.

Financial implications

To launch the Home Energy Retrofit Municipal Financing Pilot, it will require $220,000 in District of Saanich funding (to be repaid by participating homeowners over 10 years). Up to $59,000 of in-kind staff resources is estimated to be required over two years and includes contributions from the Sustainability Division, Finance Department and Legislative Division.

In order to realize the number of conversions needed, more resources may be needed to scale up the Financing Program in the future. Assuming 90% of the oil tanks be removed before 2030 under a new mandatory oil tank removal requirement without municipal financing support, providing financing to cover the remaining 10% of oil tanks (or 46 conversions per year on average) would require a total of approximately $5 million (to be repaid by participating homeowners over 10 years).

3. **Enhance support for energy upgrades in existing buildings**

Potential Impact

Mitigation: **High**

To reach the 2030 target, 40% of homes and businesses on natural gas systems need to switch their heating and hot water systems to efficient and renewable energy systems. This means on average 510 natural gas homes need to convert to renewable heating systems annually. This would reduce approximately 7% of community GHG emissions.

Adaptation: **High**

If existing buildings are retrofitted with heat pumps, they could be equipped with cooling and air filtration capabilities, which enhance their resilience in the face of more extreme summer temperatures and increased incidence of wildfire smoke and pool air quality events.

Description
A comprehensive building retrofit strategy with a goal to transition all buildings to renewable heating and hot water systems needs to be developed. But the initial steps Saanich can take include:

1. Increasing the amount of top-up rebates for each home that upgrades from natural gas, oil or propane to electric heat pump and heat pump hot water heater (making the total incentive for Saanich residents potentially up to $6,150 -- $4,550 from the provincial CleanBC program, $350 from the CRD and $1,250 from the District of Saanich).
2. Carrying out effective communications campaigns to promote conversion to renewable energy systems and discourage switching to natural gas systems from electric systems.
3. Supporting the establishment of a Greater Victoria 2030 Resilient District initiative which aims to engage commercial building owners to reduce 50% of energy, water and GHG emissions by 2030.
4. Exploring regulatory power to require building envelope and efficient renewable energy upgrades at the time of new construction, major renovation, or heating system replacement.

Building on existing work
Saanich currently offers a $350 top-up rebate to Saanich residents who switch from a fossil fuel based heating system to an electric air-source heat pump. However, between September 2018 and March 2019, only four top-ups were accessed.

Saanich is a core partner in the Residential Retrofit Acceleration Project which will develop a strategy and an action plan focusing on increasing the uptake of renewable energy and efficiency improvements in existing homes.

Financial implications
1. $35,000 from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) that Saanich receives from the province would be dedicated to top-up rebates each year on a first-come first-served basis. If the demand is high, staff will develop a financial strategy for Council's consideration.
2. A preliminary budget for a targeted communications campaign on renewable energy systems is $20,000.
3. The Building Owners and Managers Association of BC (BOMA) has requested $25,000 from Saanich in support of establishing a Greater Victoria 2030 Resilient District, with the City of Victoria and the District of Saanich as founding partners.

4. Double the rate of planting trees to enhance urban forest
Potential Impact
Mitigation: **Low**

Trees can sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over their lifespan. However, it would require a very large number of trees to make an impact on community GHG

emissions. It is estimated that 10,000 trees can sequester approximately 200 tonnes of CO_2 each year (or 0.04% of community GHG emissions).

Adaptation: **High**

A robust and healthy urban forest increases the District's resilience by providing ecosystem services such as clean air, clean water, reduced stormwater runoff, habitat for wildlife including pollinators, moderating urban temperatures, providing human health benefits, and supporting community well-being and First Nations cultural practices.

Description
Enhance the urban forest in Saanich with 10,000 new trees by 2025 and increase its resilience by updating tree selection and management practices to continue to adapt to changing climate (e.g. considering native species first, selecting species that can tolerate longer summer droughts and wetter winters, enhance biodiversity, and choose locations unlikely to be negatively affected by sea level rise).

To reach this goal, new trees will need to be planted on private lands as well as public lands. An updated analysis of tree canopy coverage in the District will provide information on neighbourhoods where tree cover can be improved, taking into account considerations for equity, cooling needs and potential fire hazards.

A new private land tree planting program, which may include offering trees at low costs to residents, could be developed. It will also require partnerships with institutional landowners in Saanich such as the School Districts, university and colleges and federal lands to allow tree planting on their lands.

It is proposed that 500 to 1,000 more tree plugs would be added in natural areas per year. These small trees would be part of restoration plantings with the purpose to assist the next generation of forest in the District's natural areas.

Staff will also consider other options to help protect and expand the urban forest in the long term. For example, on September 9, 2019 Council directed staff to develop an Urban Forest Reserve Fund which would be dedicated to enhance the urban forest through such actions as planting trees and acquiring lands specifically for tree planting.

Building on existing work
Currently about 1,000 caliper sized trees are planted annually in the District. This is a combination of trees planted on public lands (parks and boulevards) and on private lands as replacement trees for those that are removed through development. The goal proposes doubling this to about 2,000 trees per year for the next five years.

Financial implications
The cost for additional tree stock is estimated to be $50,000 per year over 5 years. Up to two additional FTEs for Parks may also be required to carry out this work. If this action is endorsed by Council, Parks staff will report back on an implementation plan for this action in Q1 2020.

5. Catalyze community actions

Potential Impact

Most of the climate actions require residents to make changes in their lives, from choosing active modes of transportation, switching to zero emissions vehicles, adopting a low-carbon, plant-based diet, to carrying out energy retrofits of their homes and businesses, and protecting and enhancing natural areas and ecosystems in both parks and one's own backyard. Community actions' impact on climate mitigation and adaptation will depend on the extent and scale of desirable behavior change. Recognizing the need for residents to have a supportive network and resources to make and sustain these personal efforts, Saanich will step up the efforts to support ongoing, effective public engagement and education on climate change.

Description

A strategy to cultivate and mobilize an engaged, informed and active community will include but will not be limited to the following components:

1. Develop programs that integrate and support carbon reduction, environmental stewardship, emergency preparedness, and improved community resilience through tangible and hands-on neighbourhood-oriented activities. One option to accelerate program design is to customize and modify existing programs, such as the Citizens Coolkit – a set of tools and resources to support greening of neighborhoods developed by UBC Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning and One Planet Saanich initiative.
2. Host an annual climate fair where progress and success are celebrated, key lessons are shared, cross-pollination of ideas are encouraged, and the citizen led networks are strengthened.
3. Implement "Natural Intelligence", a new program being developed by Parks and Recreation that engages residents in connecting to nature in their lives through volunteering and experiencing parks.
4. Increase stewardship tools for private land owners to adapt and mitigate climate change by expanding on existing programs such as Naturescaping, recommended plant lists, and invasive species management.

Building on existing work

Saanich is one of the five cities in the world that participated in the global "One Planet Cities" project. Twelve local schools, businesses, and organizations have committed to One Planet Living and took actions towards living within their fair share of the earth's resources. The goal is to continue to support community organizations as well as neighborhoods to have conversations and take actions to achieve One Planet Living.

The Saanich Emergency Program already works with community members to build preparedness and resilience related to disasters. The Parks and Recreation department is also well placed to reach out to residents as it has a large volume of interactions with residents on an ongoing basis.

Financial implications

Developing a neighborhood level engagement program would require approximately $100,000 for the first year and $40,000 each year for the following years until sufficient

capacity among staff and within the community is established to sustain the program. If this action is endorsed, staff will pursue external funding sources to initiate the pilot in 2020.

An estimated budget for an annual climate fair is $20,000 and will likely come from the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) that Saanich receives from the province.

The implementation of "Natural Intelligence" will require funding to assist with marketing, programing and special events. Parks staff will seek external grant opportunities and funding approval from Council through the annual budgeting process.

The expansion of existing programs such as Naturescape would require a minor amount of additional resources which Planning Staff will seek funding approval from Council through the annual budgeting process.

Demonstrate Corporate Leadership (Recommendation #2)
Even though corporate GHG emissions from Saanich only makes up about 1% of the total community GHG emissions, corporate operations is one area that the District has direct control over. Saanich will show its leadership in response to the climate emergency declaration by embedding climate change considerations in decision-making processes and day-to-day operations. Corporate leadership will send a strong signal to the community of its commitment to Saanich's climate goals and inspire citizens to take necessary actions.

The following corporate climate actions are recommended for initiation over the next 6 to 24 months:

1. **Implement a Climate Friendly Commuter Program for Saanich Employees**
   Saanich has an approved Active Transportation Plan with a target of doubling the proportion of all trips made by active transportation by 2036. The District can lead by example with its own work force. A Climate Friendly Commuter Program will actively encourage staff to shift towards walking, cycling, riding the bus, and carpooling.

   Staff will conduct an analysis to understand current commuting patterns among staff, identify potential barriers to switching to climate friendly commuting, learn best practices from other employers, and design and launch the program in 2020.

2. **Include a climate alignment scorecard in development projects' reports to Council**
   Rezoning and development projects could have a long lasting impact on community GHG emissions and resilience. Currently there is a section on Climate Change and Sustainability in development project reports to Council, detailing various sustainability considerations and strategies. What is often less clear is whether a project is helping Saanich make progress in the most impactful areas to reduce emissions and increasing resilience.

   This action is to include a simple and short scorecard to illustrate more effectively how well a development project aligns with the District's key climate mitigation and adaptation actions. The scorecard will be based on the development characteristic and sustainability strategies identified on the updated Sustainability Checklist and be included in the Council report. The scorecard is intended to make it easier to understand how well the proposed project responds to Saanich's climate goals.

3. **Establish a carbon price policy**
   Many assets Saanich owns and operates contribute to corporate emissions. Developing a policy to establish a price on GHG emissions and to enable the value of those emissions to be incorporated into Life Cycle Cost Analyses for Saanich's projects will help incorporate climate change mitigation considerations into cost benefit analyses for projects and initiatives. It will also reduce financial risks of increased operating costs due to rising external carbon taxes over the life span of Saanich's projects (e.g. building upgrade and replacement, fleet vehicle purchase).

   This is to ensure the potential cost of emissions during the operation of buildings or vehicles is considered when comparing various options and is applied consistently for all applicable projects. An example of such a policy is Metro Vancouver's Carbon Price Policy established in 2017 which uses a total carbon price (inclusive of any applicable external carbon taxes) of $150 per tonne of CO_2e in Life Cycle Cost Analyses.

4. **Develop a fleet strategy to reduce corporate carbon emissions**
   Emissions from the Saanich fleet make up about half of the corporate emissions. As light-duty fleet vehicles are being replaced with electric vehicles, the focus will be shifted to medium- and heavy-duty fleet vehicles. Considerations will be given to right-sizing the fleet, vehicle operation optimization, renewable fuel choices, and emerging technologies.

   Aside from vehicle availability in the market, the main constraint on accelerating this action is staff capacity in Fleet and Solid Waste Services. Engineering staff is working on securing the necessary resource and recruiting a qualified individual to initiate the work in 2020.

5. **Model a low carbon diet through corporate catering**
   Food makes up 19% of Saanich's consumption-based community emissions. In Saanich, the biggest sources of food types related GHG emissions are fish, meat, and eggs, followed by dairy products. Choosing lower carbon, local foods can significantly reduce households' carbon footprint. Saanich can lead by example initially with its corporate catering at select District funded events, reducing or avoiding high GHG food types and providing educational information on a low carbon diet to event participants.

Establish a New Climate Action Reserve Fund in 2020 (Recommendation #3)

Scope expansion

It is proposed that a new Climate Action Reserve Fund be established to support GHG emissions reduction for the corporation as well as climate adaptation and GHG emissions reduction in the community.

Saanich established the innovative Carbon Neutral Reserve Fund (Carbon Fund) in 2007. The intent of the Carbon Fund was for individual departments to contribute a dollar amount per tonne of GHG emissions to the fund based on their departmental carbon footprint. The contributions to the fund were invested to reduce corporate GHG emissions. Since 2007, corporate initiatives have resulted in a 13% emissions reduction. As corporate emissions' decrease over time, the Carbon Fund will gradually receive less funds, making it unsustainable to support future initiatives. The current bylaw requires the Carbon Fund to be used 'solely for the purpose of achieving greenhouse gas reductions from Saanich municipal operations'. The work of the Sustainability Division delivers on the Sustainability Vision and Goals of the District of Saanich, which relates not only to GHG emissions reduction for our corporation, but also climate adaptation and GHG emissions reduction in the community.

A more sustainable financial model

To provide resources to implement accelerated climate actions, it is also proposed that the internal carbon rate be raised to at least $50 per tonne of CO_2e in 2020 (from $25 per tonne) and the contribution be increased by 2% every year after, making it a stable source of funding not affected by the decreasing emissions. The current internal carbon rate of $25 per tonne is lagging behind B.C.'s carbon tax rate.[1] In 2019, the total contribution to the Carbon Fund is $115,000. With a new rate of $50 per tonne carbon, the total contribution in 2020 would be approximately $230,000.

If this action is endorsed, staff will bring a report to Council before Q1 2020 to recommend a new Climate Action Reserve Fund Bylaw for approval.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That Council approve the recommendations as outlined in the staff report.

2. That Council provide alternate direction to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Potential financial implications associated with each proposed climate action are identified in the report wherever possible. If the proposed accelerated actions are endorsed and additional financial resources are required, staff will report back with an implementation and financial strategy for Council's consideration.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

If the proposed accelerated actions are endorsed, resources may need to be reallocated to accommodate all prioritized actions identified through the Council's strategic planning session.

CONCLUSION

In response to Council's Climate Emergency Declaration in March 2019, staff is seeking Council's endorsement on proposed actions that could be initiated or implemented over the next 6 to 24 months, and help put Saanich on track to achieve an ambitious 2030 target and show Saanich's leadership in climate action.

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[1] On April 1, 2019, B.C.'s carbon tax rose from $35 to $40 per tCO_2e. The tax rate will increase each year by $5 per tonne until it reaches $50 per tonne in 2021.

Prepared by: _____

Ting Pan

Manager of Sustainability

Approved by: _____

Sharon Hvozdanski

Director of Planning

TP/jsp

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I endorse the recommendation from the Director of Planning.

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Paul Thorkelsson, Administrator