



# DIRECTOR RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION

**TO:** Regional Board

**FROM:** Wayne Carson, Director  
Central Okanagan West Electoral Area

**DATE:** November 25, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Climate Change Emergency Resolution For Consideration

**Voting Entitlement:** *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA 208.1*

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## **Executive Summary:**

At the October 10, 2019 Board Meeting, Director Carson served notice that he intends to bring forward a motion for consideration of the Board to declare an environmental emergency in support of other local governments.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

WHEREAS the long-term warming of the planet since the early 20th century, most notably since the late 1970s, has been rapidly elevating due to the increase in greenhouse gas emissions from human activity and is a significant contributing factor to changing global climate patterns;

AND WHEREAS climate change is currently contributing to property and infrastructure damage worldwide, stressing local and international economies;

AND WHEREAS climate change is currently jeopardizing the health and survival of many species and natural environments worldwide, stressing local and international eco systems;

AND WHEREAS climate change is currently harming human populations globally through rising sea levels and other extraordinary phenomena like intense wildfires, droughts, floods and storms worldwide, stressing local and international communities;

AND WHEREAS the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has indicated a need for massive reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the next 11 years to avoid further and devastating economic, ecological, and societal loss;

AND WHEREAS the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change finds that limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot would require global net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions dropping to between 50% and 58% below 2010 levels by 2030, and between 94% and 107% below 2010 levels by 2050;

AND WHEREAS the world is currently on track for more than 3°C of warming by 2100 based on policies currently in place, and those policies will need to be strengthened significantly to limit warming to 1.5°C;

AND WHEREAS an emergency can be defined as "an often dangerous situation requiring immediate action" and greenhouse gas emission reductions can be achieved through effective and efficient land use, transportation options, and building construction, which are within local government's jurisdiction;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Regional District of the Central Okanagan officially declare a climate emergency for the purposes of identifying and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our eco systems, and our community from global warming.
2. AND THAT the Regional District of Central Okanagan develop a Regional Emissions Reduction Reserve Fund for the purpose of supporting projects, plans and initiatives that reduce the Regional District's community wide CO2 emissions to between 50% to 58% below 2010 levels by 2030, and between 94% and 107% below 2010 levels by 2050.
3. AND THAT the framework, strategies and actions, and implementation of the Regional District of the Central Okanagan Community Sustainability Action Plan be updated to reflect the target goal, based on the information contained in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.
4. AND THAT media attention is focused on the emergency and offer help and advice to residents and merchants as to how to reduce reuse and recycle and to implement an immediate voluntary ban on single use plastics within the Regional District.
5. AND FURTHER THAT correspondence be sent to the Honourable George Heyman, Provincial Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, requesting that the Province reinstate the production of the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory Reports or dedicate grant funding to be used for their creation.

Respectfully Submitted:

W. Carson, Director  
Central Okanagan West Electoral Area

## Background:

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5<sup>o</sup> C was released in October of 2018. The report highlights that limiting global warming to 1.5<sup>o</sup> C still may be possible if ambitious and unprecedented action occurs by all levels of government, civil society and the private sector. Further, the report describes the serious negative impacts that will result from 1.5<sup>o</sup> C warming, and the more severe impacts from 2.0<sup>o</sup> C warming. Current global warming trends, based on existing reduction efforts, will result in 3.0<sup>o</sup>+ C of warming by the year 2100 (see Figure 1). In response to the report, cities across Canada and the world have been showing leadership, by declaring climate emergencies to highlight the importance of the issue, and proceeding with policy changes and actions in an attempt to decrease global warming emissions.

Local governments have a critical role to play in responding to the climate change (global warming) crisis. Land use, transit and mobility options, and building regulations are all significant factors that can impact global warming emissions (Section C.2, Page 17 of Attachment 1) and which fall within the jurisdiction of local government in British Columbia and elsewhere.

### *Climate Emergency Resolution*

The current global warming emissions trajectory puts the planet on a course to reach 3°C of warming by 2100. This is the case even in the event that every country meets its Paris Agreement goals. The impacts of such global warming cannot be understated: they will be devastating; resulting in ecological collapse, severe impacts to local and global economies, and harm to human populations. For background information, The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's most recent summary for policy makers is included as Attachment 1. The need for a global emergency response that includes all levels of government is clear. Current policies do not provide the necessary scope to make the changes to limit global warming to 1.5<sup>o</sup> C (see Figure 1 and Attachment 1).

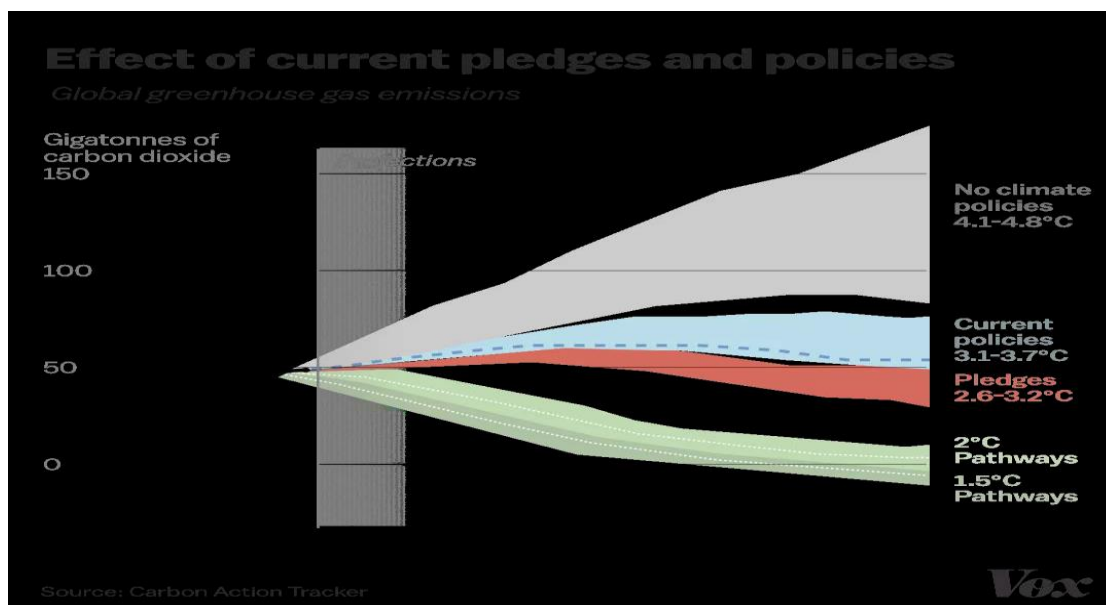


Image 1: Effect of current pledges and policies.

### *Regional Emissions Reduction Reserve*

The City of Nanaimo established the City of Nanaimo Regional Emissions Reduction Reserve Fund in conjunction with a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Regional District of Nanaimo and member municipalities for the purpose of collaborating on projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The MOA was signed in 2012 and had a 5 year term, which was not renewed. No projects have been completed. As of 2018, \$549,218 was contained in the reserve with \$85,111 to be added in the 2019 budget. These funds were not earmarked for any existing purpose and it was proposed that the reserve fund be closed and a new City of Nanaimo reserve fund be established for the purpose of supporting plans, projects and initiatives to reduce the City of Nanaimo's impacts on climate change, including global warming emissions. This would include updating the City of Nanaimo Community Sustainability Action Plan.

### *City of Nanaimo Community Sustainability Action Plan*

The November 2012 City of Nanaimo Community Sustainability Action Plan, was intended to implement the direction of the Official Community Plan by addressing climate change and ensuring a sustainable Nanaimo for future generations. Due to the age of the document, the reduction targets were significantly out of date. It sets an emission reduction target of 80% by 2050, whereas 100% is now required to limit global warming to 1.5<sup>0</sup> C. Of concern, municipalities in Canada have not made the necessary changes to realize the outdated reduction targets. In general, global warming emissions in Canada have increased.

The most compelling evidence we now have shows that global warming will have the greatest impact on our society, economies and our survival. This evidence is what must drive our policies and actions at all levels. Therefore, an Official Community Plan and a Community Sustainability Action Plan must, now more than ever, be more closely linked, with the Community Sustainability Action Plan providing the evidence and lens to support decision making, including in the Official Community Plan.

### *Community Energy and Emissions Inventory Reports*

The Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) was generated by the province and provided an inventory of energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and supporting indicators at the community level. Tracking community indicators is crucial for monitoring progress on global warming emissions reduction activities. The last inventory reports were completed in 2012. It is proposed that a letter be sent to the Province requesting they reinstate the CEEIs or provide grant funding for communities in British Columbia to complete their own.

### Attachment(s):

1. IPCC Summary for Policy Makers
2. Regional Emission Reduction Reserve Fund Bylaw (City of Nanaimo)
3. Regional Emission Reductions to Carbon Neutral Operations Memorandum of Agreement (City of Nanaimo)