

MOTION

9. Support 100% Renewable Energy in Vancouver

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Mayor Robertson

WHEREAS

1. As a result of the combustion of fossil fuels, which release greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere, each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since records began being kept in the 1850s, with the warmest year on record being 2014;
2. The impacts of climate change and resulting extreme weather are increasingly being felt as rising economic impacts, social conflicts, damaged infrastructure and loss of human life with adaptation costs in Metro Vancouver being pegged at \$9.5 billion at a minimum;
3. In December 2015, national leaders will meet in Paris to negotiate a global agreement that endeavours to decrease GHG emissions to a level where it is possible to cap average global temperatures at two degrees above normal or lower;
4. In 2010 Vancouver City Council formally adopted a set of long term environmental goals recommended by the Greenest City Action Team that included a goal on Climate Action to eliminate dependence on fossil fuels and as a result of comprehensive actions has been able to reduce GHGs in the city by 6% from 1990 levels;
5. In the intervening years at least 10 other world-class leading cities including San Francisco, Sydney, Stockholm, and Copenhagen have adopted Council approved targets to shift to 100% Renewable Power and/or go fossil fuel free by or before 2050;
6. 32% of Vancouver's current energy need is met by renewable energy (including electric power, heating and cooling);
7. As part of the Greenest City Action Plan, City of Vancouver staff are currently developing a long range Climate Action Plan to meet the 100% renewables mandate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- Vancouver City Council re-commit to the long term goal of deriving 100% of its energy from renewable sources;
- Staff bring back the long-range Climate Action Plan to Council by fall 2015 with a clear articulation of the date by which a shift to 100% renewable energy sources is feasible;
- Vancouver advocate to regional, provincial and national governments to support an international agreement that commits to 100% renewable energy sources.

* * * * *