



CITY OF VANCOUVER

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A6

Report Date: January 30, 2008
Author: Sean Pander
Phone No.: 604.871.6542
RTS No.: 07181
VanRIMS No.: 11-2000-14
Meeting Date: February 12, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Manager, Sustainability Group
SUBJECT: United Nations Environment Program - Climate Neutral Network

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the City join the United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP) Climate Neutral Network and submit Vancouver's greenhouse gas reduction and carbon neutral targets as our pledge towards significantly reducing our Corporate and Community climate footprints.
- B. THAT staff be directed to prepare and forward summaries of our climate protection activities and plans, along with links to more detailed information, for inclusion on the UNEP Carbon Neutral website that will be launched on February 21, 2008.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager supports Recommendations A and B.

COUNCIL POLICY

In March 2003, Council approved the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from civic operations to 20% below 1990 levels by 2010.

In March 2005, Council approved the Community Climate Change Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions in the community to 6% below 1990 levels by 2012.

In March 2007, Council passed a motion directing staff to begin planning for significant, long-range GHG reductions with the eventual goal of becoming a carbon-neutral city.

In July 2007, Council adopted targets to reduce Community GHG emissions to 33% below current levels by 2020 and 80% below current levels by 2050. In addition, Council adopted the target of having all new construction in Vancouver be GHG neutral by 2030.

In September 2007, Council adopted a climate neutral target for City operations by 2012 under the British Columbia Climate Action Charter.

In January 2008, Council adopted the World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement, effectively changing Vancouver's 2050 community target of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to be relative to 1990; a change from the target adopted in July, 2007 that references *current* greenhouse gas emissions as the baseline.

DISCUSSION

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has invited Vancouver to join their Climate Neutral Network. The official launch of this network will be at the UNEP annual gathering of Environment Ministers in Monaco on February 21, 2008. Attendance by City of Vancouver representatives is *not* required. See Appendix A for a copy of the invitation.

This web-based network will bring pioneering countries, companies, and cities together in order to further the international effort to combat climate change. It is intended to catalyze the exchange of ideas and promote best practises for 'going climate neutral'.

As one of only five global cities that have been invited to join this Network for its launch, this invitation recognizes Vancouver's leadership in moving towards climate neutrality and provides a valuable opportunity to showcase our efforts while at the same time benefiting from the experience of other international leaders in addressing climate change.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

This invitation provides international recognition of Vancouver's leadership in addressing climate change. Joining the United Nations Environment Programme's Climate Neutral Network will provide a great opportunity to support and benefit from the efforts of other pioneering cities and companies from around the world working towards carbon neutral goals.

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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة
联合国环境规划署



Ref: JM/RKS/DCPI-5

14 January 2008

Dear Mr. Pander,

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is launching a climate neutral network at its Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) meeting in Monaco in February.

The network will bring pioneering countries, cities and companies together as part of this web-based project in order to further the international effort to combat climate change.

The network will catalyze the exchange of ideas, promote best practices and showcase strategies on 'going climate neutral'.

It is envisaged that those taking part will be countries, cities and companies that have pledged climate neutrality or ones that have targets and timetables for significantly reducing their climate footprint with a goal of eliminating greenhouse gases.

UNEP and several intergovernmental organizations are also signing up following a recent decision by the UN's Chief Executives Board to pursue a climate neutral strategy.

As a city striving to achieve climate neutral-related goals, Vancouver's support and participation would be most welcome.

Participants are being asked to submit their pledge to UNEP along with supporting information on how they plan to achieve their goals.

A designated focal point in your administration including name, e-mail and telephone contact would also be highly desirable to ensure networking between interested parties.

UNEP is currently designing a special website with a unique URL to support the initiative and this will go live during a press conference in Monaco at the GC/GMEF.

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Division of Communications and Public Information

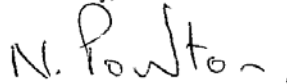
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If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Joelle Mojon at the following e-mail address: <joelle.mojon@unep.org>.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Poulton." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Naomi Poulton
Officer-in-Charge
Division of Communications and Public Information