



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: May 31, 2017  
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Meeting Date: June 27, 2017

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Deputy City Clerk  
SUBJECT: North American Dialogue on 100% Renewable Energy in Cities - July 2017

### *RECOMMENDATION*

THAT Council authorize Councillor Andrea Reimer to attend the North American Dialogue on 100% Renewable Energy in Cities from July 30 - August 1, 2017, to be held in Golden, Colorado, with expenses estimated at \$1,725.00 to be funded from the 2017 Councillors' Travel Budget.

### *REPORT SUMMARY*

Councillor Andrea Reimer, as Chair of the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities, requests funding under the City's Mayor and Councillor Expenses By-law No. 11529, to represent the City of Vancouver at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual North American Dialogue on 100% Renewable Energy in Cities.

The first annual North American Dialogue on 100% Renewable Energy in Cities was held last year in San Francisco. In partnership with the Sierra Club, ICLEI USA, and the San Francisco Department of the Environment, Renewable Cities convened a three-day dialogue that brought together an invited group of cities from around North America to discuss the transition 100% renewable energy.

At that dialogue, Councillor Reimer represented the City of Vancouver as a keynote speaker in recognition of Vancouver's leadership on 100% renewable energy policy in North America. Key outcomes of the dialogue included commitments from new cities to 100% renewable energy and new partnerships that support faster implementation of renewable energy, and better understandings of opportunities and challenges for cities.

This year's event is hosted by ICLEI, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Renewable Cities and the Sierra Club at the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado from July 31 - August 1, 2017. Attendance is by invite only and is expected to include elected officials and municipal staff from 40 cities in North America.

### *COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS*

The City's Mayor and Councillors Expenses Bylaw No. 11529 requires Council approval for Council member's reimbursement of expenses incurred while on City business.

### *CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS*

The City Manager submits the report for Council's consideration.

### *REPORT*

#### *Background/Context*

In partnership with the Sierra Club, ICLEI USA, and the San Francisco Department of the Environment, Renewable Cities convened a three-day dialogue from July 10-12, 2016 in San Francisco that brought together a group of cities from around North America to discuss the transition 100% renewable energy. Participants included senior municipal staff and elected officials, members of the private sector, researchers, city networks, and other leaders in the urban sustainability field.

This event was intentionally limited to a small number of municipalities from throughout North America, some already committed to the 100% renewable energy transition in at least one sector, and others demonstrating an appetite for the shift through ambitious policies. Our gathering offered an opportunity for cities to learn about the tools, programs, research, resources and best practices needed to reach these energy goals. Through dialogue, participants discussed the challenges specific to their cities and helped each other work through different strategies to achieve an urban energy transition. Participants reported interesting shifts in their knowledge and thinking. Participants also heard from RE100 companies, including Apple and Google, about why and how they are moving to 100% renewable energy.

#### *Strategic Analysis*

Over 25 cities across the United States and Canada have committed to 100% renewable energy, and five have already achieved it in their electricity sector. Many more are exploring the possibility of setting this goal for at least one energy sector. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dialogue on 100% Renewable Energy in Cities will connect leaders from cities that are considering the commitment to 100% renewable energy with cities that have committed to 100% renewable energy goals, and with cities that have fully made the transition to explore the barriers and opportunities a transition to 100% renewable energy presents.

This dialogue will share best practices and explore the challenges and hurdles cities face when in transition to 100% renewable energy in at least one key energy sector. Through plenaries, expert workshops, tours of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and facilitated dialogue, participants will establish a community of practice with peers from across North America working toward 100% renewable energy goals.

Participating cities will learn the potential benefits and costs for setting and executing a renewable energy goal and gain a better understanding of their local agency over energy systems, including actions cities can take now to decarbonize their energy footprint.

Attendees will:

- Hear from peers and business leaders that have successfully transitioned to 100% clean energy;
- Discuss the social, economic, and environmental benefits of 100% renewable energy;
- Learn strategies and best practices that enhance equity, access, and affordability through the local deployment of renewables; and
- Learn about specific renewable energy projects and programs, as well as strategies and policies that other cities are already undertaking, and explore how to apply them to their own jurisdictions.

As the first major city in North America to adopt a 100% renewable energy goal, Vancouver is a prominent leader in the North American dialogue on renewable energy. Other cities, regions and sub-national governments have been inspired by Vancouver's leadership to adopt 100% renewable energy targets or strengthen existing commitments related to renewable energy adoption.

Vancouver has benefited from collaborations with other cities around the world but particular in North America where cities share similar legislative and taxation structures. This is particularly true in relation to renewable energy where we share distribution networks and strong economic integration with other jurisdictions in North America.

### *Implications/Related Issues/Risk*

#### *Financial*

Estimated costs to be funded from the 2017 Councillors' Travel Budget are as follows:

Item	Estimated Costs
Airfare: one-way only	\$ 500.00
Ground transportation (\$50 each way)	\$ 100.00
Accommodation: 3 nights at \$315.00 per night	\$ 945.00
Per Diem: \$60 per day	\$ 180.00
<b>Total Estimated Costs</b>	<b>\$1,725.00</b>