

MOTION ON NOTICE

2. Mandatory Green Roofs

MOVER: Councillor Carr

SECONDER: Mayor Robertson

WHEREAS

1. Climate change is predicted to produce wetter winters, hotter, drier summers, and more extreme rainstorms in the Vancouver area, which the City's infrastructure was not built to accommodate. Climate change impacts are already being felt in Vancouver and are accelerating;
2. Green roofs mitigate climate change impacts. They absorb greenhouse gas emissions (GhGs), absorb rainwater, reduce stormwater volumes, peak flows and related flooding, and reduce GhGs related to heating and cooling (buildings currently account for over 50 percent of Vancouver's GhG emissions);
3. Green roofs contribute to a better quality of life. They reduce the urban "heat island" effect, insulate buildings from summer heat and winter cold, provide more comfortable indoor temperatures year-round, insulate buildings from noise, and improve air quality by absorbing particulates and pollutants. They provide a more natural visual aesthetic for residents and workers in multi-storey buildings looking down on the roofs of other buildings, an increasingly common reality for many Vancouverites;
4. Green roofs can offer opportunities for urban agriculture, support biodiversity and provide urban habitat for wildlife struggling to cope with changing weather patterns, including birds and pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies;
5. Green roofs save money by reducing the costs to heat and cool buildings, extending the life expectancy of a roof by double or triple the time, and lowering the municipal costs of managing storm water runoff;
6. Green roofs were identified as one possible policy direction for Vancouver's "Rain City Strategy", a strategy in development for deploying green infrastructure to effectively manage rainwater and included in the Integrated Rainwater Management Plan best management practice toolkit;
7. Cities such as Toronto, San Francisco, and Copenhagen already require green roofs on all new commercial, institutional, industrial and multi-family residential developments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT as part of the Rain City Strategy, staff bring back a draft policy for Council's consideration that would require all new commercial, institutional, industrial and multi-family residential developments to incorporate green roofs and provide maximum opportunity for green roofs in renovations to older commercial, institutional, industrial and multi-family residential development.