

## MOTION

### 8. **Eliminating Generators: Greening Vancouver's Film and Food Truck Industries**

At the Regular Council meeting on July 23, 2019, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on July 24, 2019, to hear from speakers, with a start time of 3 pm.

Submitted by: Councillor Carr

#### WHEREAS

1. Vancouver is the eighth global city to launch a C40 Women4Climate Mentorship Program, coordinated by our city's Sustainability Department and ZebX (Zero Emission Buildings Centre of Excellence) and focused on initiatives that achieve measurable reductions in local carbon pollution. One of our program participants is Clara George, an award-winning Vancouver-based television and film producer, whose short-term goal is to reduce carbon emissions generated by the film industry through their use of diesel generators, with the long-term goal of Vancouver becoming the most sustainable film production centre in the world, with a blueprint that all filming centres can follow;
2. The Vancouver Economic Commission (<http://www.vancouvereconomic.com/film-television/>) notes that Vancouver is the third largest film and television production centre in North America, home to approximately 65+ movies and 55+ TV series annually as well as hundreds of other filming days for commercials, TV pilots and other features (407 productions in 2016), generating 20,000 film and TV jobs in Vancouver, with a 2017 direct spend in British Columbia of \$3.8 billion including a payroll of \$2.06 billion;
3. Vancouver's supply of electricity is from BC Hydro, almost 97% of which is generated from renewable energy—a clean, green source of power compared to the diesel generators used by the film industry;
4. In 2018 there were an estimated 2,350 filming days in Vancouver, with each filming day using at least one, and an average of 2-3 diesel generators. Each generator uses, on average, 296 litres of diesel per filming day. Replacing diesel generators with electrical plug-ins and other zero emissions options means a potential reduction of 2,086,800 litres of diesel and their associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions—about 5,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year;
5. The City of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan 2015-2020 and Renewable City plan aim to reduce Vancouver's GHG emissions by 50 percent from a 2007 baseline of 2,805,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030 and eliminate dependence on fossil fuels before 2050. These goals were strengthened by a unanimous vote of Council on in January 2019 on the motion Ramping Up Vancouver's Climate Action in Response to the Climate Emergency;

6. Much of the filming activity and use of generators is concentrated around clusters of prime filming locations and “on location” parking lots, many of which are on or near city properties, and some of which are on School Board and Park Board properties;
7. Diesel generators can be replaced through tie-ins to city buildings or the use of electricity power drops, which can also be used as EV charging stations;
8. Reducing and replacing the use of diesel generators in the film industry would not only help achieve the city’s climate action and GHG reduction objectives, but would also contribute to a healthier and quieter city by reducing diesel particulates and noise pollution;
9. Considering the film industry’s savings on reduced use of diesel fuel and their desire to “green” their industry, the industry could help finance electricity power drops and building tie-ins;
10. The City of Vancouver issues approximately 150 food truck permits annually. Approximately 87 food trucks use generators. The elimination of the generators used by the food truck industry could save about 1,100 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council direct staff to work with the film industry to develop a plan that quickly reduces and aims to completely eliminate the use of generators for filming and food trucks in Vancouver. Components of the plan should include:

1. Identifying opportunities and challenges to obtaining electrical power to needed areas;
2. Prioritizing high use filming locations for electricity power drops and building tie-ins;
3. Coordinating with the city’s Electric Vehicle Ecosystem Strategy and REFM (Real Estate and Facilities Management) Planning to assess potential locations that can also be used as EV charging stations and for events, street festivals, food trucks and other activities that currently use diesel generators;
4. Establishing actions and time-lines that facilitate the city meeting its GHG reduction goals;
5. Identifying and pursuing policies around street closures that will reduce the number of diesel generators needed for filming;
6. Working with the Vancouver Park Board to participate in this plan;
7. Encouraging the Vancouver School Board to develop a similar plan;
8. Developing a financing plan that leverages new revenue opportunities from the film industry and possibly from low carbon fuel standard credits for the reductions in GHG emissions;
9. Identifying any City by-laws and/or policies that may need to be updated to accommodate the supply of electrical power by the City to the needed areas;
10. Work with the film industry to determine what actions would be required to authentically brand Vancouver as the Greenest Film Production Centre in the World, and include GHGs, waste, noise and water use on production sites and report back to Council in 2020 on the outcomes;
11. That staff pursue opportunities to reduce reliance on generators for

curbside power uses, specifically food trucks and special events, and report back on actions and a timeline to align with the aim of eliminating reliance on generators.

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