

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

8. Circular City Strategy

Submitted by: Councillor Wiebe

WHEREAS

1. Cities around the world have citywide circular strategies, including Paris, London, Seoul, Copenhagen, Rotterdam, Helsinki, Brussels, Tel Aviv, and Cape Town. For the City of Vancouver, the circular strategy could offer a post COVID “solution to the growing problem of waste, while also offering an opportunity to generate economic growth, increase the number of local green and inclusive jobs, encourage innovation, reduce GHG emissions, and contribute to the City’s goal to be the greenest city in the world.” [i];
2. C40 Cities describe an urban circular economy as, “one in which cities keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of their life. It is a more efficient and environmentally sound alternative to the traditional linear economy in which we make, use and dispose of resources”[ii];
3. Key circular economy strategies include circular supply-chains; recovery, reuse, and recycling of resources; product life extension; new business models for more efficient use of goods and capital assets; and deep technological innovations;
4. According to the Ellen Macarthur Foundation, there are various policy measures city governments can use to bring about circular economy transitions including, urban planning, regulations, public procurement, capacity building, engagement, awareness raising and financial support [iii];
5. Most recycling transfer stations available to commercial recycling haulers and local junk removal companies are outside of the City of Vancouver, leading to significant increases in transportation GHGs, traffic congestion, and leakage of waste materials generated in Vancouver, outside City of Vancouver for recovery;
6. Metro Vancouver Board of Directors unanimously passed the region’s Industrial Land Strategy on July 3, 2020, acknowledging that industrial land protection and use is critical to the regions’ future economic growth and resilience;
7. City of Vancouver current Employment Lands and Economy Review (ELER) has confirmed that industrial land is in critical short supply in Vancouver, at only 7% of the city’s total land and furthermore that these lands are essential in providing city serving operations and infrastructure support;

8. Council approved Climate Emergency Action Plan, Healthy City Strategy, and COVID Recovery Plan, all of which support the need for local, sustainable, circular models to address the current climate crisis, enhance local food security and bolster economic recovery from the COVID crisis; and
9. The City of Vancouver's current Green Demolition bylaw sets out reuse and recycling requirements for all pre-1950 one-and two-family homes but sets out deconstruction and salvaging requirements for all pre-1910 and heritage registered one-and two-family homes (only approximately 10-12 homes out of the roughly 1,000 demolitions annually). Deconstruction and salvage requirements are significantly more effective at reducing GHGs than reuse and recycling requirements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council updates our current policies to:

- a. support a transition to a Circular Economy both locally and regionally;
- b. become a regional leader in circularity;
- c. Identify Circular Projects that could be eligible for Federal government recovery and stimulus money;

FURTHER THAT Council directs staff to report back in Q1 2021 with the scope of work necessary to develop a Circular Economy Strategy for the City of Vancouver that:

- A. Aligns with the City's: Zero-Waste 2040 Strategic Plan; Climate Emergency Action Plan; Healthy Cities Strategy; EQUITY Strategy; RAIN City Strategy, COVID Economic Recovery Plan; ELER directives and the Region's Industrial Land Strategy;
- B. Identifies location options for Circular Hubs in the City of Vancouver, including the False Creek Flats, that could house a variety of circular industrial innovation models including: a de-construction hub; a Building Materials Reuse Center to resell salvaged building materials; local food waste and compost recovery; food rescue and donation storage; textile salvage/resale hub; share repair and reuse models; commercial recycling and materials recovery; arts and culture materials re-use hub that;
- C. Includes options to incentivize circular economy businesses and projects, including grants and loans, affordable rent, and other options;
- D. Identifies pre-existing circular models, businesses and programs already functioning in Vancouver such as share repair and reuse, materials recovery hub, organics and food waste recovery, food rescue, textile recovery, refurbishing, de-construction hub, material repurposing, and presents options to support this ongoing work;

- E. Identifies opportunities where the City can work with the Provincial and Federal Governments, The National Zero Waste Council, C40 Cities, the Vancouver Economic Commission, and other nonprofits and organizations to identify areas of cooperation, support, and funding for transitioning to a circular economy;
- F. Includes recommendations and an update on any ongoing work to incorporate a circular component into the City of Vancouver's Ethical Procurement Policy;
- G. Includes options for educational components such as training and skills development for employment opportunities for green jobs and individuals experiencing barriers;
- H. Identifies economic opportunities for more community based solutions to engineered solutions including integrated water management, district energy, waste diversion, and materials recovery;
- I. Includes an update on the ongoing work by SWSS, VEC, Sustainability Group and Social Policy's work drafting a project charter for a circular economic study to map the Vancouver food supply/value chain;
- J. Identifies quick start COVID Recovery opportunities, for example in food security, green buildings, and textile waste, where significant work and studies are already underway;
- K. Includes an update on the Employment Lands and Economy Review policy work to ensure the city has an appropriate supply of lands to support Vancouver's economy over the next 30 years;
- L. Identifies options and a timeline for improving the rate of salvage and re-use of construction materials including:
 - i. Amending the Green Demolition By-law such that the deconstruction requirements for pre-1910 homes are expanded to apply to all homes built before 1950;
 - ii. Expanding the Green Demolition By-law to Commercial properties built before 1950;
 - iii. Applying the Green Demolition bylaw requirements for reuse and recycling requirements for all Pre-1970 home.

[i] https://www.vancouvereconomic.com/blog/vecs_take/creating-a-circular-economy-in-vancouver-through-government-action/

[ii] [*Municipality-led circular economy case studies*](#), C40 Cities, January 18, 2019

[iii] <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/our-work/activities/circular-economy-in-cities/policy-levers>