

MOTION

11. Endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

At the Council meeting on October 6, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on October 7, 2020, to hear from speakers.

Submitted by: Councillor Carr

WHEREAS

1. The scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents one of the preeminent threats to global civilization;
2. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported in 2018 that we must achieve net zero in greenhouse gas emissions by the middle of this century in order to have a reasonable chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius;
3. Changes in Vancouver's climate are already being felt through hotter, drier summers, increased exposure to wildfire smoke, warmer, wetter winters, and with rising sea levels;
4. Our entire community is impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-income families, those experiencing homelessness, People of Colour and Indigenous people, youth, seniors, those experiencing mental and physical disabilities, and people with health conditions;
5. Our youth and future generations have the most to lose from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious diseases, and natural disasters;
6. The Paris Climate Agreement is silent on coal, oil and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and production of fossil fuels (the largest source of GHGs) that needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and
7. Global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce about 120% more emissions by 2030 than what is needed to limit warming to 1.5°C and avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of our city to reduce GHG emissions;
8. The fossil fuel industry is currently claiming over 50% of COVID recovery funding from senior levels of government in the G20, thereby siphoning away recovery funding badly needed by cities and other industries;

9. The construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels;
10. The economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction;
11. Our community is committed through our Climate Emergency Response to a just energy transition and to appropriate investments that offset the impacts of evolving industries and employment as well as appropriate investments that are needed to respond to current climate impacts and reduce future climate change;
12. The City of Vancouver recognizes that it is the urgent responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel producers to lead in putting an end to fossil fuel development and to manage the decline of existing production; and
13. A new global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C, and accelerate equitable transition plans.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver formally endorses the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty;

FURTHER THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council and the City of Vancouver, send a letter from the Mayor to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of B.C. urging the Canadian and B.C. governments to support the global initiative for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to consider actions in the Climate Emergency Action Plan to reduce fossil fuel supply within Vancouver's jurisdiction, such as supporting conversion of the energy supplied by gas/diesel stations and the fossil (natural) gas distribution system to low carbon alternatives;

AND FURTHER THAT the City of Vancouver affirms its ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the GHG reduction targets as called for by the IPCC, and aspires to meet its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions.

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