



CITY OF VERNON

AGENDA

Climate Action Advisory Committee

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER

3400 30 Street, Vernon BC

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

As Chair of the City of Vernon's Climate Action Advisory Committee, and in the spirit of this gathering, I recognize the City of Vernon is located in the traditional territory of the Syilx people of the Okanagan Nation.

2. AGENDA

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda of May 28, 2025 be adopted.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2025 be adopted.

4. INTRODUCTION

K. McCarty to introduce the Youth Climate Corps of BC 2025 Vernon cohort.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.a COUNCIL BUSINESS UPDATE

7

Councillor Guy submitted an update on Council business to the Committee for information.

5.b STAFF UPDATE

9

K. McCarty to provide the Committee with a staff update of the City of Vernon climate action outreach initiatives from the 2025 Climate Action Community Outreach Strategy.

5.c SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

5.c.1 Communication and Outreach

5.c.2 Official Community Plan

5.c.3 Metrics and Reporting

5.c.4 Climate Action Plan Update

5.c.5 Development Proposal at 580 Commonage Road

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

8. NEXT MEETING

9. CLOSE OF MEETING

CITY OF VERNON
MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 8, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
3400 30 Street, Vernon BC

Members Present: Councillor Guy, Council Representative
C. Neville, Business and Commercial Representative
F. Ross, Health & Social Services Representative
J. Comazzetto, School District 22 Representative
M. Vance, Science, Technology & Environmental Services Representative
M. Stockdale, Educators - Primary and Secondary Representative
M. Kemp, Community at Large Representative
S. Juniper, Educators - Post Secondary Representative
T. Dyck, Community Stewardship Representative
V. Holowach, Community at Large Representative

Members Absent: C. Bain, Youth Member
P. Riley, Okanagan Indian Band Representative

Administration Present: K. McCarty, Staff Liaison

Also Present: Mayor Cumming
S. Wood, Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair V. Holowach called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

As Chair of the City of Vernon's Climate Action Advisory Committee, and in the spirit of this gathering, I recognize the City of Vernon is located in the traditional territory of the Syilx people of the Okanagan Nation.

2. AGENDA

Moved by: M. Kemp, Community at Large Representative
Seconded by: J. Comazzetto, School District 22 Representative

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda of May 8, 2025 be adopted with the addition of Item 6.1 Information Items: Update on Sustainability Grants.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by: T. Dyck, Community Stewardship Representative
Seconded by: M. Kemp, Community at Large Representative

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.a Vice Chair Appointment Confirmation

F. Ross formally accepted the position of Vice Chair.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.a Orientation of New Members

K. McCarty provided an orientation to the new Committee members and they executed their oaths with the Corporate Officer.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.a Update on Sustainability Grants

K. McCarty informed the Committee that the spring intake of the Sustainability Grants will be opened on May 15, 2025 with a submission deadline of June 15, 2025.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.b Consideration of Sub-Committees

Moved by: M. Vance, Science, Technology & Environmental Services Representative

Seconded by: M. Kemp, Community at Large Representative

THAT the Climate Action Advisory Committee create the following Sub-Committees:

1. Communication and Outreach

Support the development and implementation of a community outreach and communication strategy.

2. Official Community Plan

Review the draft updates to the City's Official Community Plan (OCP) and identify opportunities to integrate the Climate Action plan (CAP) goals with the update to the OCP.

3. Metrics and Reporting

Help staff prioritize climate metrics and discuss how to track performance and share the CAP implementation results.

4. Climate Action Plan Update

Review the current Climate Action Plan and suggest goals for the future plan.

5. Development Proposal at 580 Commonage Rd

This development application was referred to the Committee by Council for their review and feedback;

AND FURTHER, that the Sub-Committees be reviewed at the first meeting of each year to determine if they are still necessary

CARRIED

Moved by: M. Kemp, Community at Large Representative

Seconded by: C. Neville, Business and Commercial Representative

THAT Administration provide the Committee with the notes from the 2024 Sub-Committees for their review.

CARRIED

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting for the Climate Action Advisory Committee is scheduled for May 28, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:33 pm.

Chair

Report from Council liaison member (Councillor Guy) to CAAC Wed. May 28, 2025

Notable Council initiatives since last regular CAAC meeting (Wed. March 26, 2025):
Council meetings April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26, 2025, and SILGA April 29 – May 2.

March 24, 2025 (I may have mentioned this at CAAC March 26):

Regular:

- Vernon's resolution 2024 NR97 (to eliminate fossil fuel funding of UBCM meetings and conventions), was not debated at UBCM 2024 due to time constraints, and was therefore referred to the UBCM Executive for consideration. At the March 24 meeting, Council received a letter from the UBCM President to state that the UBCM Executive had not endorsed the resolution.

April 14, 2025:

Regular meeting:

- Council announced the appointments to the CAAC of Scott Juniper as an Educators and Educational Institutions – Post Secondary representative; Mary Stockdale as an Educators and Educational Institutions – Primary and Secondary representative; and Craig Neville as a Business and Commercial Services representative.
- Staff presented a report on the feasibility of expanding the province-wide program providing free transit for children aged 6 -12 to include youth from 13-18 within the City of Vernon. Staff agreed to design and conduct a 2 or 3-year pilot project offering free transit for youth 13-18. During the pilot, detailed information would be collected – for example changes in fare revenue and ridership on a demographic, route by route, and daily timing basis. The information collected would be used to better inform a potential ongoing free transit program for youth in the community. The pilot would likely be funded by the “prior year unexpended unallocated reserve” (at an estimated cost of \$55,000 per year lost revenue from youth fares, plus \$50,000 per year administration costs). The project would begin in 2026.

April 28, 2025:

Committee of the Whole:

- Staff presented Part 1 of 4 of the OCP and Transportation Plan update - Land Use and Major Transportation Projects. Part 1 covers Alexis Park and Downtown.

SILGA (April 29 – May 2, 2025):

- The mayor and I attended the annual convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association in Merritt April 29 through May 2. On April 29 I presented a report to delegates on some of the climate-driven initiatives being pursued in the city and the north Okanagan region.

May 12, 2025:

Committee of the Whole:

- Staff presented Parts 2 and 3 of the OCP and Transportation Plan update - Land Use and Major Transportation Projects. Part 2 covers Harwood and the North End, and Part 3 covers East Hill, Mission Hill, Polson, and Jubilee.
- The mayor and I summarized a presentation by GVW staff at the May 7 GVAC meeting on 13 key areas of concern and uncertainty regarding the utility's ability to continue to reliably deliver water throughout the service area well into the future. A key driver of concern is the relentlessly changing climate. GVAC has asked RDNO to budget in 2026 for a detailed water capacity study which will provide the foundation for an update to the Master Water Plan starting the following year.

Regular:

- Council approved staff's request to apply for additional funding, up to \$100,000, under the current 2024 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) grant intake to enhance wildfire mitigation efforts within the community.

May 26, 2025:

- As of the date of writing of this report, the May 26 council meetings have not been held.
- I will be out of town on that date and will report on this meeting at the following CAAC meeting.



Climate Action Advisory Committee - Staff Liaison Update - May 28, 2025

The following table provides a status update of the City of Vernon climate action outreach initiatives from the 2025 Climate Action Community Outreach Strategy. Following the table is a brief update on the recruitment process for the new climate action program coordinator position at the City.

The column on the right in the table below includes the specific priority goals or actions from the Climate Action Plan (CAP) to demonstrate progress in achieving the priority CAP areas that were included in the 2023-2026 Council Strategic Plan. Note that the wording of goals/actions have been shortened to reduce word count in the table.

The following two goals from the CAP priorities in the Council Strategy Plan are generally being implemented with the roll out of the outreach strategy (i.e., the goals are applicable to all of the outreach programs to some degree):

- Develop a program to facilitate social connection, information sharing, climate awareness, and climate response activities amongst City residents at the neighbourhood scale.
- Develop and fund a climate-ready community communications and outreach strategy.

2025 Program Updates:

Focus Areas	Community Outreach Programs		Status update	2023-2026 CAP priority goal / action
Low-carbon transportation	1	Provide equitable e-bike rebates to reduce purchase price	The 2025 intake period for the BC E-Bike Rebate Program is open. The province's contractor is working through the existing waitlist, distributing provincial funding initially. The City funding (for at least 40 additional rebates) will be distributed after the provincial funding for Vernon is delivered. People can add their name to the waiting list at the link above. It is likely to take several months for the province to go through the waitlist.	Prioritize active transportation

Focus Areas	Community Outreach Programs		Status update	2023-2026 CAP priority goal / action
	2	Coordinate GoByBike Week events to promote cycling	GoByBike Week runs provincially from May 31 – June 6, but in Vernon we have extended the timing of the events, launching a day early at the Polson Artisan Night Market with a Bike Market & Parade (May 30) and the wrap-up event is on June 8 to align with other complimentary events. There are fun events planned nearly every day of the week! Please consider riding and joining the celebration events. You can log the KMs you ride for chances to win big prizes. Register online and find event details here: Vernon GoByBike Week .	Prioritize active transportation
	3	Deliver the shared electric bike and kick scooter program	New service provider for 2025: https://www.bird.co/ The program is now live. During GoByBike Week, the Youth Climate Corp BC crew is hosting daily group rides, featuring e-bike training and trials, which will include access to Bird's shared e-bikes. See the GoByBike link above for the group ride details.	Prioritize active transportation
	4	Promote and incentivize public transit	We will integrate transit information into our outreach communications at events this summer and are considering developing new promo materials (e.g., video on active transportation and transit systems with Youth Climate Corps)	Conduct campaigns to increase uptake of alternative transportation.
Low-carbon building	5	Provide building energy retrofit rebates to lower costs	The CleanBC Municipal Rebate Top-ups launched in Vernon January, 2025, but the program has been changed and is only accessible to Vernon residents until the end of May. CleanBC is now focusing on other rebate programs, such as the Energy Savings Program - Better Homes BC . There may be opportunities for City of Vernon funding to be distributed through other CleanBC rebate programs, but this has not been confirmed. Regardless, we will be promoting all CleanBC building energy retrofit rebates through our outreach and communications.	Promote energy efficiency incentive programs
	6	Coaching services for homeowners to simplify building energy retrofits	The contract for homeowner energy retrofits coaching services has been awarded to the Community Energy Association (CEA). They will be delivering their 'Retrofit Assist' program in Vernon	Develop a building retrofit program to

Focus Areas	Community Outreach Programs		Status update	2023-2026 CAP priority goal / action
			starting next month through to December (with potential to extend the contract, if there is demand). CEA will create a specific landing page for Vernon their Retrofit Assist website and start promoting the program locally in June.	support residents
	7	Collaborate with building industry stakeholders to enhance capacity around low-carbon building solutions	We are researching existing industry collaboration initiatives in BC to inform our plan for Vernon. There may be potential to work with CEA on this and combine it with the timing of the Retrofit Assist program. We are exploring this with CEA.	Develop a building retrofit program to support residents
Community resiliency	8	Deliver community workshops for residents to learn simple, effective ways to adapt to severe weather events	We will re-run the 'Build Your Own Home Air Filter Workshop' in early summer. We are researching other climate resiliency workshops ideas to inform our plan for Vernon. Youth Climate Corps BC might help design/deliver these, but we have not had the time to plan any details yet.	Develop a program to facilitate connection, information sharing, climate awareness, and response activities...
	9	Deliver FireSmart assessments, workshops, and recourses	Ongoing. Lead by the FireSmart team in the fire department. The Climate team will collaborate with FS team and integrate FS information and resources to our community event booths. Website: FireSmart City of Vernon	Develop a program to facilitate connection, information sharing, climate awareness, and response activities...
Youth climate careers	10	Support high school Climate Action Ripple Effect (CARE) education program.	CARE was launched in high schools on February 26 and projects are underway with community mentors. The CARE Community Expo is scheduled for May 29, 2025 at the Curling Rink (9:30am-2pm). There will be at least 175 exhibits and the City will have	Work with teachers and schools on climate change

Focus Areas	Community Outreach Programs		Status update	2023-2026 CAP priority goal / action
			several booths, featuring Climate Action, FireSmart, OCP/TP engagement, and Parks. CAAC members are encouraged to come to the Expo to see firsthand what youth are passionate about when it comes to climate action. More info here: CARE 2025 Expo poster .	curriculum
	11	Sponsor youth climate employment opportunities with Youth Climate Corp BC.	The five YCCBC positions have been filled and the full crew started on May 20. They will be supporting climate action outreach through September.	Develop and fund a climate-ready community communications and outreach strategy.
Green business planning	12	Coordinate coaching services for businesses / non-profits to enhance green business practices	We are considering supporting the two coaching and certification programs that are already established in the Vernon area with local businesses (i.e., GreenStep and Biosphere Reserve). We are still negotiating details with these two organizations. Both certification programs follow the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework and their program criteria has been reviewed by multiple third-parties to ensure they meet rigorous international sustainability standards, such as the Global Sustainable Tourism Council and the International Network of Sustainable Tourism standards.	Fund climate-ready community communications and outreach; Provide small business information to support building energy retrofits.
Community tree canopy	13	Enhance the City's existing Tree Voucher program to increase planting of shade trees.	The voucher amount was increased from \$25 to \$75 and the marketing plan was enhanced this year (e.g., the program was renamed 'Trees for Tomorrow'). The program launched on Earth Day (April 22) and all 200 vouchers were claimed in less than two days.	Develop climate response activities and support local agriculture.
Organic waste composting	14	Promote residential curbside composting, the community compost drop-off bin, and yard	Ongoing program promotion. We will integrate composting information and messaging into our climate action outreach initiatives, where relevant. For example, we will have compost info at our booths at community events and we might offer a	Encourage and support neighbourhood based action.

Focus Areas	Community Outreach Programs		Status update	2023-2026 CAP priority goal / action
		waste composting.	home composting workshop in the summer. Website: Residential Organics City of Vernon	
Community Sustainability Grant	15	Continue to offer up to \$2000 in funding for residents, community groups, and non-profits to develop community sustainability projects.	The spring intake for the Sustainability Grant is May 21-June 25, 2025. This program is not funded by the provincial Local Government Climate Action Program grant; it is funded by the Long Range Planning and Sustainability Department budget. Due to department budgeting challenges, the total annual budget for the grants this year is \$12,000, so we are aiming to deliver at least 3 grants in the spring intake and 3 for the fall intake. Website: Grant Opportunities City of Vernon	Facilitate climate awareness and response activities.
Ambassador Program	16	Activate the Climate Action Ambassador Program and re-engage past volunteers to champion climate action in the community.	The Climate Ambassador program formed during the creation of the Climate Action Plan to engage the community in the planning process. It is a group of volunteers that received training to speak on climate change with their peers and actively listen to gather input. The program slowed during the COVID-19 pandemic, but has recently reconvened. Two meetings have been held with past Ambassadors and the next meeting on June 24 (6-8pm) will be open to new members to expand the network. CAAC members are encouraged to attend the Ambassador meetings, when possible (although this is not required under the CAAC terms of reference).	Define the role of the Climate Ambassadors program and provide ongoing supports.

2025 staff update:

The City is hiring a full-time, temporary (2-year) climate action coordinator to support the implementation of the Climate Action Community Outreach Strategy. Interviews have been completed and an pre-offer has been made. Reference checks and negotiations are underway.