



Attachment A

City of Vancouver Climate Action Plan

Early Action Package

The City of Vancouver is developing a Climate Action Plan, with plans to begin implementation in 2022-2023. To date, public, stakeholder, and staff input and best practices and current research in climate planning have been used to develop a menu of the most impactful, systemic strategies to shift Vancouver toward carbon neutrality and increased community resilience.

The engagement to date, along with a review of current City plans and programs, Washington state policy, and best practices of peer cities, suggested early actions that the City could implement now to jumpstart progress toward a more sustainable future. These actions were previewed at the July 26, 2021 City Council meeting.

Early actions were determined using the following criteria:

- ▶ Necessary changes to come into alignment with Washington State building, energy, and other sustainability-related standards.
- ▶ Lays a foundation for future implementation.
- ▶ Balances necessary changes and foundational action with actions that result in near-term (i.e., next 1-2 years) emissions reductions.
- ▶ No engagement is needed *or* we have already heard strong community and stakeholder support.
- ▶ A focus on municipal actions to demonstrate City leadership.
- ▶ Fits local context.
- ▶ Key opportunities presented by the most recent state legislative session.

The following sources to develop early actions:

- ▶ City of Vancouver staff feedback.
- ▶ Stakeholder feedback from community roundtables (e.g., Clark PUD, Alliance for Community Engagement (ACE), Northwest Natural (NWN), League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)).
- ▶ Washington policies related to climate change and sustainability.
- ▶ Climate action plans from peer cities (e.g., Redmond (WA), Everett (WA), and Providence (RI)).

Summary of Early Actions

The table below summarizes the 13 actions recommended for early adoption and implementation by the City of Vancouver. The following pages provide additional detail on the actions.

Early Implementation Actions	Department Lead
Buildings & Energy	
1. Develop a comprehensive green building policy for City-owned and occupied buildings and the private sector that is consistent with or exceeds state standards.	Community Development
2. Expand energy and water conservation retrofits and operational improvements to all municipal buildings and operations, beginning with retrofits that staff have already identified as feasible and promising investments.	General Facilities
3. Work with Clark PUD and other renewable energy providers to transition to 100% renewable energy for electricity use in municipal buildings, starting in 2022.	General Facilities
4. Work with affordable housing partners, Clark PUD, and NWN to subsidize home energy efficiency and weatherization retrofits for affordable housing units and housing that serves low-and fixed-income populations.	Economic Prosperity and Housing
Transportation & Land Use	
5. Partner with Clark PUD, C-TRAN, and Waste Connections to expand electric buses and electric contracted waste collection vehicles, prioritizing implementation in communities overburdened by local air pollution and with higher rates of asthma and other respiratory ailments.	Financial and Management Services – Procurement, Community Development
6. Develop and implement a City fleet EV charging infrastructure program.	Fleet
7. Introduce a policy to replace City fleet vehicles with electric at the time of replacement, where applicable and feasible. Where electric replacements are not available, seek opportunities to use lower carbon intensity ‘step-down’ fuels.	Fleet

Early Implementation Actions (continued)	Department Lead
Solid Waste	
8. Develop and enforce a City of Vancouver environmentally preferable purchasing policy (EPP).	Financial and Management Services - Procurement
9. Require food waste composting and glass and co-mingled recycling at all City buildings and for all municipal operations.	Public Works – Solid Waste
Water & Wastewater	
10. Develop a solids management and resource recovery plan for wastewater facilities to generate renewable energy and beneficial materials.	Public Works - Wastewater
Governance	
11. Release a climate priority declaration.	City Manager's Office
12. Build critical staff capacity to support CAP development and implementation.	City Manager's Office
13. Establish a municipal energy fund to create a self-sustaining source of funds for investing in municipal projects related to energy efficiency improvements, on-site energy generation, and other municipal projects specified in the Climate Action Plan.	General Facilities

Buildings & Energy

1. **Develop a comprehensive green building policy for City-owned and occupied buildings and the private sector that is consistent with or exceeds state standards.** This policy applies to both new and existing City-owned buildings and new private-sector buildings. It should meet or exceed the standards in the state's Clean Buildings Act and municipal high-performance building standards. The City will use the policy development process to determine specific requirements and standards of the policy; in the meantime, an Interim Green Building Policy will apply. As another first step to implement this action, the City should identify City-owned buildings to participate in the Early Adopter Incentive Program, which provides a one-time incentive payment of \$0.85 per gross s.f. of floor area for certain large commercial and multi-family buildings that demonstrate early compliance with the Clean Buildings Act requirements.
2. **Expand energy and water conservation retrofits and operational improvements to all municipal buildings and operations.** Begin with retrofits that staff have already identified as feasible and/or promising investments. These investments may cover streetlights, traffic signals, pump stations, or other infrastructure such as Tier 1 and Tier 2 buildings (which the City intends to retain long-term). Energy benchmarking should be included in the implementation of these initial retrofits, then expanded to a system-wide municipal energy benchmarking system to identify priority facilities for retrofitting and efficiency investments.
3. **Work with Clark PUD and other renewable energy providers to transition to 100% renewable energy for electricity use in municipal buildings, starting in 2022.** This may include direct production of renewable energy from on-site generation, the purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs); or, the purchase/use of renewable natural gas if options to purchase energy from carbon-free energy sources are not available. Priority should be given to options that enable the City to either source its electricity directly from, or replaced in the power grid with, renewable, emissions-free resources.
4. **Work with affordable housing providers, Clark PUD, and NWN to subsidize home energy efficiency and weatherization retrofits for affordable housing units and housing that serves low-and fixed-income populations.** Evaluate existing energy efficiency programs and work with community organizations that represent and serve overburdened communities to share information in culturally appropriate ways.

Transportation & Land Use

5. **Partner with CLARK PUD, C-TRAN, and Waste Connections to expand electric buses and electric contracted waste collection vehicles, prioritizing implementation in communities overburdened by local air pollution and with higher rates of asthma and other respiratory ailments.** The first step in this process is for the City to meet with Clark PUD, C-TRAN, and Waste Connections to identify opportunities and barriers within City limits that the City could address to streamline and/or expand implementation. The City would provide funding or other support to further expand these existing programs in overburdened communities. After successful implementation in communities overburdened by local air pollution and with higher rates of asthma and other respiratory ailments as well as other low-income communities and communities of color, the City should expand the program

to the remainder of the community until all feasible and/or applicable vehicles have been electrified. The expansion can be based on a prioritization study or other analysis.

6. **Develop and implement a fleet EV charging infrastructure program.** The City's Fleet Department, possibly with assistance from an expert consultant, will conduct an inventory and analysis of the City's current municipal fleet to identify priority vehicles to be electrified (e.g., passenger cars or heavy fuel consumers); select location(s) for charging infrastructure; determine necessary electrical infrastructure to support EV chargers and what type of charger(s) would be needed; and create an operations and maintenance program for the infrastructure. If possible, the City should look for opportunities to locate EV chargers in areas that are accessible to the City and general public, with a preference for areas of the community currently underserved with EV charging. Facilities staff suggested prioritizing fleet EV charging, then employee/public EV charging on City property. The City can require payment for charging to avoid issues around the gift of public funds. Clark PUD and Columbia-Willamette Clean Cities have grant programs that can assist with implementing this action.
7. **Introduce a policy to replace City fleet vehicles with electric at the time of replacement, where applicable and feasible. Where electric replacements are not available, seek opportunities to use lower carbon intensity 'step-down' fuels.** EV/hybrid replacements could be introduced once the EV charging infrastructure program is in place. Where electric or hybrid replacements are not yet feasible, which is likely the case for heavier-duty vehicles, seek opportunities to use lower carbon intensity 'step-down' fuels such as hydrogen, renewable diesel, and propane instead of traditional gas and diesel fuels. Short-term leases or other short-term arrangements may be prioritized where ZEVs are not available. This will provide time for viable alternatives to come to market and help ensure that long-term investment remains focused on vehicles with zero emissions. In Washington state, the Climate Commitment Act and Clean Fuel Standard both include programs to support expanded vehicle electrification.

Solid Waste

8. **Develop and enforce a City of Vancouver environmentally preferable purchasing policy (EPP).** At a minimum, the City's EPP should prioritize the purchasing of durable and repairable goods to reduce end-of-life emissions, prioritize green cleaners to improve indoor air quality, explore contracts and markets for recycled goods, include a preference for purchasing locally sourced materials, and support locally owned companies, especially those owned by women and people of color. The EPP may also include a requirement for conducting a life cycle analysis for goods and services to better capture the resources and emissions required to manufacture, package, and transport products. Early communication with policymakers and the community will ensure there is a collective understanding of what materials are accepted for recycling and composting in Vancouver's current system.
9. **Require food waste composting and glass and co-mingled recycling at all City buildings and for all municipal operations,** including specialized items such as e-waste, printer cartridges, scrap metal, batteries, block foam, and plastic film where handlers for these items are available. The first step is to discuss how to expand these services to all City buildings. This may include researching and expanding contracts and markets for recycled goods and end-of-life materials (e.g., Earth Friendly, Total Reclaim, EcoLights Northwest). Another option for an early step is outreach and education to City employees, such as the development of a City "green team" with representatives from each building and/or

department or requiring waste and recycling education as part of new employee orientation.

Water & Wastewater

10. **Develop a solids management and resource recovery plan for wastewater facilities to generate renewable energy and beneficial materials (i.e., biosolids or biochar for fertilizer).** Consistent with trends in wastewater treatment operations, this action combines increased energy efficiency and smart controls with renewable energy generation and the production of beneficial materials. It applies to new projects and upgrades of existing equipment for wastewater treatment. It is also recommended that the City's Public Works department coordinate the collection of applicable biosolids from other operations, such as food waste composting.

Governance

11. **Release a climate priority resolution.** Following the City Council retreat in the spring of 2021, City Council named climate action as a key theme for near-term work. They also acknowledged the ongoing question of whether climate action sits within a single initiative or applies to multiple initiatives. This resolution would provide additional clarity and specificity on these topics. In addition to providing clarity and specificity, its purpose is to further empower City staff to make climate and sustainability a priority in their work and demonstrate the City's commitment to climate action to the community. The resolution would include a clear statement that climate change should be integrated and prioritized in all existing initiatives and direct key first steps to take in mainstreaming climate change in City processes, programs, and initiatives.
12. **Build critical staff capacity to support CAP development and implementation.** High-priority needs have begun to be met with the hiring of a senior policy analyst to serve as the CAP Lead, completing development of the CAP and leading implementation. A grant writer can support the need for expanded capacity to implement CAP actions. Once onboarded, the City will need to consider whether additional support such as a sustainability coordinator may be needed. Priority initial actions for these new hires include familiarizing with potential long-term funding sources for CAP implementation and conducting discussions with City departments to ensure staff have the necessary information and capacity to address climate change in their work. Results of these early actions could be used to develop a City staff climate education plan, inform the development of governance actions, and inform CAP implementation planning.
13. **Establish a municipal energy fund to create a self-sustaining source of funds for investing in municipal projects related to energy efficiency improvements, on-site energy generation, and other municipal projects specified in the Climate Action Plan.** This may include projects such as HVAC upgrades, solar panel installations, and electric vehicle charging stations at City facilities. Energy efficiency projects and on-site energy generation projects can lead to savings for City operations, which could be returned to the municipal energy fund for reinvestment into additional mitigation and adaptation actions. To begin work on this initiative/plan/goal, other funding sources could be considered as well to establish the fund. The City should prioritize projects that continually reduce operating costs and emissions.