



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 10/06/2022

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Rebecca Small, CMO  
Aaron Lande, CMO

**RE:** **Climate Action Framework – City Governance Section**

---

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this Memo is to provide Council with an early review of the **Governance** section of the draft final Climate Action Framework (CAF); to note where action descriptions have been edited for clarity or succinctness; and to highlight how action descriptions have been changed in response to feedback from Council, the community, or City staff.

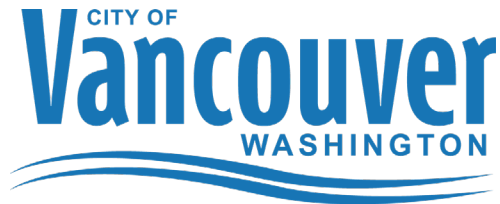
### **Background:**

In preparation for the public hearing and final adoption of the Climate Action Framework on December 5th, and in response to Council's request for ample time to review the final CAF document prior to that adoption date, staff will be providing Council with a series of 6 memos to preview the content of the CAF.

Each memo will focus on one of the 6 sections of the CAF (Governance, Building Energy, Transportation & Land Use, Natural Systems, Equity and the Green Economy, and Solid Waste and Wastewater). Memos will present the sections' actions as currently worded for the final version that will come before Council in December alongside the draft text Council reviewed in August, along with an explanation for any changes made and how it reflects Council direction.

### **Schedule**

These memos will be included as informational items in Council's weekly packet, starting Tuesday, October 11th. Councilmembers are encouraged to follow up with Rebecca Small and Aaron Lande with any questions or suggestions for how to clarify the proposed language. Ms. Small and Mr. Lande will also be available to answer questions during the November 7th and 21st Council Meetings under City Manager Communications. The complete revised CAF will be included in the November 22nd Council packet, two weeks prior to the December 5th public hearing as requested, to allow for a comprehensive review of the entire document.



Climate Action Framework – City Governance Section

Introductory text

Vancouver will be a city that embeds climate change in everything we do. We will ensure that staff are knowledgeable and empowered to make sustainable decisions and there is adequate permanent funding to make our equitable, low-emissions, resilient vision a reality.

Strategy GOV-1. Integrate climate action into City operations.

Prioritize and institutionalize equitable social, economic, and environmental sustainability across City activities, annual budgeting processes, decision-making, and CAF implementation. Improve City staff knowledge of and capacity for their role in climate action. Identify and secure adequate permanent funding for successful and equitable CAP implementation.

Action	Revised Action Description	Original Wording as of 06/06/22	Changes explained
1	<b>Critical staff capacity</b> Build critical staff capacity to support CAF development and implementation. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide adequate staffing to implement the goals and strategies of the CAF</li><li>• Provide education on City’s CAF for new hires during the onboarding process.</li></ul>	<b>Critical staff capacity</b> Build critical staff capacity to support CAP development and implementation. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluate needed staff capacity and if needed, hire additional staff to implement the goals and strategies of the CAP.</li><li>• Provide education on City’s CAP for new hires during onboarding process.</li></ul>	Re-worded to simplify description.
2	<b>Climate priority declaration</b> Release a climate priority declaration.	<b>Climate priority declaration</b> Release a climate priority declaration.	No changes. This action was completed on 06/06/22 with Council’s adoption of Res. No. M-4171(Climate Priority Resolution).
3	<b>Regular updates of GHG inventory and CAF strategies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct a GHG Emissions Inventory update every 4 years.</li><li>• Evaluate progress towards goals and adjust CAF strategies accordingly.</li><li>• Modify CAF to reflect changing conditions and new technology.</li></ul>	<b>Regular updates of GHG inventory and CAP strategies</b> Conduct a GHG Emissions Inventory update every 4 years. The updated GHG emissions inventory will be used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluate progress towards goals and adjust CAP strategies accordingly.</li><li>• Provide an opportunity to modify CAP based on changing conditions and new technology.</li></ul>	Re-worded to simplify description.
4	<b>Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy</b> Develop and enforce a City of Vancouver environmentally preferable purchasing policy (EPP). This policy should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support the purchase of local, recycled, and environmentally preferred products to minimize GHG impacts relating to City work</li><li>• Support the development of a green local economy by prioritizing the use of local businesses for sustainable goods and services.</li></ul>	<b>Environmentally Preferable Purchasing program</b> Develop and enforce a City of Vancouver environmentally preferable purchasing policy (EPP).  This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Considering life cycle costing as part of cost comparisons.</li><li>• Promote local purchasing to support local businesses and reduce GHG emissions from transportation and distribution.</li><li>• Require energy and water efficiency as a primary consideration for all future purchasing decisions.</li><li>• Develop template language that staff can use when writing purchase requests and Requests for Proposals (RFPs).</li></ul>	Simplified to remove implementation-level details in keeping with the function of the CAF as a policy-setting document.

5	<b>Expedited permitting for sustainability projects</b> Expedite plan review within the green building section of the code.	<b>Expedited permitting for sustainability projects</b> Expedite permitting for sustainable projects across all sectors, with a priority on the high emissions transportation and building sectors (e.g., implementation of energy storage infrastructure).	Re-worded to add more specificity to this action, per suggestion by Development Review Division.
6	<b>Reduce vehicle trips by municipal employees</b> Promote, accommodate, and incentivize commuting by walking, cycling, transit, carpooling, and telecommuting among City employees to reduce drive-alone commute trips.	<b>Reduce vehicle trips by municipal employees</b> Promote, accommodate, and incentivize carpooling, vanpooling, and telecommuting amongst City employees to reduce driving commute trips, especially drive-alone. Expand telecommute and flexible schedules for City employees.	Re-worded to remove redundancy and to include other travel modes.
7	<b>City green teams</b> Create a “Green Teams” program to support City staff in leading sustainability initiatives in their departments or building.	<b>City green teams</b> Create a “Green Teams” program to support City staff in leading sustainability initiatives in their departments or building.	No changes
8	<b>Municipal energy fund</b> Establish a municipal energy fund to create a self-sustaining source of funds for investing in energy-efficient municipal operations.	<b>Municipal energy fund</b> Establish a municipal energy fund to create a self-sustaining source of funds for investing in energy-efficient municipal operations.	No changes
9	<b>Phase out of two-cycle lawn equipment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace municipal two-cycle lawn equipment usage wherever feasible.</li> <li>Update Procurement guidelines to restrict usage of two-cycle lawn equipment by City contractors.</li> <li>Explore options for equitable implementation of a city-wide phaseout of two-cycle lawn equipment.</li> </ul>	N/A	This is a new action that was added to the CAF as a result of Council direction given to staff during the August 8, 2022 Council Workshop.

#### Impact of changes made

- Action #4 (“Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy”) was simplified to remove implementation-level guidance that would be assumed by staff and which provide an unnecessary level of detail for a policy-setting document. The change to this action’s description is not expected to have an impact on the action’s outcome.
- Regarding the addition of Action #9 (Phase out of two-cycle lawn equipment): GHG emissions from gas-powered, two-cycle lawn equipment were not included in the City’s 2019 GHG Inventory, as there is no practicable way to track citywide ownership and usage levels. However, the severe environmental impacts of two-cycle engine lawn equipment are well-documented. Research indicates that the amount of air pollutants emitted by this type of equipment is significant, far exceeding the emissions of large automobiles. Though it is not something that can be quantified and modeled with enough confidence to include in the CAF’s GHG Inventory and modeling work, the impact of a two-cycle engine phaseout on GHG emissions and local air quality, in particular, can be assumed to be substantial.