

Report to Council



Date: June 25, 2018

File: 1200-90

To: City Manager

From: Tracy Guidi, Sustainability Coordinator

Subject: Our Kelowna as We Take Action: Kelowna's Community Climate Action Plan (2018 – 2023)

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Sustainability Coordinator, dated June 25, 2018, with respect to *Our Kelowna as We Take Action: Kelowna's Community Climate Action Plan (2018-2023)*;

AND THAT Council adopt the *Our Kelowna as We Take Action: Kelowna's Community Climate Action Plan (2018 – 2023)* as attached to the report from the Sustainability Coordinator, dated June 25, 2018;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to begin implementation of the actions according to the timeline outlined in Table 12 of the *Our Kelowna as We Take Action: Kelowna's Community Climate Action Plan (2018 – 2023)* as attached to the report from the Sustainability Coordinator, dated June 25, 2018.

Purpose:

To present Council with the final *Our Kelowna as We Take Action: Kelowna's Community Climate Action Plan* for endorsement.

Background:

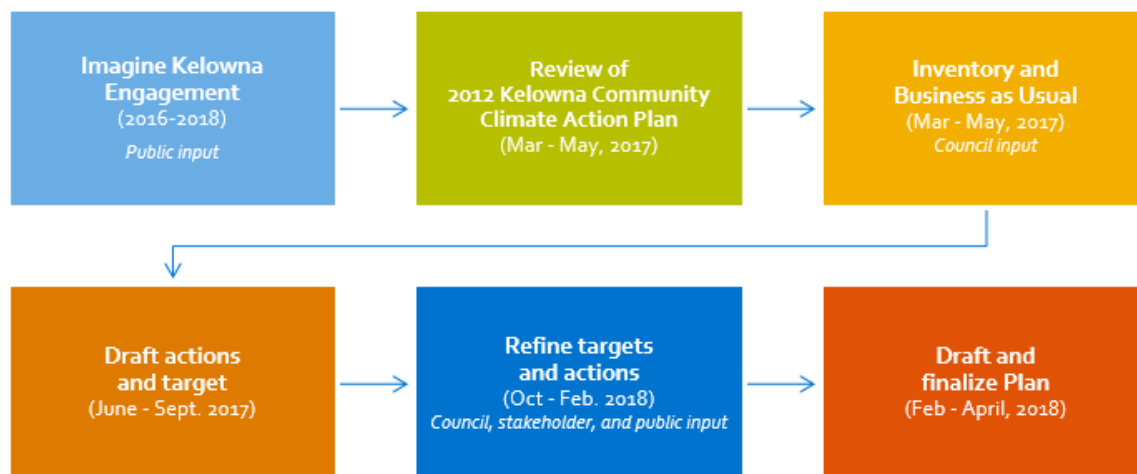
Climate change affects everyone. The release of greenhouse gas emissions and the resulting impacts on the climate have consequences for economies, ecosystems and social well-being. Less predictable and more extreme weather patterns can damage property and infrastructure, affect food and energy prices, impact air quality and the natural environment. No one person created the issue and no one person or organization can solve it. It is everyone's responsibility - residents, businesses and government, to take action to fight climate change to make the community and the planet a better place for future generations.

Kelowna has experienced first-hand, the havoc that climate change can cause to a community. In 2017, Kelowna experienced one of its most extreme weather years with record levels of spring precipitation causing historic flooding followed by a hot, dry summer that contributed to a devastating wildfire season. 2018 also started with extremes, with snow pack levels across the Okanagan at 200 per cent above normal¹ causing the local Emergency Operations Center to be activated in April to address localized flooding and prepare for possible larger impacts.

Climate change affects everyone, and everyone must do their part to **mitigate** GHG emissions to limit the extent and impacts of climate change. Locally, cities are critical leaders to modify the trajectory of climate change by influencing and leading emission reductions through land use planning, transportation options, building requirements and waste services.

In the spring of 2017, the City embarked on a process to update the 2012 Community Climate Action Plan. *Our Kelowna as We Take Action: Kelowna's Community Climate Action Plan (2018 – 2023)* (the Plan), addresses the major sources of emissions in Kelowna and outlines a series of actions that when implemented, provides opportunities for the community to reduce GHG emissions. Developed according to the process outlined in Figure 1, the Plan examines **mitigation** options that the City can undertake over the next 5 years to influence the quantity of GHG emissions produced in the community. It should be noted that the Plan does not focus on what the City needs to do to **adapt**, or prepare for climate change impacts, however it does include an action to develop a comprehensive adaptation plan for the community.

Figure 1: Community Climate Action Plan Development Process



Based on input from the Imagine Kelowna process, stakeholder engagement, staff and best practices, *Our Kelowna as We Take Action: Kelowna's Community Climate Action Plan (2018 – 2023)* presents 51 actions that will help reduce community GHG emissions. While some of the actions are regulatory in nature, others rely on community behavioral shifts as the City provides more opportunities for residents to lead a low carbon lifestyle. The actions that the City can take a lead role in implementing are under six themes:

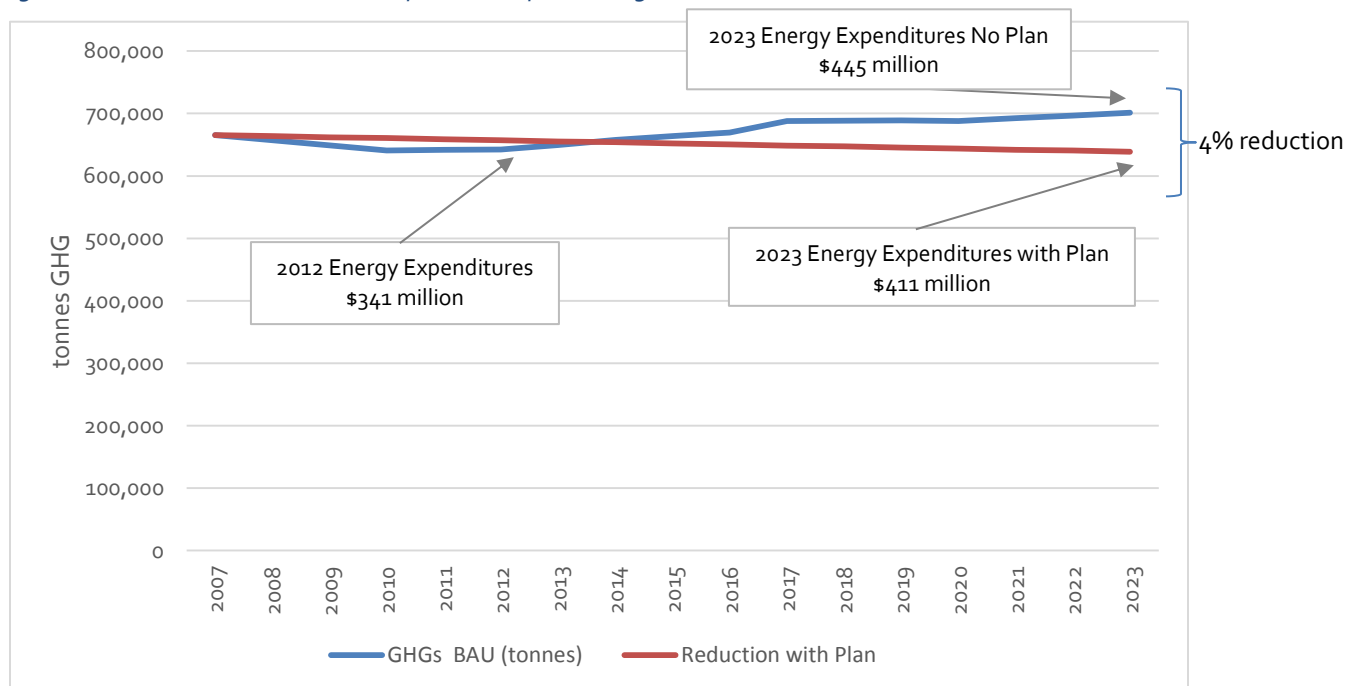
¹ KelownaNow, May 7, 2018. Record snow pack levels in Okanagan and Similkameen means flood risk will remain for many more weeks.

https://www.kelownanow.com/watercooler/news/news/Central_Okanagan/Record_snow_pack_levels_in_Okanagan_and_Similkameen_means_flood_risk_will_remain_for_many_more_weeks/

1. **The Way We Get Around** – providing options to reduce vehicle trips and accelerate transition to low carbon transportation options.
2. **The Energy We Use in Our Buildings** – improving energy performance and reducing GHG emissions in new and existing buildings.
3. **The Waste We Create** – increasing the diversion of waste from the landfill.
4. **Encouraging Renewable Energy** – encouraging the use of renewable energy alternatives.
5. **Planning Our Community** – managing energy and emissions by focusing growth in urban areas so residents and workers are located closer to transit and services.
6. **Other** – other actions that support Kelowna moving towards a low carbon future.

There is a compelling case for mitigating climate change. Implementing the Plan's actions will reduce GHG emissions through encouraging energy conservation and efficiency, by providing opportunities to shift transportation modes, and by focusing growth in urban areas. Moving towards this low carbon future is an immense challenge, but planning for a healthy and resilient environment is also an enormous opportunity. Community benefits are broad reaching and with intention, Kelowna can be a dynamic community that embraces transportation options, grows vibrant urban centres, protects land, water and air. This is in addition to attracting jobs in the new global economy, being healthier citizens, and being resilient in the face of a changing world. At an individual scale, the Plan's actions will provide options and choices for transportation, waste and energy efficient homes, allowing residents to reduce energy, save money and be healthier. In fact, by implementing the Plan's recommendations, it is projected that by 2023, community energy expenditures will be approximately \$34 million less than what is anticipated if the Plan is not implemented (a savings of \$240 per capita per year).

Figure 2: Business as Usual (BAU) compared to Implementing the Plan



In addition, climate and energy planning is connected to all aspects of a healthy built environment and therefore the Plan influences, or is influenced by a variety of other City plans and initiatives as illustrated below:

Figure 3: Community Climate Action Plan influences and connections



The Plan puts the City on the path to celebrate successes and build momentum. Over the short-term, these actions will define a **pragmatic** path to slow emissions growth. It is anticipated that by implementing the recommended actions, the community can achieve a target of an absolute GHG reduction of four per cent below 2007 levels by 2023. This is no small feat, as this is equivalent to a 27 per cent per capita reduction. The Plan also includes **bold leadership** by aligning a 2050 community target with the provincial target: to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent. Aligned with this direction, three targets are recommended:

Year	Absolute GHG Target	Target as Per Capita Estimate
	Below 2007 levels	
2023	4%	27%
2033	25%	50%
2050	80%	90%

The City of Kelowna will work towards these targets in partnership with: senior governments; local residents and businesses; NGOs; external agencies; and utility providers.

While the Plan puts Kelowna on the path for achieving reductions, beyond 2023 more work will need to be done to maintain the downward trajectory in emissions, and not all the answers are present at this time, but it is paramount that the Plan stays current with the rapid pace of change and technological shifts to ensure monumental responsibility is not passed on to future generations.

Summary:

As climate action is far reaching, community action is required to implement the pragmatic actions in the Plan over the next five years putting Kelowna on the path to reduce emissions four per cent below 2007 levels by 2023. Monitoring and evaluation criteria have been outlined to ensure the community remains on track in reaching the targets. Beyond that, the Plan provides the foundation to shift how the community lives, works and moves, so that continual incremental progress can be achieved as the Plan is revisited and new actions are identified every five years to reach an eighty percent GHG reduction by 2050. Achieving these targets requires both City leadership and community commitment to ensure Kelowna works towards becoming an energy efficient, liveable, responsible and sustainable community.

Climate change affects everyone, and everyone must do their part. Successfully reducing emissions requires a shift in thinking and behaviour and there are costs and risks to inaction. The cost of doing nothing to fight climate change far outweighs the cost of solving the problem. Innovation and new technology will have an effect, but all segments of the community - residents, business and government - must do their part to make a difference. It is time to accelerate efforts, work as a community instead of as individuals and act now to ensure that the decisions of today align with our long-term community aspirations for a healthy, vibrant, safe and thriving quality of life.

Existing Policy:

- **OCP Objective 6.2** *"Improve energy efficiency and reduce community greenhouse gas emissions."*
- **OCP Policy 6.2.1 GHG Reduction Target and Actions.** *The City of Kelowna will, in partnership with: senior governments; local residents and businesses; NGOs; external agencies; and utility providers, work towards reducing community greenhouse gas emissions by 33% (from 2007 levels) by 2020.*

The City of Kelowna's efforts will be focused on creating more mixed use neighbourhoods (as identified on the OCP Future Land Use map) and on ensuring that residents can conveniently and safely travel by bus or by foot, bicycle and other forms of active transportation to get to major community destinations while ensuring the efficient movement of goods and services.

The City will support the reduced use of fossil fuels in buildings by encouraging renewable energy supplies, district energy systems and energy efficient technologies in new and existing buildings. By working with senior government partners, regulated utilities and others, the City will lead through example and strive to meet the BC Climate Action Charter targets for the reduction of GHG emissions from municipal infrastructure.

It should be noted that the City of Kelowna also has a Corporate Energy and Emissions Plan that focuses on energy and emission reductions for the corporation. Corporate GHG emissions are estimated to be approximately one per cent of total GHG emissions for Kelowna.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

The cost to complete the Community Climate Action Plan was approximately \$45,000. The City of Kelowna acknowledges the support of FortisBC who granted \$22,425 towards this project. The remainder of the funds are sourced from the Policy and Planning Department budget.

It should be noted that the full implementation of the Community Climate Action Plan requires additional funding and resources at various stages. Funding and resourcing options will be investigated and/or budget request will be made as part of the normal annual budget cycle if and when necessary.

External Agency/Public Comments:

Engagement for the Community Climate Action Plan is summarized in Appendix 5 of the *Our Kelowna as We Take Action: Kelowna's Community Climate Action Plan*. The summary provides highlights of engagement activities that informed the development of the Plan. Feedback was obtained through the following

- *Imagine Kelowna* – 2016 to 2018 input
- *Imagine Kelowna* On Point Discussions:
 - Climate Change On Point Session, November 16, 2016
 - Transportation On Point Session, December 8, 2016
- Stakeholder Discussion on Energy Step Code – September 2017
- Stakeholder Workshop – November 30, 2017
- Online Engagement.kelowna.ca online engagement – February 6 – 22.

Communications Comments:

Once endorsed, a copy of the Community Climate Action Plan will be available on the City's website at www.kelowna.ca/imaginenext.

Submitted by:

T. Guidi, Sustainability Coordinator

Approved for inclusion:



Danielle Noble-Brandt, Policy & Planning Dept. Manager

cc:

Divisional Director, Community Planning and Strategic Investments
Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services
Divisional Director, Financial Services
Director, Business and Entrepreneurial Development
Director, Development Services
Community Planning Department Manager
Cultural Services Manager
Development Engineering Manager
Energy Program Manager
Grants & Special Projects Manager
Infrastructure Engineering Manager
Parking Services Manager
Parks & Building Planning Manager
Parks Services Manager
Strategic Transportation Planning Manager
Utility Services Manager
Communications Advisor

Attachments:

Our Kelowna as We Take Action: Kelowna's Community Climate Action Plan

Schedule A: Letters of Support (Interior Health and FortisBC)