



Climate Hub Submission on City Budget & Economic Stimulus

Agenda Item 5.7, C2020-0524, Strategic Meeting of Council, May 11, 2020

We support Council's efforts in advocating for funding from the federal and provincial governments. During the good times, Calgary has contributed far more to federal and provincial coffers than it has received in return. Now when times are tough, Calgary needs the other levels of government to step up.

Like COVID-19, climate change will disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. The COVID-19 crisis has revealed social inequalities and the economic vulnerability of many Calgarians. By applying the climate lens, we support the City's number one priority of "Aid to vulnerable citizens and non-profits that support them." **The simultaneous collapse in the price of oil also revealed the fragility of our economy and the urgent need to diversify.**

Investment in recovery should follow the principles of green stimulus which aligned with the actions adopted in the City's *Climate Resilient Strategy*. These principles focus on environmental sustainability, climate mitigation, and a just transition to a carbon neutral economy. Green stimulus is the best way to meet the Administration's recommended criteria for investment (Attachment 1).

The Calgary Climate Hub's submission is a first contribution to inform the conversation about the implementation of a green stimulus package. We will continue to provide additional recommendations to Council and will be pleased to meet with Councillors and Administration to share our expertise.

We have five propositions to implement a just, green stimulus package that fosters economic prosperity and builds a strong and sustainable Calgary that leaves no Calgarian behind:

- 1. Invest in energy efficient buildings.**
 - a. The City reports that 62% of its GHG emissions arise from buildings.
 - b. As recommended by the Climate Panel, ensure that new infrastructure and retrofits considers climate mitigation and adaptation in procurement and design criteria.
 - c. Ensure the four capital building projects (i.e.. the new event centre, fieldhouse, BMO Centre expansion, and Arts Commons upgrades) are net-zero, water-wise buildings hosting zero-waste events.
- 2. Make Enmax net zero by 2050.** As a shareholder of Enmax, the City should have our utility company invest in renewable energy generation and other zero-carbon technologies with the target of having ENMAX generate 25% renewables by 2030 and be net-zero by 2050. This is possible given the retirement schedule of Enmax's assets. This will also send a strong signal to investors that Calgary is serious about climate change mitigation and economic diversification.
- 3. Implement and fund the Climate Resilience Strategy,** prioritizing the recommendations made by the Climate Panel.
- 4. Continue investing in active transportation to provide affordable and healthy transportation options for all Calgarians** by expanding protected bike lanes networks in all communities, enhancing pedestrian/bike/transit interconnection, and investing in designated bus lanes and in new buses to increase hours and quality of service. This aligns with the *Route Ahead Strategy*.

- 5. Ask Administration to review the following options to generate additional revenues:**
- a. Review user fees to capture the real social and environmental costs and benefits of services.
 - As recommended by the Climate Panel, implement by 2022 a progressive fee structure for electrical, heating, water, wastewater, and road use within the City
 - Increase revenue from transit amenities (e.g., parking and concessions), residential parking fees, and road (e.g., toll roads).
 - b. Mitigate the cost of growth
 - Delay further funding for the 14 new residential communities approved in 2018
 - Delay further funding for new road construction and expansion
 - Approve a moratorium on new communities for 15 years

The Calgary Climate Hub will continue developing and refining its recommendations to City Council; encourage citizens to support this green stimulus package; and will meet with Councillors to present our proposals in more detail.

On behalf of the Calgary Climate Hub,

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