



WHISTLER

REPORT | INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: July 7, 2020

REPORT: 20-063

FROM: RESORT EXPERIENCE

FILE: 5290

SUBJECT: CLIMATE ACTION BIG MOVES STRATEGY

COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the interim General Manager of Resort Experience be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive Information Report No. 20-063 regarding the Climate Action Big Moves Strategy.

REFERENCES

Appendix “A” – Climate Action Big Moves Strategy

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this Report is to share the draft Climate Action Big Moves strategy and next steps.

DISCUSSION

The Climate Action Big Moves Strategy focuses on climate change mitigation priorities that will accelerate climate action in Whistler and achieve significant greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. It builds on the work of the 2016 Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and supports the Official Community Plan (OCP). This strategy provides the guiding framework to prioritize CECAP actions, incorporate new opportunities, and align the community-wide efforts needed to achieve significant emissions reductions.

The Climate Action Big Moves are focused on the transportation, buildings and waste sectors. The vast majority (90 per cent) of Whistler’s emissions are from vehicle transport and the built environment. Personal transport within Whistler is the biggest source of GHG emissions, accounting for 56 per cent of total emissions. Emissions have declined by 6 per cent in the buildings sector since 2007 but they still account for 34 per cent of Whistler’s emissions, with commercial buildings representing 24 per cent and residential buildings 11 per cent of the total. While the waste sector is Whistler’s best performing sector reducing emissions by 90 per cent since 2005, it is still included in this strategy for consistency with others using the Big Moves approach and to recognize that more can be done.

The Six Big Moves:

1. Move beyond the car

By 2030, 50 per cent of all trips in Whistler are by transit and active transport

- Increase transit options
- Enable more active transportation
- Develop compact and low carbon neighbourhoods

2. Decarbonize passenger and commercial transport

By 2030, 50 per cent of all vehicle km travelled are from zero-emission vehicles

- Scale up EV infrastructure for visitors and residents
- Develop ZEV parking incentives
- Facilitate electrification of private and public fleets

3. Reduce visitor travel emissions

By 2030, Whistler demonstrates leadership in redefining tourism in a low carbon world

- Work with partners to define low carbon tourism
- Strengthen partnerships with resort and tourism industry
- Purchase high quality carbon offsets

4. Build zero emission buildings

By 2030, all new buildings achieve the top step in B.C.'s Energy Step Code, use only low carbon heating systems, and embodied carbon emissions drop by 40 per cent.

- Implement full BC Energy Step Code
- Explore low carbon energy sources
- Increase capacity building, education, and RMOW leadership

5. Make existing buildings better

By 2030, reduce emissions from residential buildings by 20 per cent and from large commercial buildings by 40 per cent.

- Advance retrofit incentives
- Increase capacity building, education, and RMOW leadership
- Build collaboration with the Province and other partners

6. Close the loop and shift toward lower carbon consumption

By 2030, reduce waste sector emissions by 95 per cent and reduce embodied emissions from products and services.

- Increase landfill diversion from commercial and multi-unit residential buildings
- Divert construction waste
- Advance waste reduction and sustainable consumption

Even with the increased urgency to address climate change, Whistler is not on track to achieve its existing climate targets which are set at achieving reductions of 33 per cent by 2020, 80 per cent by

2050, and 90 per cent by 2060 – all below 2007 levels. To motivate action and increase accountability, a new 2030 target is recommended to provide greater focus on more near term deliverables.

The recommended 2030 target for Whistler is a 50 per cent GHG reduction below 2007 emissions, meaning that by 2030, emissions are capped at 66,000 t-CO₂e. This target is in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations of achieving 45 per cent reduction below 2010 levels and is even more proactive than the target set by the Province of British Columbia, i.e. 40 per cent reduction below 2007 levels. Achieving 50 per cent reduction below 2007 levels means reducing 2018 emissions by 60,000 t-CO₂e in just ten years – a formidable challenge. Whistler's Climate Action Big Moves are ambitious and it is estimated that, if successfully achieved, they will achieve a 36 per cent reduction from 2007 emissions – 72 per cent of the way to the 50 per cent reduction target. To close the gap, additional action at the municipal, provincial and federal levels will be needed in the next decade.

It is an ambitious strategy and will get Whistler closer to achieving its current GHG reduction targets and the 2030 IPCC target of reducing GHG emissions by 45 per cent compared to 2010 levels. Whistler must stay alert and be proactive, as well as nimble to incorporate new opportunities, as progressive thinking and initiatives will be needed in the coming years to close the shortfall, including additional financial investments locally, and support and tools from other levels of government to help further action at the municipal level.

A robust implementation and monitoring plan is critical to ensure that the Climate Action Big Moves Strategy becomes effectively operationalized. The RMOW will lead by example on climate in its own planning and projects, as well as aligning its land use, community and transportation planning and permitting processes to deliver the climate targets. Implementation will include the following priorities:

- A comprehensive 5-year multi-departmental implementation and financial strategy will be developed for the proposed Big Moves and the related Key Initiatives. When developing the strategy, the available regulatory, financial and advocacy tools within the RMOW will be assessed and financial impacts (costs and savings) for RMOW residents and businesses will be taken into account. Local actions with direct RMOW authority will be prioritized in the 5-year financial plan to reflect RMOW's commitment to act on climate change;
- Whistler's annual Energy and GHG Inventory Report will continue to be used as a key monitoring tool. Progress towards achieving the Climate Action Big Moves goals will be incorporated into the annual report to transparently monitor achievements and accelerate implementation. Quarterly reporting to Council on CECAP progress will be reviewed to determine the most efficient and effective way to keep Council and the public updated on progress being made and corrective actions, if any, are required;
- The Carbon Neutral Operations Plan will be updated to align RMOW action with the Big Moves strategy and demonstrate RMOW leadership;
- Accountability will be ensured by embedding climate action into municipal decision making in alignment with the OCP goal 10.1. Tools will be developed to inform on climate strategy alignment of proposed projects and programs, and to embed climate action into the annual RMOW budget process. Municipal committees will incorporate and align the Climate Action Big Moves into their mandates and terms of reference;
- An annual Carbon Budget for each sector (transportation, buildings, and waste) will be developed to increase literacy and involvement of all departments. The field of carbon budgeting is nascent and definitions vary by jurisdictional context. Existing national and sub-national

carbon budget approaches will be reviewed and a suitable approach for Whistler will be proposed;

- The 2030 target outlined above will be included as one of the metrics tracking progress towards the vision in the Official Community Plan;
- Strategic partnerships will be formed to lobby the provincial government for additional powers on par with City of Vancouver or above.

OTHER POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The recommended resolutions included within this report are consistent with the goals, objectives and policies included within OCP Bylaw 2199, 2018.

More specifically, the resolutions are particularly strongly aligned with Goals 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4 and all associated Objectives and Policies included within the Climate Action and Energy Chapter 10 of the current OCP.

The Climate Action Big Moves strategy also aligns with the Whistler Transportation Action Plan 2018 - 2028, and the Solid Waste Management Strategy.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Projects and initiatives identified for action are funded through the RMOW's Climate Action Rebate Incentive Program reserve and supplemented with outside funding as much as possible. For example, the RMOW was successful in securing \$120,000 from Natural Resources Canada to fund 50 per cent of the 28 EV chargers being installed in various public parking lots this year. Additional budgetary considerations will be developed for inclusion in the 2021-2026 five year financial plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

Staff held an online workshop with the original CECAP advisory group in June where the draft strategy was shared and feedback provided. Staff also sought input from the Transportation Advisory Group, Zero Waste Committee and a Whistler climate leader's group organized by AWARE. Staff is also exploring how the strategy can be shared through the upcoming virtual Environment town hall and other options.

Staff will continue to reach out to key community partners such as Tourism Whistler, Whistler Blackcomb, the Canadian Home Builders' Association (Whistler) and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss roles each can play and further identify priority initiatives and take action.

Staff anticipates returning to Council in autumn 2020 requesting adoption of the final strategy.

SUMMARY

Strong commitment to delivering the Climate Action Big Moves strategy and continuing to incorporate new opportunities is necessary to ensure that Whistler can meet its targets and contribute to provincial, national and global climate action.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Beresford

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MANAGER

for

Toni Metcalf

INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER OF RESORT EXPERIENCE