

To: Chief Administrative Officer **Date:** July 18, 2022
From: Barry Azevedo, Manager of Environmental Services
Subject: **Environmental Charter 2022-2027 – A Climate and Environmental Action Plan**

Recommendation(s)

That Council endorse the Environmental Charter 2022-2027 – A Climate and Environmental Action Plan.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the proposed updated Environmental Charter, including community feedback, and to request endorsement of the renewed Charter.

Background

The 2008 Environmental Charter

In 2008, the City adopted the Environmental Charter, Mission's Plan for Environmental Sustainability. The 2008 Charter included 116 proposed actions to make Mission a more sustainable community over a 10-year period. The 116 proposed actions were categorized as environmental stewardship, waste management, climate change, and the natural environment. Many of the actions were implemented over the 10-year time period.

Renewal of the Environmental Charter

Renewing the Charter became a priority action in the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, under the category of making Mission a "Liveable Complete Community". In May of 2021, Mission Council directed staff to update the Charter. Staff began with a review of the actions in the 2008 Charter and determined which actions had been completed, which were partially complete, and which actions were not started. A summary is presented in the table below:

Summary of Status of Completion of Actions from 2008 Environmental Charter				
Action Category	Total Proposed Actions	Completed Actions	Partially Completed Actions	Actions Not Started
Env. Stewardship	31	16	7	8
Waste Management	16	5	9	2
Climate Change	13	5	7	1
Natural Environment	56	19	28	9
TOTAL	116	45	51	20

Initial Survey (September to November 2021)

From September to November 2021, the City conducted an online survey to obtain feedback from residents, businesses and other stakeholders, to help guide update of the Environmental

Charter. Prior to and during the survey period, through social media, the City website, and the local newspaper, the City encouraged all residents, indigenous governments, landowners, business owners, and other community stakeholders to participate in the survey and provide feedback on the Environmental Charter update. The survey provided a combination of multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions to understand community concerns and suggested actions. 65 people responded to the survey and provided 2,395 comments and suggested actions.

In general, the survey showed support in all major areas of the plan, including climate action, ecosystem restoration and protection (including watercourses, forests, and wildlife protection), green infrastructure, drinking water protection, food security, community recreational infrastructure (e.g. trails), land use, resource management (waste). Support was particularly strong for actions pertaining to ecological restoration and protection, green infrastructure and wildlife. The survey also showed a high level of concern for climate change.

Drafting of the New Environmental Charter and the Climate Emergency

The updated draft Charter was developed with consideration of the areas of concern and the suggested actions received from the initial survey. In addition, since 2008, the threat of increasing climate change and its impacts, including wild fires, flooding and landslides, have become a reality for the residents of BC and around the world. Therefore, a key aspect of the renewed Charter is its heightened focus on climate action and accordingly it has been sub-titled “A Climate and Environmental Action Plan.”

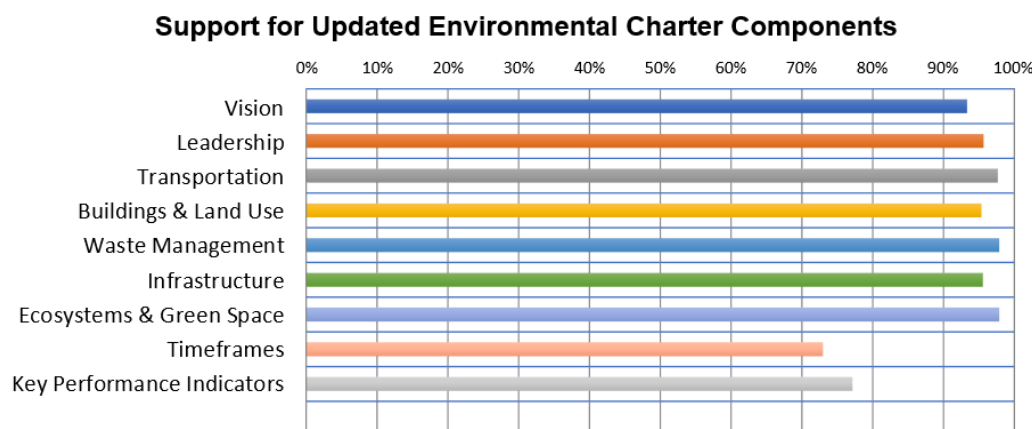
The updated draft Charter combines and updates the 2008 Environmental Charter and the 2012 Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) into one document. In addition, many of the actions from 2008 Environmental Charter and the 2012 CEEP, were included in the 2017 update of the Official Community Plan (OCP) and subsequent neighbourhood planning.

Workshop (February 24, 2022), Draft Environmental Charter 2022-2027, and Survey on Draft Environmental Charter (May 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022)

The draft updated Charter and 2021 survey were presented to Council at an open workshop on February 24, 2022. Feedback from the workshop was used to further revise the plan which was posted to the Mission Engage online platform for public comment from May 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022.

Discussion and Analysis

In general, the follow-up survey confirmed strong support for the draft Environmental Charter, as shown in the figure below (summarized from the Public Consultation Feedback Summary Report provided as Attachment B).



The vision and actions for each Charter component all received over 90% support in the survey (when comparing support versus no support). The timeframes provided for the actions also received a high level of support (over 70%), but many responses stated a preference for the actions to be undertaken sooner.

The Proposed Environmental Charter 2022-2027 – A Climate and Environmental Action Plan

Comments received from the survey on the draft charter were considered in the proposed update of the Environmental Charter (provided as Attachment A). The Charter is proposed as a five-year action plan and addresses the City providing sustainable leadership on climate actions, transportation, buildings and land use, waste management, infrastructure, and ecosystem and greenspace protection and enhancement. The proposed Charter includes 70 actions to be undertaken over the next five years and includes a schedule of implementation.

Monitoring implementation and effectiveness of the actions will be vital to ensure the Charter is successful, including if determining if changes are required to achieve this outcome. The two key actions for monitoring the implementation of the Charter are:

- 1) The annual reporting of Charter implementation including status of actions, key performance indicators, department successes, and suggestion for improvements to further advance Charter objectives.
- 2) The creation of a Climate Change and Environment Community Working Group that meets quarterly to advise on implementation and suggest new actions.

Council Goals/Objectives

Renewing the Charter became a priority action in the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, under the category of making Mission a “Liveable Complete Community”. In May of 2021, Mission Council directed staff to update the Charter.

Financial Implications

Actions with costs that are in addition to approved annual operating or capital budgets will be presented to Council, likely as stand-alone reports, or through the annual budget approval process. The City will also be receiving from the Province approximately \$200,000 in 2022, 2023, and 2024, for a total of approximately \$600,000 for undertaking climate action. This funding will be used for implementation of the new Charter.

Communication

If Council endorses the revised Charter, Environmental Services staff will work with the Manager of Communications and Public Engagement to develop a plan to advise the community of the new Charter through social media, public events, City website, and the local newspaper, as well as a call for members on the Climate Change and Environment Community Working Group. A plan will also be developed to advise all Departments of the plan, each Department's roles, and ongoing communication.

Summary and Conclusion

With the growing events of climate change and increasing demand on our world's natural resources, we are in a time of critical importance to better steward our environment. Our decisions and actions over the next five years will demonstrate our commitment to the kind of future we want for our children and grandchildren. We must do our part and act for our children so they can enjoy a livable climate, quality of life, clean water, and opportunity to experience wildlife and fisheries, like we enjoy today or better. The proposed Environmental Charter 2022-2027 provides a plan for the City to demonstrate its renewed commitment to being a sustainable community. Survey responses to the proposed Charter found over 90% support for the vision and proposed actions, and staff accordingly recommend that Council endorse the proposed Environmental Charter.

Report Prepared by: Barry Azevedo, Manager of Environmental Services

Reviewed by: Tracy Kyle, Director of Engineering and Public Works

Approved for Inclusion: Barclay Pitkethly, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

Attachment A: Environmental Charter 2022-2027 – A Climate and Environmental Action Plan - Draft

Attachment B: Environmental Charter Public Consultation – Feedback Summary Report