
Title:	Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team: Resilient St. John's Climate Plan Update
Date Prepared:	August 4, 2020
Report To:	Committee of the Whole
Councillor and Role:	Councillor Ian Froude, Public Works & Sustainability
Ward:	Ward 4

Issue:

To inform Council about the status of the planning process of the Resilient St. John's Climate Plan, the membership of the Multi-stakeholder Sustainability Team, and to launch stakeholder and public engagement activities.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

Canada and the province of Newfoundland and Labrador continues to work on actions related to achieving the global [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), which are the global blueprints to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. National governments cannot achieve the ambitious SDGs in the 2030 Agenda – but cities can contribute. The St. John's City Council has ongoingly re-enforced its commitment to be a Sustainable City through the development and implementation of various strategies and plans that support elements the SDGs. Plans and strategies related to SDGs include:

- Envision St. John's Municipal Plan
- Affordable Housing Strategy
- Municipal Arts Plan
- Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan
- Urban Forest Management Master Plan
- Water Conservation Order
- Updated Economic Development Strategic Plan (in development)
- Healthy City Strategy (in development)

Climate change continues to be the biggest challenge of our generation. As with COVID-19, we also need to flatten the global warming curve before it's too late. The "Resilient St. John's" Climate Plan will focus on a sustainability cornerstone by addressing energy and climate change. Its aims to support the City and the community as a whole to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs), stabilize energy costs by supporting energy efficiency, and preparing the City to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the impacts from climate change. This will ensure other sustainability development outcomes and long-term recovery are not undermined by the risks that climate change presents.

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The City of St. John's has completed key foundational steps since Council declared a Climate Emergency. These foundations will aid in planning corporate and community climate action, and include:

- Joined the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection.
- Committed to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.
- Developed a planning and engagement framework.
- Estimated the corporate and community energy use and greenhouse gas baseline (2018) to characterize the City's contribution to climate change.
- Established an Environmental and Sustainability Expert Panel (ESEP), which will ongoingly provide advice to Council and support the planning process and later implementation of the sustainability plan.
- Compiled climate science relevant to the City in the "St. John's Climate Profile", which aims to aid in decision making through considerations of past weather conditions and future climate projections.
- Initiated the development of a Corporate Greenhouse Gas Reduction Framework through an Inter-departmental Working Group and an Energy Efficiency Opportunity Assessment, to develop a comprehensive corporate program that will stabilize energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Formed a Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team (MSST), with a membership supported by the ESEP.

Next Steps:

Corporately, the City of St. John's is working to develop a Corporate Energy and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Framework, which will be a component of the Resilient St. John's Climate Plan. This distinction is defined in accordance to the guideline of FCM's Partners for Climate Protection program, which suggests that the corporate energy and emissions inventory be defined by the concept of "Operational Control Approach" (e.g., City operated buildings, fleet, waste management plants).

The Community components of the Resilient St. John's Climate Plan is a stakeholder driven process, including both the community and staff from the City operations. This community engagement process will address the mitigation of the entire community's GHGs, as well as the inter-dependent issue of adaptation for the community as a whole. This would include items such as energy consumption in residential and commercial buildings, industrial processes, transportation (including public transit), and emissions generated from the community's wastewater and solid waste. The plan will address adaptation as a community challenge, as the responsibility is shared across the various members of the community and the municipality to avoid harm. The City and the Community (ESEP and MSST) are now ready to initiate the engagement process.

Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team

Purpose: To provide local perspective and advice to the community energy efficiency, GHG mitigation and adaptation components of the sustainability plan.

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To facilitate discussions, the MSST is thought of as two Working Groups i) energy & GHG mitigation and ii) adaptation. However, workshops involving both to identify co-benefits are envisioned.

Scope of Working Groups in the MSST:

Energy & GHG Mitigation Group	Adaptation Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop community GHG reduction target(s). - Participate in workshops to develop community energy efficiency and GHG mitigation actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify how climate may impact the community through a vulnerability and risk assessment. - Develop community adaptation goals and actions.
Inform Co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation actions in our community to achieve Low Carbon Resilience.	
Inform and develop the necessary partnerships.	
Inform financial implications.	
Initiate collaboration and partnerships needed to leverage existing funding opportunities (e.g., FCM's Green Municipal Fund Opportunities).	

Membership: Sectors were identified within the community systems (environmental system, socioeconomic system, built environment system). Stakeholder and partner organizations reviewed by the ESEP were contacted to elicit participation. The relevant staff from the City will attend the workshops to support the planning of the MSST Groups.

Role of Council in MSST: Council is invited to participate in the MSST workshops to provide broader community perspectives. The outputs of the MSST will be reviewed by the ESEP. The final plan will be brought to Council for review and adoption.

Reporting: The MSST will work with the City staff to inform the community sections of the Planning Framework, which will report to Council via the ESEP.

Timeline:

Proposed Timeline	Task	Framework Phase
Late Summer 2020	MSST Launch	Assessment
Late Summer 2020	Council Update	
Early Fall 2020 (TBC)	Public Engagement	
Early Fall 2020	MMST Workshop 1	
Mid- Fall 2020	MMST Workshop 2	
Late Fall 2020	MMST Workshop 3	Planning
Mid – Winter 2021 (TBC)	Public Engagement	
Mid Spring 2021	MMST Workshop 4	
Late Spring 2021	Council Update	
Late Spring 2021	Public Engagement	
Summer 2021	ESEP Draft Plan	Adoption & Implementation
Summer 2021	Council Final Draft Plan	

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Public Engagement Process:

The City of St. John's values public engagement as it ensures policy reflects public needs and interests, considers diverse viewpoints and values, and enables collaboration and consensus. Public engagement will be carried out by the City of St. John's.

DIY Workshop Tool: In addition to the City's public engagement activities, a facilitators guide will be developed to support community groups that would like to have discussions about climate change, which will help ensure that these discussions provide information relevant to the process. This tool will include items like guidance for facilitators, background information about climate change relevant specifically to our community, the Resilient St. John's planning process, questions of interest, and next steps.

Youth Engagement: Youth Engagement Advisory Committee recommendations for engaging youth were reviewed and incorporated in the public engagement steps of the process shown below.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: N/A
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: Partners and Stakeholders have committed to participate in the planning process through the Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: A Sustainable City; A City That Moves; A Connected City; An Effective City.
4. Legal or Policy Implications: N/A
5. Privacy Implications: N/A
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: Online Workshops with the Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team and the Public Engagement page in the City's online platform will be launched. Any community group is also encouraged to make use of the DIY Community Climate Workshop Tool.
7. Human Resource Implications: N/A
8. Procurement Implications: N/A
9. Information Technology Implications: N/A
10. Other Implications: N/A

Conclusion/Next Steps:

- The "St. John's Climate Profile" report will be made publicly available to aid in decision making, incorporating considerations of past weather conditions and future climate projections.
- The Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team will begin the engagement process to develop community strategies to address climate change.
- Public Engagement will be launched through the City's online platform and the DIY Community Climate Workshop tool made available to the public.

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Resilient St. John's Climate Plan Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Multi-Stakeholder Sustainability Team Membership.pdf- St. John's Climate Profile-Infographic.pdf- St. John's Climate Profile-Final.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Aug 10, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Brian Head - Aug 6, 2020 - 1:26 PM

Lynnann Winsor - Aug 10, 2020 - 9:36 AM