

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Committee Room
Coquitlam City Hall
3000 Guildford Way
Coquitlam, BC

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 be approved.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

2. Committee Orientation Review (Presentation by Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk)

7:05 – 7:10 p.m. (5 minutes)

3. 2026 Work Plan (Presentation by Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment)

7:10 - 7:25 p.m. (15 minutes)

Recommendation:

That the Committee recommend to Council to approve the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan.

4. Bringing Coquitlam Parks Alive: Volunteer Opportunities (Presentation by Sara Yastremski, Manager Park Services and Mohammad Asadian, Parks Partner Program Supervisor)

7:25 - 7:55 p.m. (30 minutes)



- 5. Environmental Achievement Awards 2026 (Presentation by Madeleine Lemaire, Solid Waste Programs Specialist)**
7:55 - 8:10 p.m. (15 minutes)
Recommendation:
That the Committee establish and appoint six or fewer members to a Sub-committee for the purposes of adjudicating the Environmental Achievement Awards 2026.
- 6. Climate Action Plan Update (Presentation by Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment)**
8:10 - 8:25 p.m. (15 minutes)
- 7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**
8:25 - 8:45 p.m. (20 minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, March 10, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Tuesday, November 25, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

** Indicates Virtual Attendance*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair
Councillor Steve Kim, Vice-Chair
Mark Ashton, Citizen Representative
Grayson Barke, Citizen Representative
Reza Berry, Citizen Representative*
Craig Busch, Citizen Representative
Linton Chokie, Citizen Representative
Daryoush M. Hassani, Citizen Representative
Hasina Razafimahefa, Citizen Representative
Nadia Springle, Citizen Representative
Azar Varasteh, Citizen Representative

ABSENT: Sarah Ramji, Citizen Representative (Regrets)

STAFF: Kathleen Reinheimer, Senior Manager Parks
Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment
Julie Kanya, Manager Environmental Education and Enforcement
Juan Martinez, Sustainability Program Specialist
Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 were approved.

Craig Busch and Linton Chokie entered the meeting at this point (7:05 p.m.)

NEW BUSINESS

2. Urban Forest Management Strategy

The Senior Manager Parks gave a presentation entitled “Urban Forest Management Plan” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Concern about unintended costs arising from planting impacts on the structural integrity of buildings.
- Appreciation of tree replacement requirements for development, and a desire to understand the replacement ratio performance versus goal.
- Suggestion that use of more appropriate tree and plant species could improve outcomes in, for example, parking lots, and that those species might be made available by the City growing them directly, through a regional approach, or with provincial incentives for industry.
- Desire for alignment between urban forestry and storm water management.
- Desire for alignment with Climate Adaptation Strategic Plan recognizing that trees are necessary as temperatures rise in hot spots like parking lots and high-rise towers.
- Suggestion to undertake mapping to support tree selection that integrates heat inequity and site permeability, as done in the City of Surrey.
- Suggestion to develop a list of opportunities for partnerships and for planting on provincial lands so that citizens can support asks of the regional and provincial governments.
- Suggestion to investigate and select climate-resilient tree species.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- A goal to increase substantially the citywide canopy cover with current rates of development would be unachievable for many decades, so the Strategy proposes incremental targets and performance indicators for each implementation action.
- Specific neighbourhoods have greater potential for planting, and the Strategy will ensure preparation to take advantage of opportunities

The Senior Manager Parks left the meeting at this point and did not return (7:45 p.m.)

3. Climate Action Plan

The Senior Manager Environment and the Sustainability Program Specialist gave a presentation entitled “Climate Action Plan” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of the development of the Plan following multiple years of engagement with the Committee.
- Suggestion that the public awareness and buy-in are built best in relation to the stewardship and leadership focus areas.
- Suggestions to increase public awareness through an online Climate Action Plan dashboard or signboards in City facilities to highlight the climate-related features of the facility.
- Suggestions to collaborate with the school district and Public Library to educate and engage youth in the Plan; for example, by creating a Climate Lab or a Climate Hack-a-thon.
- Suggestion to implement a Climate Ambassadors or Champions program in schools, neighbourhoods, and business, with gamified approaches to encourage action.
- Suggestion that messaging on climate action should use eco-positivity, make abstract concepts tangible, and highlight personal benefits of action.
- Suggestion to make use of social media for youth engagement.
- Suggestion to investigate the creation of a district energy system using heat exchange from the sewer system.
- Concern that political and economic circumstances will create challenges with provincial and federal funding for public transportation.

4. 2025 Year-End Review / 2026 Work Plan Development

The Senior Manager Environment gave a presentation entitled “SEAC 2025 Year-End Review and 2026 Work Planning” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of Grayson Barke’s presentation as a Committee member.
- Appreciation of learning about wide range of City programming and action.
- Appreciation that Work Plan items reflect Committee input over the years.
- Appreciation of the variety of items, which reflects a holistic conception of sustainability.

- Desire to meet in person for subcommittees where the work demands it; for example, in determining awards.
- Suggestion to limit time on presentations to facilitate more discussion and feedback given that agenda packages are distributed in advance for review.
- Suggestion that presentations have specific prompts to consider in the advance and that they be tailored to this Committee.
- Suggestion to limit agendas to two to three presentation items to avoid rushing consideration and limiting discussion and feedback.
- Desire to give project feedback on-site where appropriate.
- Suggestions for items in the 2026 Work Plan including land use management topics such as Transit-Oriented Areas, Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing, and Neighbourhood Plans; development of a riparian and wildlife corridor plan; policy on pollinator gardens in City projects; Cedar Drive Upgrade Project updates; Joint Flood Mitigation Program updates; circular economy actions; Climate Action Plan updates; Urban Forestry Management Strategy updates; and investigation of stream base flow.

5. **Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging sustainability and environmental issues and events in their communities.

Discussion ensued relative to a workshop to be held by a group of community organizations on November 29, 2025 entitled “Building an Affordable, Green, and Climate-Ready City”.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Brent Asmundson, Chair

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk



City of Coquitlam – Legislative Services

2026 Advisory Committee Orientation

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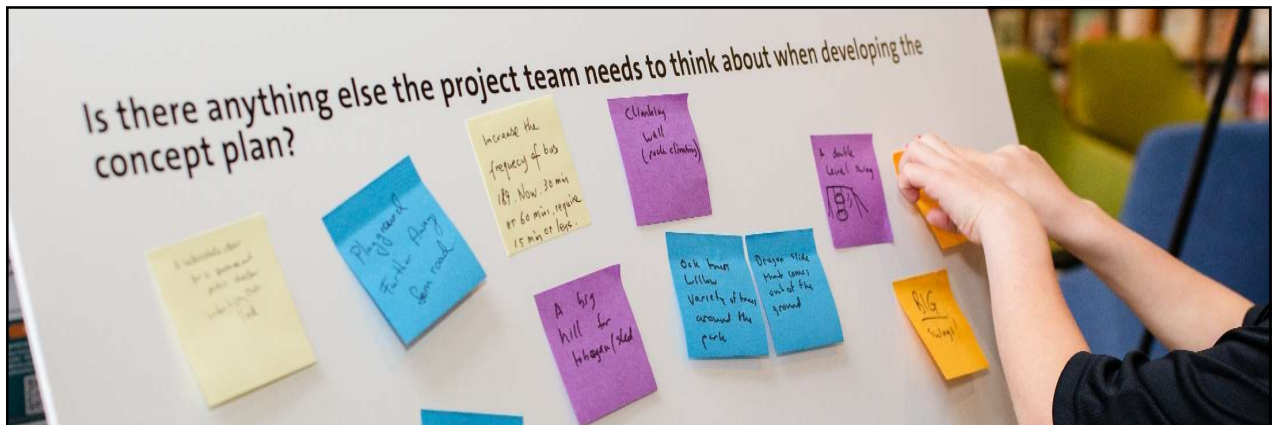
Agenda: Our Work

1. What
 1. Purpose
 2. Plans and Mandate
 3. Roles and Responsibilities
2. How
 1. Meetings
 2. Other Activities
3. When
 1. 2026 Meeting Schedule
4. Where
 1. Access
 2. Facilities
 3. Safety



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What

Purpose | Plans and Mandates | Roles and Responsibilities

Purpose

- Established by Council as **dedicated stakeholder groups**
- An organized forum for community **engagement** in the City's **planning** process
- **Mandates** are established by Council to **direct** the **topics** brought forward
- Provide **perspectives, advice** and **recommendations** to Council

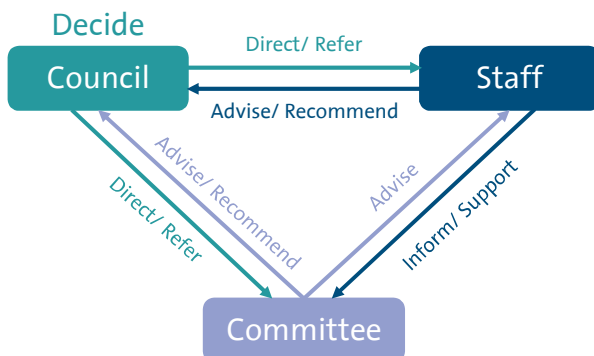


Plans and Mandate



- **Advise** on a wide range of **environmental issues** and trends including strategic **planning** initiatives, **bylaws**, and **policy** development
- **Provide** a local **perspective** on the **environment** giving due consideration to the balance between **social**, **environmental** and **economic** aspects
- **Identify** and review **opportunities** for **environmental protection** and **enhancement** within the City and advise Council of the same
- **Advise** on **environmental issues** of importance to **stakeholder** groups and to the community at large
- **Advise** on ways to build local **environmental awareness**, and promote environmental **stewardship** within the City
- **Celebrate** environmental **volunteer** involvement and leadership

Roles and Responsibilities



Roles and Responsibilities

Committee Members

- Review agendas in advance
- RSVP and regularly attend meetings
- Observe rules of debate
- Consider public interest above all
- Treat others with respect
- Adhere to standards of ethics

Chair and Vice Chair

- Approve agendas
- Lead meetings (focus and time)
- Maintain rules of/ supports debate
- Seek engagement and consensus
- Provide and encourage respect
- Maintain standards of ethics

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff Liaison(s)

- Prepare agenda items/ activities
- Provides information/ advice
- Manages Work Plan progress
- Manages Committee advice and recommendations

Committee Clerk

- Prepares/ distributes agenda package
- Supports process/ procedure
- Manages/ communicates meeting logistics, attendance, administration
- Records Committee minutes



How

Meetings | Other Activities

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Meetings

- Public
 - **Schedule** and **agendas** are posted
 - Public may **observe** not participate
 - Chair may allow to speak, but not to make motions or to vote
 - Must sit in gallery; only Committee members or invited speakers may sit at the table
 - **Streamed** by Zoom Webinar
 - **Minutes** are posted



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Meetings

- Agendas and Attendance
 - Packages distributed one week in advance for your **review**
 - Confirm your attendance by **RSVP**
 - **Quorum** required to hold a meeting
- Minutes
 - **Official record** of previous meeting
 - In agenda package for your **review** and **feedback**



Meetings

- Electronic Participation (Zoom)
 - **Exceptional** option to be used only when in-person attendance is not possible
 - Indicate need for electronic participation in **RSVP** or **ASAP** in unforeseen circumstances
 - A **Panelist link** will be provided to join the Zoom Webinar
 - Ensure you have an **appropriate space** and **audio** equipment to listen and be heard clearly



Meetings

- Decorum and Debate
 - Council **Procedures Bylaw** and Roberts **Rules of Order**
 - **Guidance** of Chair and Committee Clerk
- Decisions
 - **Advice** given through **discussion** – may be incorporated in staff recommendations
 - **Recommendations** must be made by making and voting on a formal “**motion**”



Other Activities

- Special Meetings
 - May be called by the Chair, Mayor, or Council
- Sub-Committees
 - May be established by the Committee to undertake investigation, research, or project planning for Committee consideration
- Events
 - Requests for volunteers may be made by staff
- Site Visits
 - May be organized to provide in-person understanding of a facility or program





When

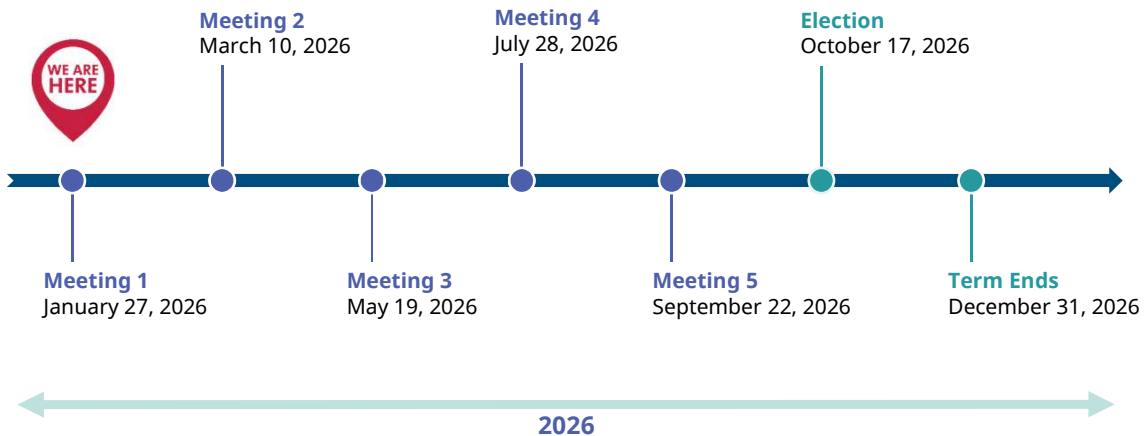
2026 Meeting Schedule

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2026 Schedule

All meetings are held in the Council Committee Room



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Where

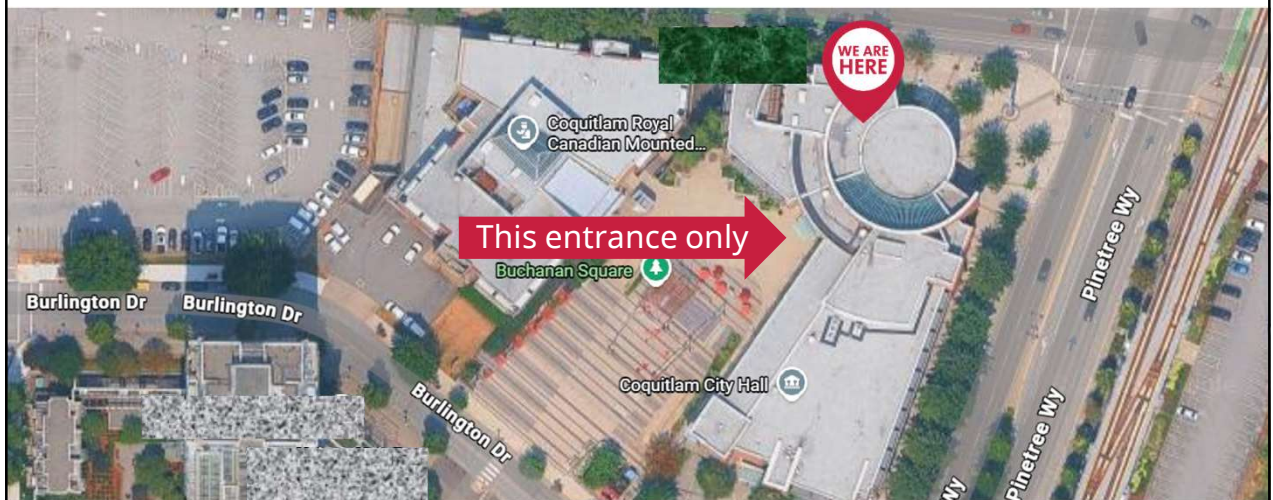
Access | Facility | Safety

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Access

One point of access after business hours



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Facility

Contact the Committee Clerk regarding any accessibility requirements/ concerns



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Safety

In case of an emergency, follow the directions of the Committee Clerk



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Questions?

Alex McLellan

Committee Clerk

committeeclerk@coquitlam.ca

Legislative Services

604-927-3010

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Your service is appreciated!

Thank you

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Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee

Committee Mandate

The overall mandate of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee is to provide a local perspective and advice to Council with respect to achieving the City of Coquitlam's strategic goals and accompanying strategic directions. Specific responsibilities of the Committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To provide advice to Council on a wide range of existing and emerging environmental issues and trends including strategic planning initiatives, bylaws, and policy development;
- To provide a local perspective on the environment while giving due consideration to the balance between social, environmental and economic aspects;
- To identify and review opportunities for environmental protection and enhancement within the City and advise Council of the same;
- To advise Council on issues of environmental importance to stakeholder groups and to the community at large;
- To identify and advise on ways to build local environmental awareness, and promote environmental stewardship within the City; and
- To celebrate environmental volunteer involvement and leadership including supporting the annual Environmental Volunteer Celebration (and its biannual Environmental Achievement Awards component).

ITEM	DEPARTMENT / LEAD	INITIATOR / RATIONALE
Standing Items		
1) Committee Welcome	Legislative Services / Clerk	Staff / Administrative
2) Review and Approve 2026 Work Plan	EPW / Staff Lead	Staff / Terms of Reference
3) 2026 Year-end Review / Identify potential items for the 2027 Work Plan – Committee feedback/input	EPW / Staff Lead	Staff / Terms of Reference
4) Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)	Committee / Chair	Committee / __

2026 Work Plan

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee

ITEM	DEPARTMENT / LEAD	INITIATOR / RATIONALE
Environmental Achievement Awards Celebration 2026		
5) 2026 Environmental Volunteer Celebration Planning sub-committee	EPW / __	Committee / Terms of Reference
Engineering and Public Works Initiatives as needed, including:		
6) Transportation Plan Update	EPW / __	__ / 2026 Priority B
7) Joint Flood Mitigation Program	EPW / __	Staff / __
8) District Energy Update	EPW / __	Staff / __
9) Climate Action Plan	EPW / __	__ / 2025 Priority A
10) Creek Water Quality Program Update	EPW / _	Staff / __
Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities Initiatives: as needed, including:		
11) Blue Mountain Park Master Plan	PRCF / __	__ / 2026 Priority C
12) Burke Mountain Community Centre and Park Design and Construction	PRCF / __	__ / 2026 Priority A
13) Glen Park Renewal	PRCF / __	__ / 2026 Priority C
14) Urban Forest Management Strategy	PRCF / __	__ / 2026 Priority B
Educational Awareness Presentations:		
15) Urban Wildlife Management <i>optional</i>	EPW / __	Committee / __
16) Waste Management and Recycling <i>optional</i>	EPW / __	Committee / __

2026 Work Plan

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee

ITEM	DEPARTMENT / LEAD	INITIATOR / RATIONALE
17) Park Spark –Environmental Initiatives <i>optional</i>	PRC / __	Staff / __

DRAFT

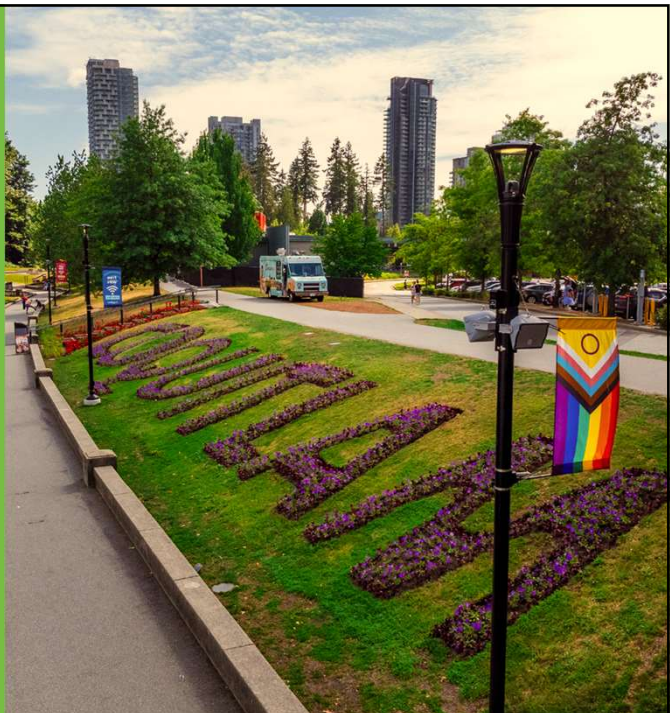


Bring Coquitlam Parks Alive!

Volunteer opportunities to connect people to their parks and to each other!

    
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Welcome Activity

- Opportunities to connect with new community members
- Introduce new fun and engaging topics to the Coquitlam community
- Identify potential content experts, presenters, and partners for future *Park Spark* initiatives



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Agenda

- An overview of the Park Spark program
- Examples of past Park Spark successes
- Nature, and gardening-focused opportunities
- Education and outreach components
- Questions and discussion



Park Spark Objectives

- Offer accessible, flexible volunteer opportunities for all skill levels
- Connect the community to nature through hands-on learning and participation
- Encourage stewardship and shared ownership of local park spaces
- Build awareness and develop skills
- Empower residents to make a meaningful, lasting difference in their community



Who Participates? Residents



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Who Participates? Businesses

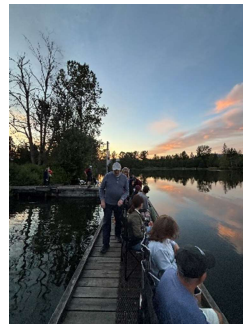


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Who Participates? Community Organizations and Schools



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Recent Park Spark Successes



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Recent Park Spark Successes



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Inspiration Garden

- **250** Educational Workshops
- **100** School/Family Tours
- **250+** Volunteers
- **60+ dedicated** Youth volunteers



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Tree Spree

- **101** Educational Workshops
- **40** Nature Tours
- **20** School Programs & **1200** Students
- **2500+** Trees Given Away since 2022
- **10,000+** planted since 2022
- **50+** Trees Planted with SD43



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Bad Seed

- **60** Educational Workshops
- **50+** Weed Pulls
- **700+** Bad Seed Participants and Volunteers.
- Engaged with **10+** schools



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Park Spark



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Park Spark

- **250+** Adopt-a-Park Volunteers
- **1200+** Light Brigade Volunteers
- **20+** Park Clean-ups for 2025
- **250+** Participants Coquitlam in Bloom Proud to Grow Here 2025
- **15+** Community Plantings for 2025
- **1000** poppies painted at Coquitlam Remembers with the Community



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How to get Involved!



What does Park Spark Offer?

- Opportunities for all ages and abilities
- Community-focused initiatives and events
- Build awareness and skills by connecting the community to nature through hands-on learning

Benefits of Volunteering:

- Get involved in the community
- Take ownership of shared spaces
- Knowledge share with community members
- Develop new skills and hand-on exercise

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Looking Forward...

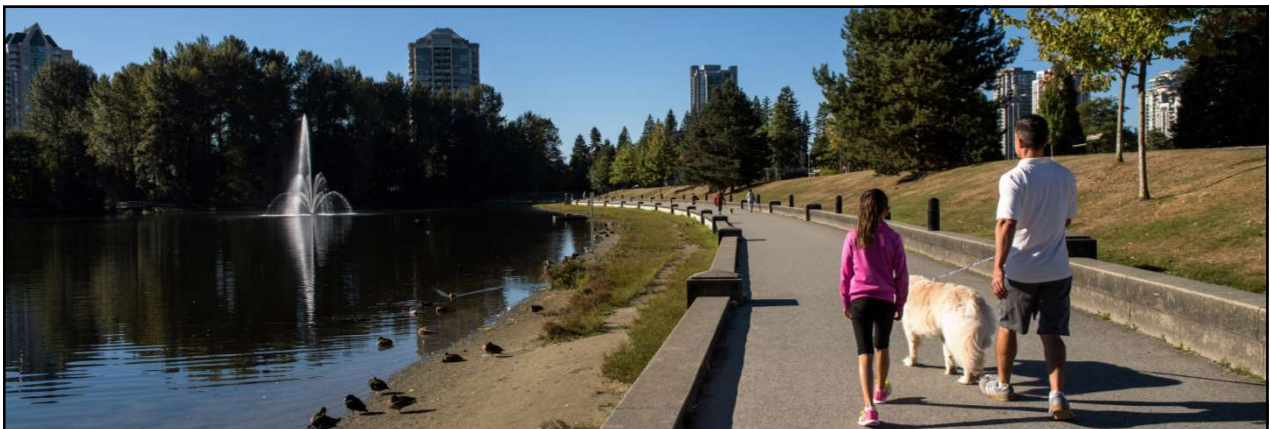


- Support a healthy, active, environmentally engaged community
- Build stewardship through hands-on action and education
- Increase awareness of the long-term value of Coquitlam's green spaces and urban forests
- Offer accessible workshops that encourage participation and stewardship
- Grow sustainable, long-term initiatives through community partnerships

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Thank you! Questions?

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2026 Environmental Achievement Awards

Sustainability and
Environmental Advisory
Committee

    
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Environmental Achievement Awards and Celebration

To recognize and celebrate the contribution made by community environmental
volunteers and stewards



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Event Details and Planning

- **Location:**
 - To be determined
- **Date:**
 - Saturday, June 13, 2026
- **What to expect:**
 - Music
 - Food
 - Activities
 - Award Ceremony
 - Socializing
 - Fun!



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Nomination Awards Categories



Individual Green Sprout – ages 3-12

Individual – ages 13-18

Individual – 19 and over

Teacher or Educator

Youth Group – School or Club

Adult Group – Organization, Service Club, and the like

Lifetime Achievement – 20 years or more of volunteer experience

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Eligible Projects and Activities

Environmental education/public awareness

Environmental conservation/protection

Habitat enhancement or rehabilitation

Sustainability

- waste reduction and recycling
- climate action
- water conservation
- food security/gardening
- sustainable transportation



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Timeline

January

- Set the date.
- Campaign launch.



Late March

1st Subcommittee meeting to review and adjudicate nominations.

April

Event invites go out and recognition board development.

June 13, 2026
Event day.

February

Nominations accepted. Preliminary screening.

Ongoing event planning, coordination & promotion by City Staff

Early May

2nd Subcommittee meeting to provide updates and discuss event needs.

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Call for volunteers



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Thank you!



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City of Coquitlam
Engineering and Public
Works

Climate Action Plan Update

Sustainability and Environmental Advisory
Committee Presentation

January 27, 2026


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January 2026

City of Coquitlam

Climate Action Plan



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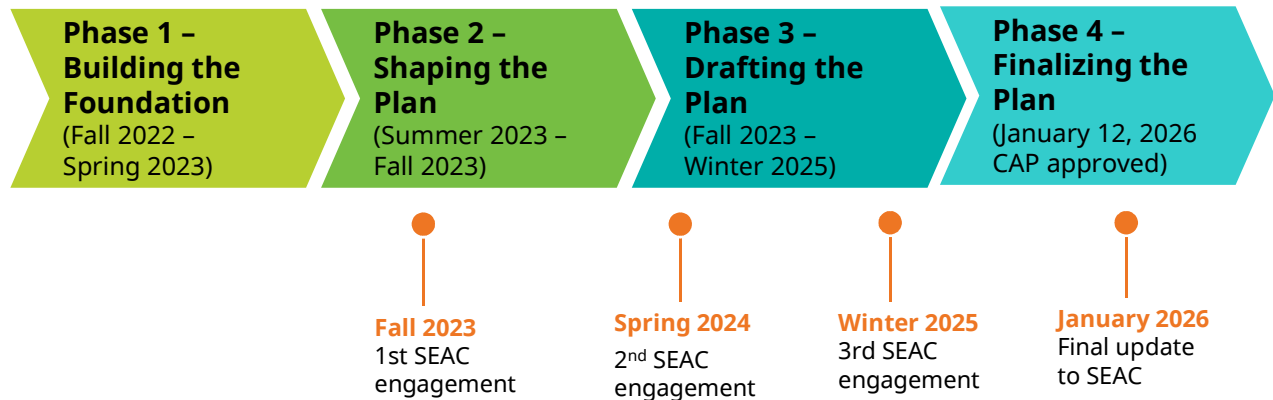
Purpose of Presentation

1. **Provide an update** on adoption of the Climate Action Plan.
2. **Recap** how Committee's feedback was incorporated.
3. **Present the Plan** and highlight some of its key features.
4. **Identify next steps.**

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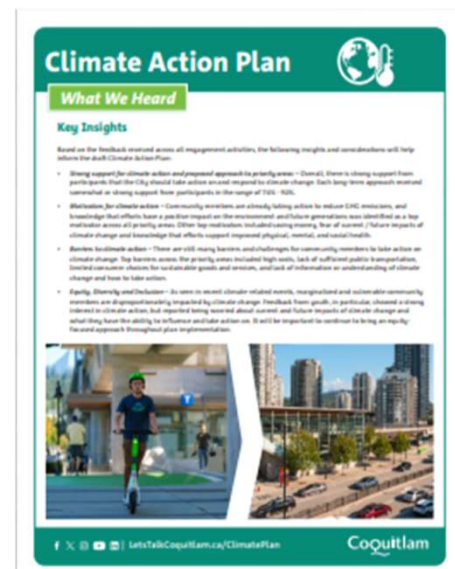
Climate Action Plan Timeline



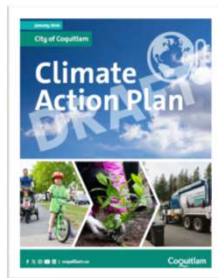
Incorporating Your Feedback

Your committee's feedback has helped:

- ✓ Shape the strategies and actions.
- ✓ Identify key motivators and barriers in each focus area.
- ✓ Identify tools, partners and strategies to support successful implementation.



Climate Action Plan



Climate Action Plan

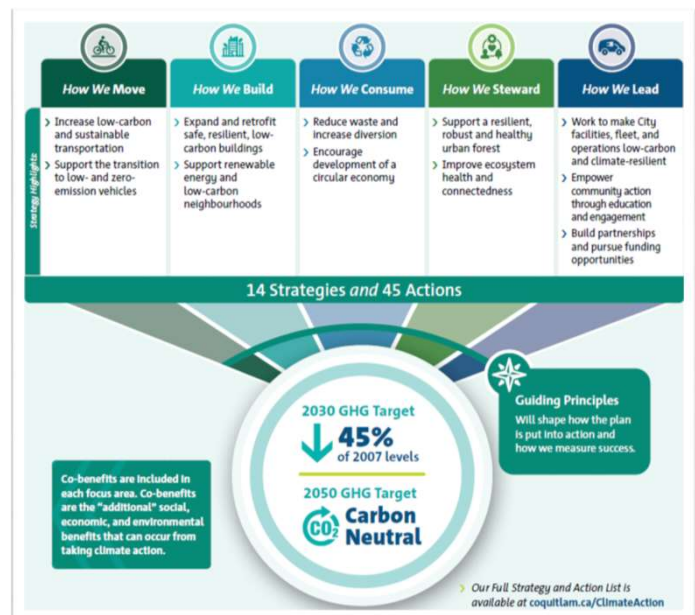
Designed to be a clear, accessible, visual plan with action highlights across each of the five focus areas

Full Strategy and Action List

Companion document that includes all strategies and actions along with timelines, anticipated costs, and potential funding opportunities

Plan Structure:

- Five focus areas with strategies and actions
- Guiding principles inform implementation
- Progress towards our GHG targets with a focus on realizing co-benefits along the way



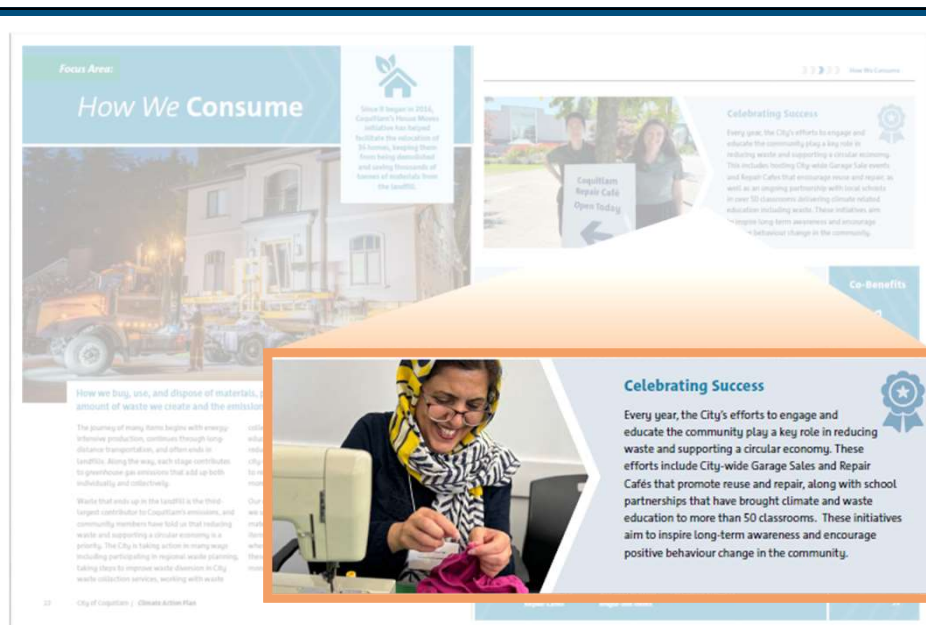
Key Feature: 5 Focus Areas

- How We Move
- How We Build
- How We Consume
- How We Steward
- How We Lead



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"Celebrating Success" sections highlight great work underway across the community that can be built upon through further action.

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Focus Area:

How We Consume

Since it began in 2016, Coquitlam's Resource Moves initiative has helped facilitate the relocation of 50 homes, keeping them from being demolished and saving thousands of tonnes of materials from the landfill.

Example Actions

#	ACTIONS	TIMELINE
C1.1	Participate in the regional Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan update and leverage this work to develop, implement and promote circular economy initiatives.	Short Term
C1.2	Assess Coquitlam's building stock to identify opportunities to reduce and divert construction and demolition waste, and develop policies and approaches that prioritize the reuse, relocation and deconstruction of existing buildings, as well as the reduction of waste in new construction.	Short Term
C1.3	Explore Coquitlam's role in supporting and advocating for a sustainable, equitable, and resilient food system, equitable access to healthy food, and strategies to reduce and recover food waste.	Ongoing
C1.4	Develop initiatives to reduce solid waste generation and increase diversion at all City facilities, as well as City-hosted and City-led events.	Medium Term

See the full list of How We Consume strategies and actions at coquitlam.ca/ClimateAction

Celebrating Success

Every year, the City's efforts to engage and educate the community play a big role in reducing waste and supporting a circular economy. This includes hosting City-wide Garage Sale events and Repair Cafés that encourage reuse and repair, as well as an ongoing partnership with local schools in over 100 classrooms delivering climate related education including waste. These initiatives aim to inspire long-term awareness and encourage positive behaviour change in the community.

Co-Benefits

- Supports local food security
- Reduces waste, optimizes resources
- Promotes a circular economy

Example actions are highlighted to provide a sample of action planned in each focus area

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Focus Area:

How We Consume

Since it began in 2016, Coquitlam's Resource Moves initiative has helped facilitate the relocation of 50 homes, keeping them from being demolished and saving thousands of tonnes of materials from the landfill.

How we buy, use, and dispose of materials, products, and resources shapes the amount of waste we create and the emissions we generate.

The journey of many items begins with energy intensive production, continues through long distance transportation, and often ends in landfills. Along the way, each stage contributes to greenhouse gas emissions that add up both individually and collectively.

Waste that ends up in the landfill is the third largest contributor to Coquitlam's emissions, and community members have told us that reducing waste and supporting a circular economy is a priority. The City is taking action in many ways including participating in regional waste planning, taking steps to improve waste diversion in City waste collection services, working with waste collection contractors to cut emissions, conducting education and training, and facilitating waste reduction and reuse initiatives like repair cafés and city-wide garage sales. These efforts are helping to reduce emissions and build the foundation for a more circular economy, but there is more to do.

Our vision is to build a more circular City where we use less, waste less, and ensure that goods and materials, from building supplies and household items to appliances and food, are valued, reused where possible, and kept out of landfills. Together, these actions will reduce emissions, save residents money, and support a more resilient community.

Co-Benefits

- Fosters innovation and green, clean industries
- Reduces waste, optimizes resources
- Promotes a circular economy

Celebrating Success

Every year, the City's efforts to engage and educate the community play a big role in reducing waste and supporting a circular economy. This includes hosting City-wide Garage Sale events and Repair Cafés that encourage reuse and repair, as well as an ongoing partnership with local schools in over 100 classrooms delivering climate related education including waste. These initiatives aim to inspire long-term awareness and encourage positive behaviour change in the community.

Co-Benefits

- Supports local food security
- Reduces waste, optimizes resources
- Promotes a circular economy

Example co-benefits are the "additional" social, economic, and environmental benefits that can occur from taking climate action in each area

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Next Steps

- Begin prioritizing actions for implementation
- Track and monitor progress
- Seek external funding if and when available and aligned with City goals
- Report back to Council and the community within two years



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