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# Food Security and Climate Disruption Committee DRAFT

## 2016 Annual Report to Mayor and Council

February 2017

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The committee was comprised of the following members in 2016:

- Sam Brownlee (Chair)
- Rosalind Chapman
- Sandra Gentleman
- Bob Haynes (retiring 2016)
- Guy Langlois (Secretary)
- John Mayba
- Gary Swann
- Chris Alemany (Vice-Chair - City Council)
- Brendan Chase (new 2017)

This years recommendations attempt to build on the success of the previous year where nearly all of the initiatives proposed by the committee were endorsed and implemented in whole or in part by the City of Port Alberni. This report is a more focused approach on improving bike facilities, improving climate adaptation measures, improving waste management, limiting the use of toxic substances detrimental to food production and human health and taking advantages of opportunities to reduce or offset energy usage.

### Motions for Council's Consideration

The Food Security and Climate Disruption Committee recommends that the City of Port Alberni adopt the following motion.

*That the City of Port Alberni receive and endorse the recommendations of the 2016 Food Security and Climate Disruption Committee annual report and direct City Staff to report back to council on the implementation of each item, including inserting them into the 2017-2021 financial plan budgeting process as appropriate.*

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## Year in Review

The FSCDC completed eleven meetings in 2016 and heard from six delegations.

The delegations related to Food Security, Emergency planning, Emissions from Catalyst Paper Mill, Gleaning, Farming, and the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network

These delegations reinforce the important and ongoing role the FSCDC has in promoting and participating in community engagement with other food security related entities in the City of Port Alberni, Alberni Valley and beyond.

The committee has been working hard to engage with more stakeholders in the community in order to learn, network and participate in food security and climate change initiatives.

It has also been working more closely with City Staff to ensure that ideas the Committee recommends to Council are fiscally and practically sound and also to ensure that if City Staff require the resources of the Committee, it is there to provide any support needed.

**The 2015 FSCCC report included 10 recommendations. Below is a summary of the actions that have occurred as a result of those recommendations:**

1. *Direct Staff to create a Phased Implementation Plan for All-Abilities Protected Bike Lanes within City Limits including possible tree and garden planting to mitigate heat island and storm rain effects and provide food*

- Endorsed by City Council
- Committed \$10,000 in the 2016-17 Budget
- \$10,000 was not used in the current year and is carried forward
- City of Port Alberni, in conjunction with Cycle Alberni has painted over 5km of bike lanes and shared lane markings with \$100,000 (50/50 grant) committed in 2016-17. Work continuing Spring 2017.
- Further \$200,000 (50/50 grant) is identified in 2017-18 year for Stamp Avenue path

2. *Oil to Electric, and Energy Audit Rebates and Energy Retrofit Half-the-Tax Challenge*

- Endorsed by City Council
- Committed \$30,000 in the 2016-17 Budget
- Oil to Heat Pump Energy Rebate Program Announced at January 23, 2017 Council Meeting
- Partnering with Provincial "ICE" fund with \$1700 incentive toward oil to heat pump replacement.
- City will "top up" \$500 per home. Requires Home Owner to do pre and post Home Energy Assessment
- Other two suggestions not yet implemented by Staff due to limited resources.

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3. *Public Water Bottle Stations in City facilities*

- Endorsed by City Council.
- Committed \$5000
- Two stations installed Echo Centre and Multiplex with funding assistance from ACRD
- \$10,000 proposed in 2017 for stations outdoors at Echo Park Fieldhouse and Rec Park.

4. *The City Implement a pilot kitchen/yard waste pickup compost project utilizing biodynamic principles and education*

- Endorsed by City Council.
- \$250,000 in 2017 Capital Budget
- No Action from SWMP Committee.
- Remains on Current Status Report and is an optional item on the 2017-2021 Financial Plan
- Waiting on ACRD movement for location of composting facility.

5. *City Staff to Develop and Bring to FSCCC a Community Garden Implementation Policy*

- Endorsed by City Council.
- No Money required
- Policy created by City Staff

6. *City to task the Community Forest Board to investigate and report on implementing longer harvesting rotations in the AV Community Forest (from 60 to 120 or 240 years)*

- Letter sent by City to AVCF Board.
- No Money committed
- Response from Board did not include implementation of longer harvest rotations.

7. *Re-affirming the Vision in the Strategic Plan to improve access to the Waterfront while also developing a plan in coordination with Provincial authorities to address sea level rise and flood concerns from climate disruption*

- Vision re-affirmed in Strategic Plan. (4.2 and 4.3)
- Further recommendations coming forward in 2017 FSCDC report
- Remains on City Current Status Report.

8. *City Urban Food Inventory webpage and information*

- Endorsed by City Council.
- Working with ACRD, and First Nations Councils and other stakeholders.
- Remains on City Current Status Report.

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## 2016 Recommendation 1

### **An active Transportation Plan Progress/Status Update including Phased implementation Plan for integration of “AAA” Bike Facilities**

- a. Active Transportation Plan “Status Update” to inform community of progress and next steps.
- b. A Phased Implementation Plan of All Ages and Abilities Bike Facilities in partnership with neighbouring ACRD districts and First Nations Governments.

[Estimated Cost: Report - Consultant \$10,000 (Carryover - 2016 Budget)]

[Non-Property Tax Funding Sources: Gas Tax, BC Bike Program, Carbon Fun]

[FS Impact: None ]

[CC Impact: Reducing Pass. Transport Emissions (2010: 43,048TCO<sub>2</sub>e)]

[Timeframe: Report - 2017 ; Implementation of Phase 1 - 2018/2019 Budget Year]

Building on the 2014 Active Transportation Plan and the Bike Lanes and paths created



in the 2016 Budget year, the FSCD Committee recommends that Council continue working with Cycle Alberni on furthering bike infrastructure and making it safer for all potential users by implementing All Ages and Ability (AAA) Bike Lanes as well as getting a status update on the Active Transportation Plan.

Cycle Alberni reports on the extensive work the City of Port Alberni, Cycle Alberni, the YPAV, local Business and residents have done to make bicycling safer and more desirable in our city. This includes new painted bike lanes and ‘sharrows’, bike racks, a new online bike route map and educational opportunities.



Last year, the FSCD recommended that a phased plan be created to integrate an All Ages and Abilities (“Triple A”) network into the City. With the initial work of painted lanes done, now is a great time to plan for next steps.

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## 2016 Recommendation 2

### Sea Level Rise, Emergency, and Flood Plain Planning with ACRD and First Nations

[Estimated Cost: Staff Time - Consultant time - \$10,000]

[Non-Property Tax Funding Sources: TBD]

[FS Impact: None ]

[CC Impact: Adaptation]

[Timeframe: Report - November 2017]

Sea level rise from Anthropogenic Climate Change is predicted to be moderate in the period from 2010 to 2025. However, the rate of rise is predicted to increase more quickly in the period leading up to 2100. These projections are based on a global sea level rise of 1m by the year 2100. This is the level currently recommended for planning purposes but may increase.

The Food Security and Climate Disruption Committee recommend an **adaptive risk management approach** to sea level rise that includes provisions to adapt land use management to sea level rise to the Year 2100 and beyond.

**This is in line with First Nations values of planning for 7 generations.**

Potential impacts of sea level rise in Port Alberni include:

- More frequent and extreme high water levels.
- More severe storm surge in Alberni Inlet.
- Increased erosion and flooding.
- Increased risk to coastal infrastructure (dike failure), as well as increased maintenance and repair costs
- Loss of property and/or loss of access due to erosion, uninsurable properties
- Loss of habitat and reduced biodiversity (due to low salt tolerance)
- Saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers.
- Release of pollutants to the marine environment (e.g. from lagoons, holding ponds, industrial lands, agricultural land, etc.)

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- Loss of cultural and historic sites

Careful mapping and planning strategies for sea level rise will minimize costs and hazards for both the public and private landowners and insurers.

The Food Security and Climate Disruption Committee recommends that City Council set objectives in partnership with the ACRD and Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations and policies to manage land use and development in Port Alberni and Alberni Valley shoreline areas that will potentially be impacted by coastal hazards and sea level rise.

- Identify areas at risk due to the adverse effects of sea level rise and associated coastal hazards (i.e. flood and erosion areas).
  - Provide a basis for directing new development away from areas at risk.
- Accommodate development in areas where the risk can be mitigated through flood proofing.

The City of Port Alberni has a clear role in adaptation planning and implementation of hazard mitigation measures and may soon face liability for failure to plan for and implement these measures. Assistance is available to develop sea level rise plans through the Stewardship Centre for BC. Funding may be available through grants from the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia.

#### Reference Documents:

- Guidelines for Management of Coastal Flood Hazard Land Use
- Sea Dike Guidelines
- Projected Sea Level Changes for British Columbia in the 21st Century
- Port Alberni Shoreline Master Plan Review 2000
- Flood Plain Bylaw 4288 adopted in 1996
- Port Alberni Waterfront North Study October 2014
- Alberni Valley Emergency Plan 2014
- Port Alberni Tsunami Inundation Zone Study 1992
- Sea Level Rise Adaptation Primer 2013
- Capital Region sea-level-rise-planning-approaches-project-report 2015

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## 2016 Recommendation 3

### **Ban use of Round Up in Residential and Commercial Applications**

[Estimated Cost: None]

[Non-Property Tax Funding Sources: NA]

[FS Impact: Reduce Toxicity in Food Supply ]

[CC Impact: None]

[Timeframe: Report - May 2017]



Round Up is a known carcinogen and is also known to be harmful to Bees. Many other communities have banned its use within municipal limits.

While enforcement is difficult, other communities have found that local businesses are open to removing the product from their shelves as it relieves them of the need to train the public whenever any quantity of Round Up is purchased.

The Comox Valley requires certificate or license for application. The more communities that limit its legality, the less likely stores will carry it, and the less it will be generally available and used. Given the high level of control and care the City uses in its applications of Round Up, the Committee does not believe the City should stop using it at this time. However, the City should continue to do everything possible to avoid its use, and investigate and use alternatives at every opportunity.

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## 2016 Recommendation 4

### Bee Gardens and Colonies within the City

[Estimated Cost: Existing Budget or by Donation]

[Grant and Funding Sources: NA]

[Food Impact: Food Production] [Climate Impact: NA]

[Timeframe: 2017]

This recommendation envisions the City continuing its work with local Environmental, Agricultural and other groups to ensure City gardens are planted with bee-friendly flowers and plants and, where possible, the City encourages users of Community Gardens and others to provide and care for pollinator bee colonies (such as Mason Bees houses).



No cost is projected for this recommendation. This is simply a recommendation and encouragement from the FSCD Committee for City crews to continue their excellent work on beautifying the community and find ways to augment it so that the City can become as bee-friendly as possible.

The City can then use the experience generated to help the wider community have the same success.



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## 2016 Recommendation 5

### Solar Installation at Industrial Heritage Centre or Glenwood and possible “BC Hydro “Micro Standing Offer Program”

[Estimated Capital Cost: 2017 - \$300,000]

[Estimate Operating Benefit: \$8000 per year (\$3000 after offsetting electricity bill)]

[Grant and Funding Sources: Carbon Fund - Other Funds?]

[Food Impact: NA]

[Climate Impact: Alternative Energy Production - Reducing Energy]

[Timeframe: 2017]

The City Engineer commissioned a study by Viridian in 2016 to investigate a Community Solar Energy Initiative. This study is attached to this report. A number of examples and potential sites were identified and modelled using local weather conditions, electricity rates and building electricity consumption. (Image below is for Glenwood Centre)

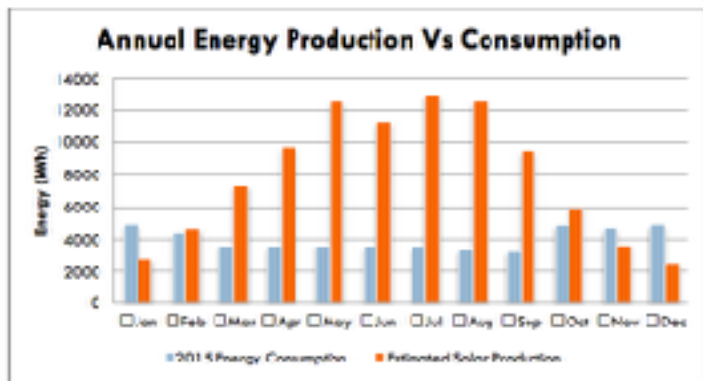


FIGURE 2 SYSTEM OUTPUT VERSUS ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

Based on this report, the FSCD Committee recommends the City of Port Alberni consider using the Carbon Fund to pay for, over 5 years, installation of solar panel on the Glenwood and/or Industrial Heritage Centre.

To lessen the immediate impact on the Carbon Fund any costs over \$50,000 to the City after grants be spread could be paid over 5 years.

At standard BC Hydro prices, a system on Glenwood would produce approximately \$8000 per year of revenue. It is recommended that the City work with BC Hydro on the possibility of a system meeting the Micro-Standing Offer Program for Communities to achieve a better generating price.