

NO: R028

COUNCIL DATE: February 28, 2011

---

## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **February 22, 2011**

FROM: **Sustainability Manager** FILE: **0512-02**  
**Deputy City Manager**

SUBJECT: **City of Surrey Participation in the Climate Adaptation Initiative of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI-Canada)**

---

## RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager's Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Adopt the following resolution in support of the City of Surrey joining the ICLEI-Canada Climate Adaptation Initiative as described in this report:

*"Be it resolved that the City of Surrey commits to participating in the ICLEI-Canada Climate Adaptation Initiative".*

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for the City to participate in a collaborative initiative between ICLEI Canada, Metro Vancouver, the City of Vancouver, the Corporation of Delta and the City of North Vancouver that focuses on the impacts of climate change on the City's environment and infrastructure.

## POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Main policy areas that may be affected by climate change relate to infrastructure design and management, environmental protection, drainage, urban forest, land use and agriculture, emergency response and housing. This initiative is critical for increasing staff capacity to create program, policy and regulatory responses as determined by assessments that will take place in this initiative.

## DISCUSSION

Climate adaptation planning is an emerging field of study in Canada, with only a handful of cities having looked at adaptation issues in a coordinated way. The intent of climate adaptation planning is to reduce risk where there are vulnerabilities and realize benefits associated with climate variability and climate change.

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI Canada – Local Governments for Sustainability) recently launched a new Climate Adaptation Planning Initiative which offers participating cities the opportunity to plan for anticipated impacts related to local and regional climate change. Participating cities are working in peer groups with facilitation, support, and direction from ICLEI Canada staff. To join the initiative, ICLEI Canada requires a resolution from local government Council indicating its interest in participating in the initiative. Locally, Vancouver, Delta, City of North Vancouver and Metro Vancouver are already working together to complete the five planning milestones individually with their respective staff teams and collaboratively where there are issues of regional significance and/or where sharing insights and approaches benefits all participants.

By participating in this initiative Surrey would accomplish the following:

- **Capacity Building:** Collaborating and learning with other cities in a new area of planning will build Surrey's expertise and knowledge for addressing anticipated climate change issues.
- **Regional Significance:** Surrey is a regionally significant community and many anticipated climate change induced impacts will require regional cooperation.
- **Leadership & Profile:** Participation in this initiative offers the city the opportunity to demonstrate its ongoing leadership and commitment to ensuring the long term sustainability of the City of Surrey and the region.

Under this initiative, city staff, regional partners and ICLEI staff work individually (as municipal staff teams) and collaboratively on the following tasks:

- **Milestone One** – Initiate Adaptation Planning (3 months: March - May 2011)
- **Milestone Two** – Research (4 months: April - July 2011)
- **Milestone Three** – Plan (6 months: August 2011 - January 2012)
- **Milestone Four** – Implement (8 months: February - September 2012)
- **Milestone Five** – Monitor (3 months: October - December 2012)

#### **Budget:**

As part of the arrangement between ICLEI Canada and Metro Vancouver and its member municipalities, the fee for Surrey to participate in this initiative is \$8,000. This fee covers the costs incurred by ICLEI staff for their services.

For this fee, ICLEI will be providing technical support for all participants. ICLEI will provide support at all stages of the initiative, from impact scoping and baseline reports, to risk assessment, to establishing indicators, and, finally, with implementation. This support over the next 2 years, will include approximately 12 webinars/webshops, two in person meetings (with the potential for three), and quarterly newsletters as well as online and phone support from ICLEI staff as needed. ICLEI will also facilitate a variety of online interaction opportunities across Canada where participants will be able to share their experiences and lessons learned.

Funding in support of this initiative is available in the approved 2011 Operating Budget.

## SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Action item EN11-3 in the Surrey Sustainability Charter directs the City to create an adaptation strategy to deal with the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Local government challenges (largely undetermined to date) that are anticipated due to climate change relate to infrastructure management (caused by rising sea levels and increased precipitation), heat-wave exposure, emergency management responses, farming, local ecosystems and vegetation, population movements, and impacts of vector-borne diseases. The recommended initiative will assist the City in developing appropriate “climate change” adaptation strategies.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Adopt the following resolution in support of the City of Surrey joining the ICLEI-Canada Adaptation Initiative as described in this report:

*“Be it resolved that the City of Surrey commits to participating in the ICLEI-Canada Adaptation Initiative”.*

Peter Russell  
Sustainability Manager

Dan Bottrill  
Deputy City Manager

PR/mc