

NO: R209

COUNCIL **October 20, 2015**
DATE:

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE **October 20, 2015**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development
Sustainability Manager** FILE: **0512-02**

SUBJECT: **Compact of Mayors**

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign the Compact of Mayors on behalf of the City of Surrey.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Compact of Mayors agreement on climate change, and propose endorsement of the Compact for Council consideration.

BACKGROUND

In 1998, the City of Surrey became a member of the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP) of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), a national program that brings Canadian municipal governments together to act on climate change and reduce the local production of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

On September 29, 2008, Council approved the recommendations of Corporate Report No. R175;2008, titled "Surrey Sustainability Charter", thereby approving the Surrey Sustainability Charter as the guiding policy document for the City. The Charter includes a commitment to developing a climate change action plan as follows:

- Develop strategies and take action to achieve the goals of the BC Climate Action Charter;
- Expedite the completion of the five milestones in the FCM Partners for Climate Protection process, including the development of a local action plan that minimizes GHG emissions (Milestone 3); and
- Create an adaptation strategy to deal with the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

In May 2010, to meet the provincial requirements of Bill 27, the *Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act*, the City included the following GHG reduction targets in the City of Surrey Official Community Plan (OCP):

- a 33% per capita GHG reduction by 2020, excluding agriculture and industry; and
- an 80% per capita GHG reduction by 2050, excluding agriculture and industry.

At its Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2010, Council approved the recommendation of Corporate Report No. R254;2010 and the City then signed the Global Cities Covenant on Climate (also known as the Mexico Pact), a voluntary agreement by which signatory cities committed to take action to reduce GHG emissions and report their commitments, GHG emissions inventories, and actions on a regular basis through the "carbonn" Cities Climate Registry. Since that time, annual updates from the City have been submitted to meet the reporting requirement.

On November 25, 2013 Council considered Corporate Report No. R233;2013 titled "Community Climate Action Strategy" and approved the final Strategy. The City developed two complementary climate action plans that make up the Community Climate Action Strategy:

- the *Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP)* provides a guide to reduce community energy spending and greenhouse gas emissions, and
- the *Climate Adaption Strategy (CAS)* identifies how the City may be vulnerable to climate change impacts and proposes actions to mitigate risk and cost.

DISCUSSION

Recently, a letter, a copy of which is attached as Appendix I to this report, was sent to Mayor Hepner from Mayor Robertson and Michael Bloomberg, UN Envoy for Climate and Cities and the former Mayor of New York, requesting that the City of Surrey sign on to the Compact of Mayors. The Compact of Mayors (<http://www.compactofmayors.org/>) is "an international effort to organize and create visibility around city climate protection commitments (both mitigation and adaptation), by employing common measurement and reporting standards and a central platform to allow for the broadest recognition of city action in the global climate conversation". The Compact was launched in 2014 by the UN Secretary General and his Special Envoy, Michael Bloomberg, in partnership with international city networks (including C40 and ICLEI) to engage their members to undertake a transparent and supportive approach to reduce city-level emissions, to reduce vulnerability, and to enhance resilience to climate change, in a consistent and complementary manner to national level climate protection efforts.

In June 2015, the City of Surrey signed the Canadian Mayors Climate Change Action Agreement, a call to action from the 21 city members of the nation's Big City Mayors Caucus, for the Canadian government to work closely with cities and provinces to develop a national climate change strategy. It was adopted by the Big City Mayors Caucus in June 2015 and announced publically on July 6, 2015. Members of the Big City Mayors Caucus (BCMC) have committed to:

- Support binding emission reductions at the international, national and city level that address both short- and long-term commitments;

- Develop and implement municipal climate action plans that have specific actions designed to cut GHG emissions, identify the risks posed by climate change, and how those risks will be mitigated;
- Regularly report municipal GHG emissions through the Carbon Disclosure Project and move towards standardized inventories and reporting to ensure greater accountability and transparency; and
- Through the Chair of the BCMC, communicate these commitments to COP21, the Canadian government and other interested parties. (COP 21 is a major gathering of all countries in Paris in December 2014 to establish a universal climate agreement.)

At a provincial level, it should be noted that a new BC Climate Leadership Plan is being developed for release in draft form in December 2015. A provincial Climate Leadership Team, on which Mayor Hepner sits, is currently meeting to prepare recommendations for Cabinet that will guide the creation of the new BC Climate Leadership Plan.

As outlined in the letter to Mayor Hepner (Appendix I), there is a desire to move into the international climate discussions with a strong showing of Canadian cities demonstrating leadership. Mayor Robertson has proposed that the Compact of Mayors is an extension of the Canadian Big City Mayor's Climate Agreement, and that by aggregating the climate commitments of hundreds of cities representing hundreds of millions of people, cities can send a much more powerful signal to the COP21 negotiators in Paris than a series of disparate and disconnected groupings and pledges. Vancouver, Montreal and Edmonton are among the Canadian cities that have committed to the Compact of Mayors; many US cities have also signed including Portland, Seattle and Chicago.

Upon making an initial pledge to the Compact, cities commit to measure their impacts, set targets, establish a plan, and report annually on their progress. Cities that make this commitment have up to three years to meet these requirements to fully comply with the Compact. The table below outlines these requirements and the City of Surrey's readiness to meet them:

No.	Compact of Mayors Requirement	City of Surrey Readiness
1	Registering a Commitment – a letter or email indicating the city's official commitment.	Easily completed if Council approves Report.
2	Take Inventory (within one year of commitment): Mitigation: Build and complete a community-wide GHG inventory using the GPC standard Adaptation: Identify climate hazards	Community Energy & Emissions Inventory has been completed by the Province and is consistent with GPC standard. Climate hazards have been identified in CAS.
3	Set Reduction Targets (within two years of commitment): Mitigation: Set GHG reduction target Adaptation: Assess climate change vulnerability utilizing Compact guidance	GHG reduction targets are already included in OCP. Vulnerability has been assessed in CAS (using ICLEI framework) and related Engineering studies and follow up work.

No.	Compact of Mayors Requirement	City of Surrey Readiness
4	Create a Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plan (within three years of commitment): Mitigation: Develop climate action plan demonstrating how city will deliver on its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Adaptation: Develop a climate change adaptation plan demonstrating how the city will adjust to actual or expected climate change impacts.	Community Climate Action Strategy contains both mitigation and adaptation strategies, that meet these requirements.

The Compact of Mayors partners with existing city climate reporting platforms – namely Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) Cities and the Carbonn Climate Registry. All reporting may be done through existing reporting commitments to these two platforms. Currently, the City of Surrey already reports its corporate and community climate progress and actions annually to the Carbonn Climate Registry.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Compact of Mayors would address a critical Action identified in the Sustainability Charter, EN11: Surrey's Commitment to the Climate Change Action Plan.

CONCLUSION

The Compact of Mayors is an emerging movement of cities that commit to climate change action in the lead up to critical global climate negotiations this December in Paris. By signing on to the Compact of Mayors, Surrey would signal its intent to be part of this global movement and build on existing City climate commitments and progress. The City already meets all the commitments required by the Compact, and uses the reporting platform associated with the Compact.

Based on the above discussion it is recommended that Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Compact of Mayors on behalf of the City of Surrey.

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning and Development

Original signed by
Anna Mathewson
Sustainability Manager

AM:saw

Attachment:

Appendix I Letter to Mayor Hepner from Mayor Robertson and Michael Bloomberg, UN Envoy for Climate and Cities and the former Mayor of New York

**MICHAEL R.
BLOOMBERG**

UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy
for Cities and Climate Change



August 27, 2015

The Honorable Linda Hepner
13450 104 Avenue
Surrey, B.C. V3T 1V8

Dear Mayor Hepner:

We write to you as the Chair of the Big City Mayors' Caucus and the Former Mayor of New York City and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change to ask for your city's commitment to the Compact of Mayors.

The Compact of Mayors is a global platform where cities can publically register current or new climate commitments using one common standard for the measurement and reporting of their emissions and climate risk. It was launched at the UN Climate Summit last September in partnership with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Mayors Eduardo Paes of Rio de Janeiro, Anne Hidalgo of Paris and Park Won-soon of Seoul. Although many cities like yours have already made ambitious commitments, sometimes even publically through other international, regional and national platforms, the global community is still unaware of the full power of city action. We created the Compact of Mayors to solve this problem.

We share the Secretary General's view that spotlighting the leadership of cities in a single platform is a key to leveraging that leadership to encourage more ambitious and meaningful climate actions by all of the parties participating in COP21. The Compact of Mayors, by aggregating the climate commitments of hundreds of cities representing hundreds of millions of people, can send a much more powerful signal to the negotiators in Paris than a series of disparate and disconnected groupings and pledges.

The Big City Mayors Climate Action resolution that your city signed is an example of leading initiatives that we want to recognize and make even more visible. The primary aim of the Compact is to serve as a single, transparent platform to collect both the individual and collective achievements and commitments cities like yours have already made, as well as new ones you'd like to make public now. Commitments made through the Big City Mayors Climate Action resolution are easily transferrable as commitments to the Compact of Mayors – taking your domestic call to action to a global audience in time to influence a positive outcome during the Paris Conference of Parties negotiations this December.

Vancouver has committed to the Compact, and Gregor and I urge you now to do the same. We are asking that you take the next step to make it official by submitting a letter to indicate your city's commitment to the Compact of Mayors through either carbonn Climate Registry, CDP Cities, or by directly sending a letter to info@compactofmayors.org.

As the global community works towards a climate treaty at the end of this year in Paris, during the UNFCCC's COP21, now is a critical time to share your city's climate commitment and showcase your actions on an international stage through The Compact of Mayors. It is through this voluntary action and transparent reporting that cities will be finally recognized as legitimate partners in a global climate solution.

We have also included here a summary of how the Compact relates to your current commitment through the Big City Mayors Caucus and stand ready to answer any questions you may have about the Compact of Mayors initiative. We have asked Amanda Eichel with Bloomberg Philanthropies to follow up with your office in the coming days, and your representatives should feel free to contact her with any questions. She can be reached at amandae@bloomberg.org or +1-212-205-0213.

We hope you will join us in this critical effort and thank you for your continued commitment to global sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Bloomberg".

Michael R. Bloomberg
U.N. Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregor Robertson".

Gregor Robertson
Mayor of Vancouver