

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TO: *MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT WORK PLAN UPDATE
2025-2026**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report titled “Climate Action and Environment Work Plan Update 2025-2026” dated February 9, 2026, of the Environment Committee meeting, be received for information.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on February 9, 2026, received and adopted the attached report providing Council with a summary of Climate Action and Environment activities undertaken in 2025 and proposing a workplan for 2026.

On behalf of the Environment
Committee,

Councillor J. Keithley
Chair

Councillor M. Santiago
Vice Chair

TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EC)
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT: **CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT WORK PLAN UPDATE
2025-2026**
PURPOSE: To provide a summary of Climate Action and Environment activities undertaken in 2025 and to propose a workplan for 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled “Climate Action and Environment Work Plan Update 2025-2026” dated February 9, 2026, be received for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the Climate Action and Environment (CAE) activities for 2025 and links those activities to the advancement of the City’s environmental and climate action objectives and outcomes. A brief description of activities for 2026 is also presented for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The work outlined in this report aligns with the following provincial and municipal laws, bylaws and policies including:

- Burnaby 2050 Official Community Plan (2025);
- *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (2023);
- Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy (2023);
- Corporate Strategic Plan (2022);
- Climate Action Framework (2020);
- City Energy Strategy (2020);
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016);
- *Water Sustainability Act* (2016);
- *Local Government Act* (2015);
- *Weed Control Act* (1996); and
- Zoning Bylaw.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Climate Action and Environment (CAE) staff ensures that environment and climate-related values of the City are reflected in its operations, growth and development, through a combination of policy, plan and program development and delivery, operational actions, and bylaw enforcement.

This report highlights actions in the 2025 work plan and proposes a 2026 work plan. The activities and actions in the report are organized by the following topic areas: Policy Development and Implementation, Stewardship, Land Development, Operations and Enforcement and Subject Matter Support.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Presented below are highlights of the CAE activities for 2025. This work represents a combination of Environment Sustainability Strategy, Climate Action Framework and Building Retrofit Strategy implementation, subject matter expertise support on multiple guiding documents finalized in 2025, and day-to-day operations which advance land development, environmental stewardship and the Watercourse and Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion bylaws.

2025 Work Plan Review

Presented below are highlights of the CAE accomplishments for 2025.

3.1.1 Policy Development and Implementation

Burnaby 2050 Official Community Plan – The new long-range vision for growth and development of Burnaby to 2050 was adopted on December 9, 2025, when the Official Community Plan (OCP) received Final Approval from Council. Through 2025, staff worked to develop and refine environment and climate-related policies, particularly for Goal 5: Climate Action and Environment. Public engagement sessions for the OCP including for climate related policies continued throughout 2025.

Streamside Development Permit (DP) – Development of the Streamside DP and supporting educational and guidance documents began in 2025, including facilitating the remapping of streams and wetland areas in Burnaby. This policy work maintains the protection and enhancement of riparian areas throughout the City, contributing to environmental protection, restoration, and biodiversity.

Zero Emission Building Retrofit Strategy Implementation – Work continued to be advanced under the Zero Emission Building Retrofit Strategy, with twelve actions completed to date and an additional 18 underway or ongoing. A progress update on the Zero Emission Building Retrofit Strategy is available on the Environment Committee meeting agenda dated February 9, 2026.

3.1.2 Stewardship

Stewardship Events –Staff from multiple departments worked to plan and deliver Environment Week (~1500 attendees), World Rivers Day (~1500 attendees) and to support fish releases and invasive species removal events in City parks. The stewardship events are family-friendly, free or at low-cost, open to the public to encourage broad participation, and provide diverse learning and volunteer opportunities to create stronger connections between people and nature.

Stewardship and Streamkeeper Support – Staff chaired the bi-annual Stoney Creek Environmental Working Group (SCEWG) stewardship meetings and participated in the SFU Adaptive Management Committee. CAE provided additional support to stewardship and streamkeeper groups in Burnaby throughout the year.

3.1.3 Land Development

Expansion of Cariboo and Brunette River Conservation Areas – Expansion of the Cariboo and Brunette River Conservation Areas advanced toward park dedication by Survey Plan registered with the Land Title Office. The proposed dedications are consistent with the OCP designations and forthcoming Zoning Bylaw updates and represent the strongest method to secure these lands for park and conservation purposes. This represents a culmination of community engagement and advocacy by the Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society and builds on staff expertise, reports and environmental assessments over many years. The expansion of the Cariboo and Brunette Conservation Areas as Park protects a combined 38.6 hectares (83.4 acres) of biodiverse land, including habitat of the Snowshoe hare.

Climate Action and Environmental Reviews –Staff completed land development reviews through internal referrals on development applications, including complex reviews for 16 Environmental Review Committee (ERC) applications.

3.1.4 Operations And Enforcement

Staff manage and enforce the Burnaby Watercourse Bylaw (1988) and the Burnaby Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Bylaw (2022).

Climate Action and Energy Specialists are on-call 24 hours a day to respond to environmental emergencies in Burnaby. In 2025, CAE responded to approximately 150 environmental issues and reports of invasive species, reviewed over 100 business license applications for preventative measures for the implementation of the Watercourse Bylaw and processed over 300 Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion permits.

3.1.5 Subject Matter Support

In addition to working on the OCP, CAE staff were involved as subject matter experts and/or contributed to implementation on the following:

- Urban Forest Strategy and Tree Policy Review;
- OCP Implementation Action Plan;
- District Energy Utility on Green Building requirements; and
- Full-scale Emergency Response Exercise (planned for 2027).

3.2 Proposed Work Program for 2026

The main activities of CAE in 2026 are highlighted below. A number of key policy areas are expected to be advanced in 2026: the Streamside DP, the Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Bylaw, the Climate Adaptation Plan, as well as a full slate of Stewardship events, continued and enhanced invasive species treatment and riparian monitoring, and development reviews.

3.2.1 Policy

Streamside DP Adoption and Implementation – Burnaby 2050 introduced three new Development Permit Areas (DPAs) in the City, including the Streamside DP to safeguard sensitive ecosystem. Work is currently underway on the Streamside DP and guidelines. The Streamside DP and the implementation of this new process alongside the Complex E2E (End-to-End) Project team will be finalized this year. This will include the transition away from the existing ERC process.

Climate Adaptation Plan – The Climate Action Framework (CAF) identified the development of a Climate Adaptation Plan as a core component of the framework. This work will advance the development of an adaptation plan, including overlaps with the Hazard DP, Natural Asset Management work, and ensuring alignment with the forthcoming regulations for the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (anticipated in Summer 2026). A preliminary framework on creating the Climate Adaptation Plan is anticipated to come forward to Environment Committee in Q3 2026, outlining how staff propose to approach this work based on Council direction to date and actions in the OCP.

Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion and Salvage Bylaws Engagement Process – The Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Bylaw was introduced to the city for non-residential and residential buildings in 2022 and 2023, respectively. To date, demolitions have achieved an average diversion rate of 87%, well over the required 70%. In October 2025, Environment Committee and Council directed staff to engage with interested parties on increasing the Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Bylaw minimum diversion threshold to 90%, and to explore the introduction of a Salvage Bylaw requirement for homes built before 1950. This engagement will occur in 2026, with results and potential proposed changes to the bylaw brought to Committee and Council in early 2027.

3.2.2 Land Development

Standardized Approach for Acoustic Reviews for New Buildings – With the introduction of Development Permit Areas and the repeal and replace of the Zoning Bylaw, clarity is needed to establish a clear, standardized approach for when applicants are required to conduct acoustic reviews for multi-family buildings to meet standards for indoor noise and outdoor noise. This approach is anticipated to be updated in the Building Bylaw this year.

Climate Action and Environmental Reviews – CAE staff will continue to complete land development reviews through internal referrals.

3.2.3 Stewardship

Stewardship Events – In 2026, staff will continue to develop and support a full slate of environmental stewardship events, with highlights over Environment Week and World Rivers Day, including participation in a new Bio Blitz event. A 2026 Stewardship Events report is available on the Environment Committee meeting agenda dated February 9, 2026 for additional information.

Stewardship and Streamkeeper Support - CAE will engage in stewardship meetings, either chairing (Stoney Creek Environmental Working Group) or participating (Adaptive Management Committee, SFU) in these meetings. CAE will continue to support streamkeeper and stewardship groups throughout the year.

3.2.4 Operations and Enforcement

Invasive Species Management – Funding dependent, staff will renew invasive species mapping first completed in 2018 and continue invasive species management across City-owned Right-of-Ways (ROWs) and boulevards, as well as education and support on invasive species for private properties. Treatment will focus on species with risk to human health, infrastructure and the economy, including species identified as noxious weed according to the *Weed Control Act* and treatment required by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the BC Invasive Species Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan.

Riparian Monitoring –staff will continue to manage the contract for riparian monitoring and reporting for any Capital Projects in and around streams. This monitoring and reporting are required under the *Water Sustainability Act*.

3.2.5 Subject Matter Support

In addition to the priority items outlined above, staff will be actively involved as subject matter experts and contributing to implementation on the following:

- Urban Forest Strategy and Tree Policy Review;
- OCP Implementation Action Plan;
- District Energy Utility on Green Building requirements;
- Integrated Stormwater Management Plan updates;
- OCP Special Study Areas; and
- Hazard Development Permit Area.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

E.W. Kozak, General Manager Planning and Development

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Erica Lay, Manager Climate Action and Environment and reviewed by Wendy Tse, Director Community Planning and Lee-Ann Garnett, Deputy General Manager.