

Climate Action Committee

Terms of Reference

The Climate Action Committee is the standing committee of the Metro Vancouver Board that provides advice and recommendations on policies, bylaws, plans, programs, budgets and issues related to the Air Quality & Climate Change service, and the Environmental Planning function within Regional Planning.

Committee Responsibilities

Within the scope of the *Board Strategic Plan*, *Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan*, *Climate 2050 Strategic Framework*, *Ecological Health Framework*, and *Metro Vancouver Financial Plan*, the Committee provides guidance and oversight to staff on the implementation of the annual work plans and business plans that govern the Air Quality and Environmental Planning areas of service. Specific Committee responsibilities include the following:

- **Air Quality & Climate Change** – The Committee guides the implementation of the strategies and actions outlined in the *Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan*, and the *Climate 2050 Strategic Framework*. The Committee monitors the progress made in achieving the *Plan's* vision of “healthy, clean and clear air for current and future generations”, the *Framework's* vision of Metro Vancouver demonstrating bold leadership in responding to climate change, and goals related to the protection of public health and the environment, the improvement of visual air quality, and the minimization of the region’s contribution to global climate change. The Committee recommends to the Board changes and updates to the *Plan* and the *Framework*.
- **Energy** – The Committee oversees and guides the efforts of staff in working with municipalities, the private sector, not-for-profit societies and others to develop strategies and programs aimed at achieving the efficient use of energy, promoting the use of alternative energies, and reducing the region’s overall carbon footprint, all in an effort to mitigate climate change.
- **Environment** – The Committee guides and monitors the organization’s actions under the *Ecological Health Framework*. Recommendations on changes and updates to the *Framework* are made by the Committee to the Board.
- **Climate Change Adaptation** – The Committee works to develop, for recommendation to the Board, climate change adaptation policies and programs.
- **Environmental Reviews** – The Committee explores the anticipated environmental impacts, regional economic benefits and social implications associated with significant energy and other capital projects proposed for the region by public and private authorities.
- **Sustainability Innovation Funds** – The Committee oversees the review of proposals for funding under Metro Vancouver’s Sustainability Innovation Funds, and makes recommendations to the Board on proposals to support. The Committee receives case study reports on all funded projects, and monitors the overall performance of the Sustainability Innovation Fund program.

Committee Membership and Meetings

The Chair, Vice Chair and members are appointed annually by the Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board. The Committee meets monthly, except for August and December, and holds special meetings as required. A quorum of 50% plus one of the Committee membership is required to conduct Committee business.

Committee Management

The Committee Chair, or in the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair, is the chief spokesperson on matters of public interest within the Committee's purview. For high profile issues the role of spokesperson rests with the Metro Vancouver Board Chair or Vice Chair. On technical matters or in cases where an initiative is still at the staff proposal level, the Chief Administrative Officer or a senior staff member is the appropriate chief spokesperson. Where necessary and practical, the Board Chair, Committee Chair and Chief Administrative Officer confer to determine the most appropriate representative to speak.

The Chief Administrative Officer assigns a Committee Manager for the Committee. The Committee Manager is responsible for coordinating agendas and serves as the principal point of contact for Committee members.