

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 27, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

** Indicates Virtual Attendance*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Steve Kim, Chair
Councillor Brent Asmundson, Vice-Chair
Grayson Barke, Citizen Representative
Reza Berry, Citizen Representative
Linton Chokie, Citizen Representative*
Daryoush M. Hassani, Citizen Representative
Hasina Razafimahefa, Citizen Representative*
Nadia Springle, Citizen Representative
Azar Varasteh, Citizen Representative*

ABSENT: Mark Ashton, Citizen Representative
Craig Busch, Citizen Representative (regrets)
Sarah Ramji, Citizen Representative (regrets)

STAFF: Caresse Selk, Senior Manager Environment
Julie Kanya, Manager Environmental Education and Enforcement*
Sara Yastremski, Manager Park Services
Mohammad Asadian, Parks Partner Program Supervisor
Madeleine Lemaire, Solid Waste Programs Specialist
Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

The Chair acknowledged Councillor Asmundson’s service as Chair of the Committee and as a Councillor.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**1. Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025**

The Minutes of the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS**NEW BUSINESS****2. Committee Orientation Review**

The Committee Clerk gave a presentation entitled “2026 Advisory Committee Orientation” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

3. 2026 Work Plan

The Senior Manager Environment gave introductory comments and referred to the document contained in the Agenda package. The Senior Manager Environment proposed the addition of an item titled “Festivals and Events Strategy” requested by the Community Services Department. This is a Business Plan Priority B in alignment with the Committee mandate in terms of waste reduction, transportation options, etc.

Discussion ensued relative to appreciation of the reflection of Committee discussion at 2025 Year-End Review and the balance of different items.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted that the optional items in the Plan relate to longstanding programs, but have potential for new initiatives in which to engage the Committee.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

MOVED

AND SECONDED

That Council approve the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Bringing Coquitlam Parks Alive: Volunteer Opportunities**

The Manager Park Services and Parks Partner Program Supervisor gave a presentation entitled “Bringing Coquitlam Parks Alive” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of program growth and continuous improvement over many years.
- Appreciation of gardening opportunities, and interest in food security programming.
- Suggestion to expand Nature Walks to locations or routes beyond parks to engage people further.
- Suggestions of ways to further advertise volunteer opportunities including the Coquitlam app, displaying calendars of activities in community centres and libraries, school newsletters, on-site signage in related parks, and earlier advertisement.
- Suggestion to make connections at Simon Fraser University and other postsecondary institutions in terms of subject matter experts, student researchers, and student organizations involved in environment, planning, landscape design, etc. and otherwise engage volunteers based on expertise.
- Suggestions to encourage engagement including communicating successes, for example statistics of actions taken, and using challenges to motivate business and organizations.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- There are a number of programs related to food security including a food garden in the Inspiration Garden and workshops on small space gardening.
- Nature Walks with volunteer experts and Tree Walks with arborists, in partnership with the Urban Forestry Division, have expanded from hub parks such as Mundy Park, Como Lake Park, and Town Centre Park to other parks.
- Volunteer opportunities are promoted through an online calendar of activities, social media, e-newsletters, and presentations to schools and community organizations; and managed through volunteer management and program registration software.
- There are volunteer opportunities in every season.

5. Environmental Achievement Awards 2026

The Solid Waste Programs Specialist gave a presentation entitled “Environmental Achievement Awards 2026” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Publication of previous award winners.
- Requirements of volunteers on the day of the event.

MOVED

AND SECONDED

That the Committee establish a Sub-committee for the purposes of award adjudication and event planning of the Environmental Achievement Awards 2026; and appoint Mark Ashton, Grayson Barke, Reza Berry, Daryoush M. Hassani, Nadia Springle, and Azar Varasteh as members.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Manager Park Services, Parks Partner Program Supervisor, and Solid Waste Programs Specialist left the meeting at this point and did not return (8:03 p.m.)

6. Climate Action Plan Update

The Senior Manager Environment gave a presentation entitled “Climate Action Plan Update” and referred to slides contained in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation that the Plan reflects well on its contributors and the community, meets the needs of the moment, positively addresses multiple reasons to take climate action, provides a long-term approach with flexibility, and is accessible to a broad audience.
- Concern about ensuring effectiveness of resident actions and how these actions may be tracked.
- Desire for the Zero Carbon Step Code adoption to be connected with the Plan, and to understand and address barriers to implementing higher standards.
- Challenges in municipal control of emissions arising from growth and development pressures, regional and provincial jurisdictions, provincial and federal funding, and economic factors.
- Appreciation of the extent of input provide to the Plan from this Committee, and anticipation of continued opportunities to participate in its implementation.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- Many cities in the region have Climate Action Plans and share ideas and information to coordinate and collaborate.
- Surveys undertaken at the outset of engagement on the Climate Action Plan and in related work such as the Transportation Plan provide baseline data, and later surveys can determine progress.
- The City's climate actions are reported annually on the City's website as required by participation in the Local Government Climate Action Program.
- Building policies are part of the Plan with details such as the Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes to be determined by Council; recent industry engagement on Step Code implementation revealed that cost pressures are a key concern for higher steps of the Energy Step Code.
- Coquitlam is currently ahead of the provincial schedule for one category of the Energy Step Code and aligned with the provincial schedule for the Zero Carbon Step Code.
- Additional building initiatives include promotion of retrofit programs and achieving Zero Carbon Building Standards for the Burke Mountain Community Centre, the first to pursue this certification.

7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging sustainability and environmental issues and events in their communities.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Report that the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness recently released the *British Columbia Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment*, which forecasts climate risks for the coming decades and has some concerning projections.
- Report that Metro Vancouver is undertaking an analysis of how the provincial housing legislation is affecting environmental policies such as urban forestry, which suggesting that the legislation is not sufficiently connected to climate action.
- The impact of the provincial housing legislation is now being realized after two years of implementation, including on green space and tree canopy cover, potential for land use density, and demands on Planning and Development staff.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, March 10, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Steve Kim, Chair

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk