

Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee - 2024 Annual Report

Message from the Co-Chairs

2024 was another year of highs and lows, for both Edmonton and the world at large. It was the hottest year on record, which culminated for us with the devastating wildfires in Jasper. The failure of COP24 showcased that local action has become even more important as federal governments continue to fail us.

Edmonton took some important steps for climate action, including work on substantial completion and priority growth areas. The Zoning Bylaw, which was passed by Council last year, is already showing signs of success with housing starts at record numbers and increased infill.

As we mentioned last year, with the breakdown of climate agreements and major action thwarted by fossil fuel interests, it is more imperative than ever for cities to lead on climate action. We continue to encourage Council to put budget dollars behind their commitments.

Purpose of the Annual Report

This annual report has been developed to meet the requirements of Bylaw 18156 - Council Committees Bylaw, which sets out the annual reporting requirements for Council Committees. Under Bylaw 18156, all Council Committees will:

- Report to Council at least annually.
- Approve a work plan that aligns with Council's strategic objectives and the Council Committee's mandate, including a reporting of what resources were provided in the previous year and the anticipated resource requirements for the upcoming year.
- During its annual report to Council, present the work plan as well as a summary of the status of the previous year's work plan.

Mandate of Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee (ETCRC)

The mandate of ETCRC is to:

- (a) promote the City's climate change plans and energy transition strategy to each member's professional and community networks;
- (b) share with, and receive from the City Manager, information regarding the implementation of the City's climate change plans and energy transition strategy;
- (c) provide broad independent advice to Council about the City's climate change plans and energy transition strategy; and
- (d) assist Council in developing performance measures for the City's climate change plans and energy transition strategy.

Report on 2024 Work Plan Goals and Accomplishments

Goal 1: Ensuring Council is provided with the best and balanced information to make climate decisions

Key Results:

- Members wrote four memos to Council and registered to speak at six Committee meetings to provide expert advice and perspective on related items.
- In April 2024, the ETCRC hosted an expert webinar entitled Hydrogen - Separating #Hopium From Reality. Guest speaker Paul Martin from the Hydrogen Science Coalition provided data on the actual emissions cost of creating and using hydrogen, and offered context for both positive and negative uses in Alberta. The webinar was successful in that it provided factual information, and feedback suggests (anecdotally) that discussions resulted within industry and government.
- Over 2024, the ETCRC was asked to provide input relative to the City's climate targets, which are under development. The Committee received a presentation at the June 20 meeting and held a subcommittee meeting on August 20 to prepare recommendations.

Summary of Progress:

The ETCRC worked to ensure that Council was provided with the best fulsome and factual information to help them to make informed decisions relative to climate change. The ETCRC used memos on key issues, spoke at related reports at Committee, and brought in a speaker to provide information via a webinar. They

have also provided significant input to Administration regarding draft climate targets, which will increase data-based reporting at the City.

Goal 2: Continue to support culture change, both within City Administration and the Community

Key Results:

- The ETCRC met with the Climate Task Force, whose mandate includes climate culture change. More meetings and coordination would be ideal to enhance collaboration and outcomes.
- The ETCRC met with the City Manager and Deputy City Manager of Urban Planning and Economy to communicate our priorities and hopes for culture change relative to the changing climate.

Summary of Progress:

Members of the ETCRC recognize that culture change takes time. The Committee would like to see a chief climate officer hired as planned, as well as climate leadership and messaging coming from ELT to help push climate-related culture change forward.

Goal 3: Continue to provide feedback to Administration on energy and climate-related work

Key Results:

- The ETCRC hears presentations from Administration on climate-related work, and provides feedback and subject matter expertise. The Committee has been engaged on multiple occasions and provided significant input on the Climate Resilience Planning and Development Framework, now Action Plan, as well as the City's draft climate targets.
- The ETCRC has also been engaged at key times relative to work on substantial completion, priority growth areas, the urban canopy, district plans, and mass transit.

Summary of Progress:

Members of the ETCRC believe that using their expertise to help Administration bolster climate action projects leads to improved outcomes and increases the City's ability to reach its climate goals.

2024 Meeting Summary – Key Topics and Motions Summary

Meeting	Key Topics and Motions
<p>January 18 Regular meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate decision-making framework ● Climate Resilience Planning and Development Framework ● Climate Task Force ● Energy code and labels ● Development of ETCRC priorities for 2024-2025
<p>March 7 Regular meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate-related emergency management ● Climate governance and decision making ● Carbon accounting ● City purchase of diesel buses ● Climate Resilience Planning and Development Framework
<p>May 16 Regular meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Urban canopy ● District Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: That the ETCRC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write a memo of support on District Plans prior to Administration’s report, which will be heard at the City Council Public Hearing on May 28, 2024. ■ Send a member to represent the ETCRC at the May 28, 2024 City Council Public Hearing relative to District Plans. ● Substantial completion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: That the ETCRC write a memo of support on substantial completion prior to Administration’s report, which will be heard at Urban Planning Committee on June 18, 2024. ● ETCRC election and introduction of new members
<p>June 13 Action & Response Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of ETCRC priorities for 2024-2025
<p>June 20 Regular meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Draft actions for the Climate Resilience Planning and Development Framework ● City-initiated rezoning of priority growth areas ● Mass transit implementation ● Climate targets <p>Motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That all ETCRC memos and reports that are sent to City Council are

Attachment 1

	<p>posted on the ETCRC’s web page on edmonton.ca, and to request that the City consider engaging their social media services to promote these documents.</p>
<p>July 18 Action & Response Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of ETCRC priorities for 2024-2025 ● Draft actions for the Climate Resilience Planning and Development Framework
<p>August 20 Action & Response Subcommittee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate targets
<p>September 12 Regular meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate section in Council reports ● Edmonton Design Committee Principles ● River Valley planning modernization ● Blatchford update and discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ That the ETCRC write a memo to Council in support of Blatchford and district energy. <p>Motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That the ETCRC, possibly in partnership with the Edmonton Design Committee, write a memo to Council regarding methane with a vision zero approach and a focus on health.
<p>November 7 Regular meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Status report card for climate strategy actions ● Annual climate strategies update 2024 ● Budget 2025 amendments and the Carbon Budget ● EPCOR Utilities (electric) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ That the ETCRC meet with EPCOR Utilities through a subcommittee meeting, for continued discussion.

Membership and Appointment Information

Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee (ETCRC) 2024-25 Current Membership List			
Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Max Term
Jeff Birchall	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2025	2031
Dolly Cepeda Montufar	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Satya Das	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Mariam Djalili	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2026	2032
David Dodge	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Marieke Dube	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2025	2031
Daniel Grist	May 25, 2020	Apr 30, 2026	2028
Melanie Hoffman - Co-Chair	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Maya Kalogirou	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Jacob Komar - Co-Chair	May 1, 2018	Apr 30, 2026	2026
Alvin Law	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2025	2031
James Sandercock	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2025	2031
Sheena Wilson	May 1, 2018	Apr 30, 2026	2026

Reports and Communications

Correspondence submitted to Council:

1. Enforcing More Advanced Energy Codes, Energy Labelling and District Energy Strategy, February 26, 2024
2. Hydrogen as a Decarbonization Tool, May 2, 2024
3. District Plans, May 27, 2024
4. Substantial Completion Standard, June 17, 2024

ETCRC requests to speak to a Standing Committee of Council:

1. February 27, 2024 Urban Planning Committee
 - Item 7.1, UPE01754 Implementing and Enforcing More Advanced Energy Codes
 - Item 7.2, UPE01755 Implementing Mandatory Energy Labelling for New Construction
 - Item 7.3, IIS02148 Implementing Edmonton's District Energy Strategy
2. June 18, 2024 Urban Planning Committee
 - Item 7.1, UPE02083 Review and Updates to the Terms of Reference for Area and Neighbourhood Structure Plans to Incorporate City Priorities, Goals and Moves
 - Item 7.2, UPE02083 Growth Management Framework Update - Substantial Completion Standard - Metrics, Thresholds and Supporting Information
3. June 24, 2024 Utility Committee
 - Item 7.4, IIS01945 Blatchford Renewable Energy Utility - Annual Business Plan
4. July 3/4, 2024 Urban Planning Committee
 - Item 7.3, UPE02126 Growth Management Framework Update - Substantial Completion Standard
5. September 4, 2024 Audit Committee
 - Item 7.6, FCS02497 2025 Corporate Strategic Risks
6. November 27, 2024, Executive Committee
 - Item 7.2, IIS02537 Cost Benefit Analysis and Cost Drivers on Comparative Capital Projects

Other ETCRC Communications to Council:

1. April 5, 2024 Hosted a webinar for Council's information re: Hydrogen- Separating #Hopium From Reality, with guest speaker Paul Martin from the Hydrogen Science Coalition

Concluding Remarks

In this document we've shared our work from 2024. As Committee members, we're often unable to directly link an outcome to our advocacy, and we rely on feedback to help us understand our impact.

From Lisa Drury, Senior Planner, regarding priority growth areas

“Talking to the ETCRC allowed us to hear diverse perspectives on our project and consider it when planning our approach to area selection. It also allowed us to consider some of the statistics and considerations we should include in our future Q&A for our Public Hearing.”

From Sarah Wilmot, General Supervisor, regarding substantial completion

The Urban Growth section “presented to ETCRC on substantial completion in both 2023 and 2024. I would say that in general their feedback on our work gave us more confidence that the proposed substantial completion standard would have climate benefits. They pushed us to do more with the proposed standard...”.

We believe we have had a positive impact on Administration's work relative to the energy transition and climate resilience, and hope Council feels we have provided information that has helped move this work forward.

As you will see in our Work Plan for 2025 (Attachment 3), the ETCRC has large ambitions for this coming year, and we are looking forward to working with Council and Administration to achieve them. As we always say at the ETCRC, all decisions must be climate decisions - meaning that all decisions must be viewed through a climate lens. Members of ETCRC are experts in their fields, and we urge Council to continue to rely on our collective climate adaptation, mitigation and communication expertise as you continue to lead and make decisions that will impact Edmontonians for decades to come.

We are living through unprecedented times, and we urge the City of Edmonton to be unprecedented leaders in climate action among Canadian municipalities.