REVISING EDMONTON'S COMMUNITY ENERGY TRANSITION STRATEGY

Proposed Accelerated Actions

Edmonton

COVID-19 Stimulus and Accelerated Actions

While the accelerated and phased implementation approach (see Attachment 2) allows the scaling and sequencing of the climate action plan over time, it is recommended that some actions be accelerated in the near-term. Aligned with the COVID-19 Reimagine work, the priority lenses of Catalyze and Converge and Inclusive and Compassionate were applied to the previous list of accelerated actions that were presented to Executive Committee on December 2, 2019 as part of CR_7577. Sixteen of those actions were funded, and efforts to advance many of these actions are underway. An additional seventeen actions were unfunded and were unable to advance.

Due to the changing circumstances that has occurred since that list was compiled, the proposed accelerated actions were evaluated on an assessment of the following:

- Transformational - what actions represent a transformational change aligned with the Pathways in the updated energy transition strategy;
- Economic prosperity - what actions represent the largest potential for local job growth and economic opportunity for the post COVID recovery or will likely align with COVID-19 stimulus funding; and
- Just and equitable - what actions will reach the largest cross-section and number of Edmontonians, and help those who need it the most.

A combination of the funded and unfunded actions met the criteria, resulting in the selection of seven accelerated actions that require additional funding and best support a transformational, just and equitable economic recovery. In addition, one new proposed accelerated action was identified to align with recommendations for federal stimulus funding. Recognizing these actions require additional investments, they will require support from multiple levels of government.

Alignment with Potential Stimulus Measures

The Task Force for a Resilient Recovery is an independent group of 15 finance, policy and sustainability leaders providing recommendations to the Government of Canada.

An independent Task Force for Resilient Recovery Report has proposed five bold moves for the Government of Canada to adopt for a COVID-19 stimulus. The recommendations were designed with the goal of a resilient recovery that gets Canadians back to work, supports jobs, infrastructure and growth and keeps Canada competitive. In determining the recommended actions, the Task Force reviewed the economic recovery through nine criteria, organized under three themes:

1) Will the action stimulate timely, lasting economic benefit and jobs;
2) Does the action help the environment and support clean competitiveness; and
3) Is the measure equitable, implementable, and feasible.

The Task Force recommends that Canada invest $55.4 billion over the next five years to be competitive with its G7 peers.

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The following table lists the Task Force's recommendations for Canada and the potential complementary and aligned City of Edmonton actions:

Action Area	Task Force recommendations for Canada	City of Edmonton proposed accelerated actions requiring additional funding
Energy	• Accelerate investments in clean, robust power grids • Support Canada's next-generation energy solutions • Catalyze and support national Indigenous clean energy action platforms • Support Canadian leadership in an emerging low-carbon hydrogen economy	• Increase the incentive amount and expand existing Solar Rebate Program to commercial building owners • Composite fund to accelerate the implementation of microgen solar PV on City of Edmonton facilities
Buildings	• Expand public-private financing facilities for building retrofits • Expand existing provincial and municipal building retrofit programs, enhancing energy efficiency and climate resiliency • Train a diverse green building workforce • Demonstrate large-scale standardized retrofits • Work with provinces to ensure that new buildings meet stringent net-zero and resilience codes, and that a newly developed Resiliguide rating system can enable the financial sector to incent building resilience • Create an Indigenous Infrastructure Fund to bolster investment in sustainable infrastructure in Indigenous communities across Canada	• Pilot the Clean Energy Improvement Program to provide an alternative financing option • Accelerate and expand existing building retrofit programs • Composite fund to support retrofitting City of Edmonton facilities
Zero-Emission Vehicles	• Support the development of the Canadian zero emissions vehicle industrial ecosystem • Introduce a phased in zero emissions vehicle mandate for all vehicle classes • Kickstart the adoption of zero emissions vehicles across Canada • Accelerate the installation of EV charging infrastructure across Canada	• Invest in the active transportation network • Accelerate Edmonton's EV-Readiness by supporting the installation of EV charging infrastructure • Composite fund to support City of Edmonton fleet improvements
Nature	• Invest in natural infrastructure • Accelerate global leadership in conservation and support Indigenous reconciliation • Grow financing for nature based services • Grow and train the workforce for ecosystem restoration, monitoring and management, and nature-tourism	• Accelerate tree planting and ecological restoration
Clean Competit-iveness	• Develop clean competitiveness roadmaps, capital strategies and action plans for key sectors	• Additional funding to the Low Carbon Innovation Fund to support

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	• Invent in advanced skills and infrastructure • Accelerate the production and adoption of clean technologies across the economy • Increase the fairness of climate action	

In addition, the City should advocate to the Federal Government for a resilient economic recovery aligned with the Task Force for a Resilient Recovery recommendation.

The City of Edmonton can further the transition and support economic recovery through a suite of expanded and accelerated actions. *Recognizing these actions require additional investments, they will require support from multiple levels of government. If stimulus funding does become available it would be utilized to catalyze additional private investment while creating local investment and jobs. These near term actions connect local workers with jobs and they are aligned with recommendations to the federal government for stimulus funding.* It should be noted that these accelerated actions do not replace or stop the work that is underway under the current Energy Transition Strategy. Existing and ongoing programs and projects will continue in the near term. This includes efforts such as the Downtown District Energy project and Blatchford Renewable Energy Utility, that could also be supported by additional funding from other levels of government.

The City is also currently advancing efforts for a full cost recovery bioenergy partnership. The Advanced Energy Research Facility (AERF) is recognized as a world class center of excellence that offers plug-and-play capability for numerous sustainable technologies in the research or demonstration/pilot phase of development. The AERF is working towards a license and partnership agreement with a major industrial partner. Over the next four years, the AERF will continue to drive innovation in bioenergy and renewable resource areas with the objective of fully recovering costs.

Initiative	Description	Current Funding ($000)	Potential Additional Funding ($000)
Increase the incentive amount and expand the existing Solar Rebate Program to commercial buildings	Program currently provides a rebate of $0.40 per installed watt of solar for residential rooftop installations to a maximum of $4,000 per install.	350/year for 4 years for a total of 1,400 (launched July 2019, ends June 2023)	up to 350
Accelerate actions identified in the 2018 Civic Operations GHG Management Plan	A composite fund to allow for acceleration of renewable energy installations, energy retrofits, energy system infrastructure and fleet improvements.	16,500 composite fund for solar PV and approx 30,000 for energy retrofits through renewal funding	up to 10,000

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Pilot the Clean Energy Improvement Program to provide an alternative financing option	Program provides a financing tool for home and commercial building owners to undertake energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with repayment of loans through property taxes.	2 year pilot 900	up to 0-11,250 *dependent upon FCM funding to be announced Oct/Nov*
Accelerate and expand existing building retrofit programs	Commercial: provides rebates for commercial retrofits with greater incentives for deeper green investment. Residential: provides rebates for residential retrofits with greater incentives for deeper green investment	Commercial 1,000/year for 3 years for a total of 3,000 Residential 600/year for 3 years for a total of 1,800	Commercial up to 2,000 Residential up to 2,000
Further grow and improve Edmonton's bike lane infrastructure	Deploy a combination of expanding improving existing bike routes; upgrading, improving or relocating substandard routes; constructing planned routes & missing links; walking and wayfinding infrastructure	Updated Bike Plan is not currently funded	up to 10,000-20,000
Accelerate Edmonton's EV-Readiness by supporting the installation of EV charging infrastructure	Introduce a new rebate program that incentivizes electrification of the transportation system as well as reduces the use of single occupancy vehicles. provides rebates for new ($300) and existing ($600) residential EV Chargers, existing for Commercial ($2000) (max 50% rebate). Accelerate Curbside and Public Access Charging Stations in partnership	EV charger rebates 150/year for 3 years for a total of 450 Public infrastructure 0	up to 200 (increase to commercial rebates)
Accelerate tree planting and ecological restoration	Additional tree planting; protect existing natural carbon sinks; acquire intact and ecologically significant natural areas to protect existing carbon sinks; encourage and incentivize naturalization of private property	4,500	up to 10,000 *subject to provincial approval stimulus funding of up to $2,000 may be allocated to this program in 2021
Attract investment and technology start-ups that build on the region's energy	Funding for newly established Climate Innovation Fund	0	up to 2,000

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resources and innovation strengths			
		Total	47,050