



c/o City of Edmonton
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Memorandum

September 16, 2019

To: Mayor Iveson and Council

From: Energy Transition Advisory Committee (ETAC) Co-Chairs David Dodge and Chelsea Donelon

Subject: **City Plan and Edmonton Declaration**

Urban Planning Committee
Agenda Item: 6.2 “The City Plan Phase III - Framing the Plan: City Concept and Intentions”

In view of the adoption of Council’s motion confirming a Climate Emergency, the Edmonton Declaration ensuring Edmonton is on track to meet our obligations to limit global warming to 1.5⁰ C and acceptance of the 1.5⁰ C discussion paper exploring the actions we can take to achieve that target, we feel that it’s essential that City Plan purposefully integrates the Energy Transition Strategy.

Recognizing the important opportunity to align City Plan with the updating of the Energy Transition Plan, ETAC has been a core stakeholder providing input to City Plan to reflect Council’s formal direction regarding Climate Change mitigation and adaptation (resilience).

ETAC believes the preferred land use concept presented by Administration is generally aligned with the achievement of deep carbon reductions. That being said, the scenario will still exceed the local carbon budget. As such, ETAC suggests as the Community Energy Transition Strategy is updated, City Plan should incorporate any emerging opportunities for further carbon reductions that are identified, including negative emissions.

The Energy Transition Strategy is being updated to reflect our 1.5⁰ C commitments using a globally accepted Carbon Budget methodology which leaves Edmonton with a carbon budget allotment of 155 MtCO₂e. ***We recommend that these targets be enshrined in City Plan so that all future projects can be measured against the carbon budget.*** We believe this elevates climate

action from one of four pillars to an underlying principle affecting all city initiatives and actions that cut across the entirety of City Plan and all subsequent City actions.

Based on the Draft City Policy Intentions scheduled to be presented to the Urban Planning Committee on September 17, 2019, there are a number of areas that complement the Energy Transition Strategy including intentions for increasing densification (4.2), active transportation and transit opportunities (2.2, 4.4), environmental stewardship (1.4) and ecological connectivity (5.1, 5.3), cultivating diverse economies that embraces services and technologies responsive to climate change (3.4, 5.4) and using our economic strength to foster innovation and future prosperity (6.4). The Energy Transition and Adaptation Plans contain actions and opportunities that support the achievement of these targets, including the more than one hundred actions already identified in these plans. ***The Energy Transition and Adaptation Plans will remain living documents and should be referenced in the City Plan as a means to achieve these objectives. Additionally, we note that one item missing from City Plan and Energy Transition Plan is waste handling and the role of the Circular Economy that is being explored by the City.***

ETAC is encouraged that City Plan, as an important document to guide the future of Edmonton, has considered the implications of the Edmonton Declaration, Climate Emergency and the Energy Transition Strategy in its development. Achieving success in reducing emissions will require all departments within the administration to work closely with the Environmental Strategies section in deep collaboration to synchronize their efforts and policies in order to be successful.

Decisions made today will have a significant impact on our success achieving our Climate targets and aspirations. To that end ETAC looks forward to continuing our work with City Administration and Council on City Plan wherever we can add value.

Regards,

David Dodge and Chelsea Donelon
Co-chairs Energy Transition Advisory Committee