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<b>SUBJECT</b>	Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan (UBC Vancouver)
<b>SUBMITTED TO</b>	Property Committee
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	June 11, 2024
<b>SESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
<b>REQUEST</b>	<b>APPROVAL REQUESTED</b> IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Property Committee, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, approves as circulated the Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan.
<b>LEAD EXECUTIVE</b>	Robin Ciceri, Vice-President External Relations
<b>SUPPORTED BY</b>	Michael White, Associate Vice-President Campus & Community Planning Chris Fay, Director of Strategic Policy, Campus & Community Planning John Madden, Director of Sustainability and Engineering, Campus & Community Planning Aubrey Kelly, President and CEO, UBC Properties Trust

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#### PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

The subject matter of this submission has not previously been considered by the Property Committee.

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This briefing asks the Board of Governors to approve UBC's Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan (NCAP), a pathway to a net-zero, climate-resilient campus community. This reflects the Board's direction ([December 5, 2023](#)) to provide a final NCAP for approval by mid-2024, and responds to input received through community engagement during the Campus Vision 2050 process and Land Use Plan<sup>1</sup> amendment.

Updating and expanding upon UBC's 2013 Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP), NCAP is a climate action plan for UBC's Vancouver residential neighbourhoods, complementing Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2030 for the institutional campus. NCAP and CAP 2030 continue UBC's longstanding commitment to advance climate action, and meet commitments in the Declaration on the Climate Emergency unanimously endorsed by the Board of Governors in 2019. NCAP sets the pathway to address the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommendations for emissions reductions as well as climate resilience in UBC's residential neighbourhoods. This includes ambitious targets and actions aligned with other local, leading municipalities, that respond to UBC's unique context.

UBC's amended Land Use Plan directs the future growth of UBC's academic and residential lands, including on-campus housing that serves the university and the growing region. NCAP shapes this growth, addressing the emissions impacts and strengthening resilience while taking opportunities to innovate, address equity and improve quality of life for residents.

NCAP also advances Campus Vision 2050 climate action commitments in the Land Use Plan (2023), specifically *"working towards the targets and policies of an updated Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan, including defining a pathway to achieve net zero operational emissions in new Neighbourhood buildings no later than 2030"*.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to Minister of Municipal Affairs adoption of UBC's December 2023 amended Land Use Plan for the Point Grey Campus Lands.

## The Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan (NCAP)

Over 15,000 residents live in UBC's campus neighbourhoods – vibrant and diverse communities, home to a growing number of families, students, faculty and staff. Through compact community design, Housing Action Plan policies, and high standards for green building performance, UBC's neighbourhoods already achieve about 45% lower per capita community GHG emissions than the regional average.

The increased intensity and frequency of local climate events brought on by the climate crisis and growing global emissions underscores the need to achieve deeper greenhouse gas emissions reductions and to prepare and adapt for the impacts of a changing climate. NCAP builds on past actions and outlines the ambitious path for climate action in existing and future neighbourhoods.

UBC is uniquely positioned to lead rapid climate action and model sustainable development by using its intellectual and regulatory capacities to develop innovative approaches through strong collaborations between academic researchers, operational staff and partnerships with government, utilities, industry and non-governmental organizations. This includes engaging with Musqueam staff and knowledge holders to shape campus growth.

### NCAP Development

A collaborative approach was taken to develop NCAP, leveraging the expertise of staff and academics and incorporating community input to help develop and refine actions and targets; working alongside the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA) to propose tools and programming that support residents in taking climate action; and collaborating with UBC Properties Trust to ensure buildings and infrastructure are built and operated in accordance with UBC's sustainability plans.

Community engagement informed NCAP development to ensure community needs and interests are reflected in the plan. This included a community workshop in June 2023 and two phases of public engagement in fall 2023 and March 2024, that resulted in over 1500 engagement touchpoints. The engagement summary report (Appendix 2) describes the engagement process and provides a comprehensive look at community feedback.

Throughout the NCAP process, there was broad community support for NCAP's goals, targets and actions, as well as concerns, feedback, and ideas, helping shape the plan. Key themes from NCAP engagement include:

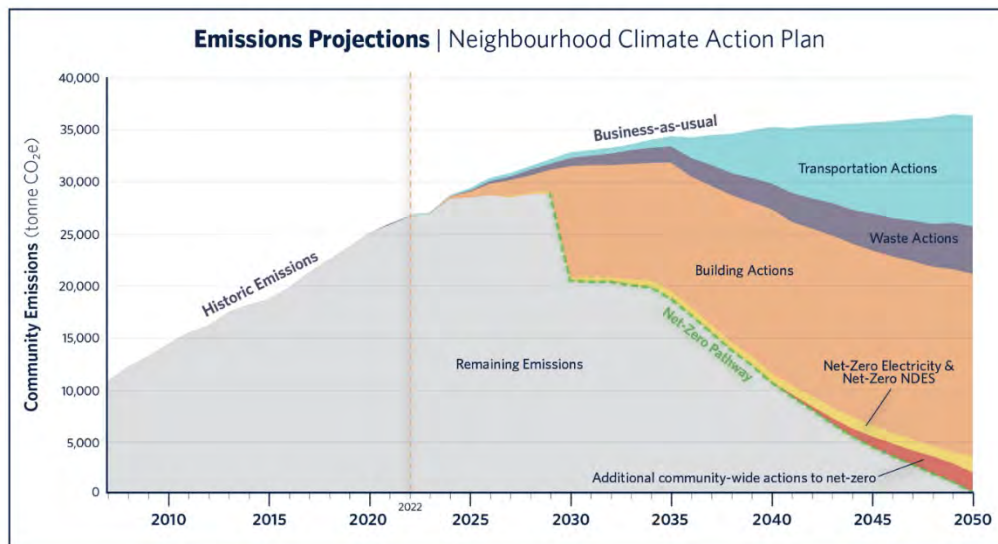
- Broad support for the draft Plan and interest in details of NCAP implementation.
- Desire to accelerate NCAP implementation timelines to match the urgency of the climate crisis, especially around cooling and wildfire smoke ventilation upgrades for existing homes.
- Interest in continued engagement through diverse and creative education, training and resources, especially among youth, to increase community resilience and inform about NCAP actions.
- Interest in equity and how the needs of vulnerable populations will be prioritized in implementation (e.g. seniors, non-native English speakers, folks with mobility challenges, tenants renting from owners).
- Desire for clarification about how NCAP and UBC's Land Use Plan work together, specifically regarding emissions, and concerns about built form, building heights and density in future neighbourhood developments.
  - This feedback was also directed to the team working on UBC's Land Use Plan implementation and subsequent neighbourhood planning processes.

## NCAP's Pathway

Notwithstanding that UBC's residential neighbourhoods already achieve about 45% lower per capita community GHG emissions than the regional average, NCAP sets a pathway to a net-zero and climate resilient community.

Community emissions result from energy use in buildings, resident vehicle travel, and solid waste. NCAP sets the following community emissions targets:

- 2035 – reduce community emissions by 30% vs 2022 levels
  - Supported by achieving the Land Use Plan commitment to defining a pathway to achieve net-zero operational emissions in new neighbourhood buildings no later than 2030
- 2050 – reduce community emissions by 100% (net-zero)



NCAP also addresses the expected impacts to neighbourhood systems (e.g., built, natural, socioeconomic) from projected climatic changes, which include increasing heat, rainfall, drought, extreme weather events and reduced air quality due to wildfire, through actions targeting climate resilience.

Emissions reductions and climate resilience will be achieved through more than 130 actions in NCAP's scope areas, detailed in Appendix 3. High impact NCAP actions include:

- New Construction, targets implemented in future updates to UBC's green building regulations, the Board-approved Residential Environmental Assessment Program (REAP)
  - Adopt design requirement (2025) to advance toward 100% low carbon operational performance
  - Establish a cooling energy demand intensity performance requirement (2025)
  - Implement minimum 40% embodied carbon reduction performance requirement (2030)
- Existing Buildings
  - After 2030, require low carbon equipment at time of replacement for space heating and hot water to align with planned expenditures for strata owners and rental providers
  - Develop plan to accelerate cooling equipment upgrades

- Transportation & Mobility
  - Continue to support and advocate for SkyTrain and expanded rapid transit
  - Expand safe and resilient active and public transportation networks and facilities
  - Support for zero emission vehicle transition
- Ecology
  - Address future climate conditions and localized impacts to natural systems as part of UBC's upcoming Biodiversity Strategy
  - Create performance targets on neighbourhood shade coverage and implement design strategies to address urban heat island effect
- Climate Emergency Preparedness
  - Develop educational resources (e.g. maps, handouts, signage, web content) and programming (e.g. workshops, informational events) for community members
  - Expand neighbourhood cooling centres
  - Develop Integrated local wildfire emergency response plan
- Neighbourhood Infrastructure
  - Decarbonize the UBC Neighbourhood District Energy System, provided by Corix Utilities
  - Implement Integrated Rainwater Management Plan, focused on adaptive, green infrastructure (e.g. bioswales, detention ponds, rain gardens, etc.)

## Plan Implementation

NCAP is a living plan, and will adapt and evolve over time, responding to new information, technologies, and a changing provincial and federal policy landscape. UBC's approach to implementation will reflect NCAP's guiding principles anchored by the commitments to the following areas:

- Shared responsibility and collaboration
- Climate equity and justice
- Ongoing community dialogue
- Learning and research
- Monitoring and reporting

NCAP actions will lead to changes in existing and future neighbourhoods, buildings and infrastructure. In some cases, these actions will require capital and operating cost investments, such as low carbon equipment replacements and upgrades in buildings. Costs will be phased over many years of NCAP implementation as part of planned upgrades and future growth and will be consistent with climate action measures in other local jurisdictions. Actions were developed with input from stakeholders that will share costs, including UBC, the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA), UBC Properties Trust, existing strata owners, utility partners, and property developers. Specific financial details will be part of future project planning and approvals, but will leverage and deploy existing resources whenever possible.

Implementation of NCAP near term actions will be undertaken with existing staff resources and programming, with shared responsibility among staff from UBC, the UNA, and UBC Properties Trust. In addition, NCAP implementation will leverage external funding sources, and benefit from engagement with students and academics. Staff will review longer term NCAP resourcing needs and prepare a funding strategy for UBC that emphasizes coordination among UBC, the UNA and UBC Properties Trust, and leverages additional external funding opportunities (e.g., BC Hydro, CleanBC, other provincial and federal funding programs).

To ensure UBC's progress in meeting climate action commitments, NCAP commits to regular monitoring and progress reporting. NCAP will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

### Next Steps

With Board approval, NCAP will shape policies and plans in existing and future campus neighbourhoods. Key quick start actions and related implementation initiatives include:

- Updating plans and agreements for decarbonizing the Neighbourhood District Energy System in collaboration with Corix.
- Updating UBC's Residential Environmental Assessment Program (REAP) building regulations to deliver NCAP commitments in new neighbourhood developments.
- Continuing advocacy for SkyTrain, rapid transit, and expanded intra-campus public transportation.
- Apply learnings from Musqueam engagement on campus projects and plans to advance NCAP actions.
- Aligning other planning processes with NCAP actions, including:
  - Integrated Rainwater Management Plan, developing a campus-wide infrastructure strategy to manage rainwater and adapt to climate change;
  - Biodiversity Strategy, creating campus-wide approaches to identify and enhance biodiversity as the campus grows; and,
  - Wesbrook Place Neighbourhood Plan<sup>2</sup> update, implementing Campus Vision 2050 and the updated Land Use Plan to meet UBC's academic and housing priorities through a public process resulting in an amended Wesbrook Place Neighbourhood Plan.

Quick start actions will be undertaken with existing staff resources from UBC, the UNA and UBC Properties Trust and Corix, and will leverage available external funding.

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## APPENDICES

1. UBC Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan
2. Engagement Summary Report – Draft NCAP
3. NCAP Action Matrix

## PRESENTATIONS

1. UBC Neighbourhood Climate Action Plan

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<sup>2</sup> Subject to Minister of Municipal Affairs adoption of UBC's December 2023 amended Land Use Plan for the Point Grey Campus Lands