

# Council Member Motion

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Meeting Date      Tuesday, December 12, 2023  
From                Councillor Justice  
Subject             **Climate Emergency Priorities slides in Business Planning**

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## Background

Over the past few years, our departmental business plans consistently feature a PowerPoint slide titled "Climate Emergency Priorities." These slides serve the dual purpose of informing the community about each department's initiatives and reminding department heads of council's priorities. Additionally, they play a role in gradually shaping the organizational culture towards sustainability awareness.

Our official community plan recognises that the climate emergency, while widely recognized, is just one among several ways in which we are at a local level both contributing to and suffering from ecological overshoot or the exceeding of planetary boundaries. For example, we also face challenges like chemical pollution (evident in the cyanobacteria issue in Quamichan and Somenos lakes) and increasing biodiversity loss, illustrated by the decline of the rare Garry Oak ecosystem.

Our Official Community Plan, along with council's Strategic Plan and other key Council initiatives, outlines an ambitious range of sustainability goals. These include considering ways to preserve important habitats, working to mitigate water quality issues in our lakes, adopting energy-efficient technologies, implementing effective waste reduction and recycling programs, promoting water conservation, planning pedestrian and cyclist-friendly urban spaces, adhering to green building standards, supporting environmentally and socially responsible industries, and planning for resilience in the face of natural disasters and climate-related events, among others.

To better allow the showcasing of these various sustainability initiatives, it makes sense to re-label the category of work related to "Climate Emergency Priorities" and refer to it as "Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability Priorities". This change would also better align with the first of the two frameworks upon which our OCP is built: Ecological and Climate Action

## Recommendation

That Council direct staff to amend the slide titled "Climate Emergency Priorities" in business plan presentations to read as "Climate Emergency and Environmental Sustainability Priorities"; the intent being, to better capture the broad range of work being done by the Municipality to both prevent ecological overshoot, and to build resiliency to climate change (as explicated in our Official Community Plan)

Attachment: