

My Upcoming Meetings

Climate Action Committee

Friday, October 18, 2019

MVRD Board Budget Workshop

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

TransLink Mayors' Council

Friday, October 25, 2019

Council of Councils

Saturday, October 26, 2019

MVRD Board

Friday, November 1, 2019

Electoral Area A Committee

Wednesday, November 6, 2019



Metro Vancouver Board and Committee Agendas & Minutes

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/search/>

Director's Report



Wow – how is it already the middle of October? This past month has been very busy, and also exciting.

I continue to be impressed with the progressive and collaborative nature of the Board. At our last Metro Vancouver Board meeting (October 4th, 2019), we voted unanimously to support a \$4 million increase for park land acquisition, as well as a \$4 million expansion of Metro Vancouver's contribution to delivering affordable housing through Metro Vancouver Housing, the second largest non-profit housing provider in the Province.

These increases will now be incorporated into the full 2020 budget, which we will be working through on October 23rd. If successfully passed, each of these two components would add approximately \$4 in tax per household per year – money I believe is very well spent, as it will go toward protecting more parkland and providing more affordable housing for those who need it most. I need to see the proposal in context with the full budget, but based on the information at present I will be supporting both of these initiatives. You can read more about Metro Vancouver's housing model [here](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/housing/housing/). <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/housing/housing/>

In terms of increased parkland acquisition, preserving more of our natural spaces will (a) positively impact greenhouse gas emissions (greenspaces such as trees and bogs are one of the more effective methods of sequestering carbon from the atmosphere), (b) increase the number and area of regional parks accessible to the public (and thereby further promote nature connections in society), and (c) help protect sensitive ecosystems and biodiversity.

In preparation for the October 23rd budget workshop, the Metro Vancouver Electoral Area A Committee recently met to review the 2020 EAA budget. Details of the budget can be found in item 5.1 of the October 15th Electoral Area A Committee [meeting agenda](#).

http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/ElectoralArea/EA_2019-Oct-15_AGE.pdf

On Sept 27th, I had the privilege of joining 100,000 others in Vancouver's march for Climate Action, organized by [Sustainabiliteens](https://www.facebook.com/sustainabiliteens/). While it was fantastic to see so many people supporting increased action on climate change, I finished the day wondering, "what now?" And perhaps more directly, what is my role – and each of our roles – in using this momentum to really drive change? <https://www.facebook.com/sustainabiliteens/>

You can read more about my thoughts [on my website](https://jenmccutcheon.wordpress.com/2019/09/30/a-call-to-action/).
<https://jenmccutcheon.wordpress.com/2019/09/30/a-call-to-action/>

It is a bit of a long read, so let me summarize one of my key messages here:

We have a Federal election coming up in just a few short weeks. Please take the time to consider what issues you care most about, and assess each party based on their platforms. Reach out to our local candidates and ask them more about their platforms and share your views with them. Your voice really does matter – **certainly through your vote, but also by reaching out and sharing your opinions with political candidates and leaders at all levels of government.**

Voting will take place on October 21st at a number of locations on UBC campus. You can find out more about voting [here](https://www.elections.ca/), and about each party's platforms [here](https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/elections/federal/2019/party-platforms/).

<https://www.elections.ca/>
<https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/elections/federal/2019/party-platforms/>

There is also another election coming up in the next month, at least for some of our residents. This is the UNA Board election, which will be held on November 6 (and in advance my mail and drop box). As you probably know, residents of the UNA and UEL areas do not have an elected mayor or council. For all matters related to Metro Vancouver and TransLink, I am the sole local elected representatives. Residents of the UNA are represented in their interactions with UBC by the elected UNA Board*. I would invite UNA members to please take a minute to review the candidates, and be sure to take the time to vote for the individuals whom you believe will best represent your interests and needs. You can find out more [here](https://www.myuna.ca/governance/elections-2019/). <https://www.myuna.ca/governance/elections-2019/>

*For those living in the UEL, you elect your own Community Advisory Council (CAC). You can find out more about the CAC here: <http://uelcommunity.com>

Speaking of reaching out, you can contact me at areaajen@gmail.com at any time! ☺

All the best,

Jen McCutcheon



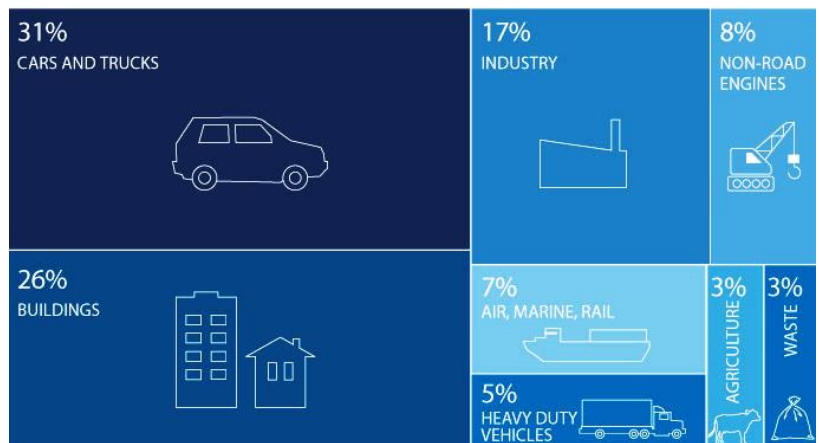
Metro Vancouver Strengthens Climate Targets

Metro Vancouver is boosting its climate action by amending its **Climate 2050 Strategy** to include a commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2050. I briefly mentioned this in my September Report, but here is more detail on these efforts.

Metro Vancouver’s commitment, which includes an interim target of 45% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 2010 levels by 2030, aligns with the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming. The report makes it clear that limiting global warming to 1.5°C is possible and crucial to prevent exacerbated, and in some cases irreversible, climate impacts.

Metro Vancouver is already experiencing the effects of climate change, including impacts of smoke from unprecedented wildfire activity in western North America in three of the past five summers. Expected future climate impacts include more wildfire smoke, an increase in rainfall intensity, and at least one meter of sea level rise. If left unchecked, the predicted level of environmental change will entail significant costs and impact the quality of life for residents and businesses in the region.

For more than 20 years, Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions have taken a leadership role in responding to climate change, including steps to prepare for the unavoidable impacts of climate change while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the region. Targets were adopted as part of *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future*, the regional growth strategy, and these will now be amended to reflect the new Climate 2050 targets.



GHG Sources in Metro Vancouver

Achieving carbon neutrality will require the deepest GHG emissions reductions possible across all economic sectors, and would likely require a commitment to using 100% renewable, fossil fuel-free energy by 2050. It would also mean that any remaining emissions would need to be balanced by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through methods such as reforestation, bog restoration, enhanced carbon storage in aquatic ecosystems, improvements in agricultural soil greenhouse gas management. Technologies for carbon capture and storage are under development and will likely also play a key role.

Reaching these targets is going to require some transformative changes and efforts for each of us. In addition to being necessary (according to scientists around the world), these changes also bring opportunities. I believe that the Metro Vancouver region, and B.C. as a whole, is well positioned to make the most of these opportunities both to boost our economy, and to show other cities and countries how these changes can be done.

Local Government Matters

Local Government Matters is Metro Vancouver's campaign to raise the profile of regional issues ahead of the 2019 federal election. LocalGovernmentMatters.ca provides the four main federal political parties the opportunity to publicly clarify their platforms on critical issues facing the region – climate change, housing affordability and infrastructure funding.

Metro Vancouver sent seven key questions to the Liberal Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party of Canada, the Conservative Party of Canada and the Green Party of Canada. So far, responses have been received from the Liberals, NDP and Greens, which are now available on the Local Government Matters [website](#).

LocalGovernmentMatters.ca

Pacific Spirit Regional Park Amphibian Wetland Restoration

In a quiet corner of Pacific Spirit Regional Park, some unassuming ponds are helping to boost the survival rate of a number of amphibians, including B.C. species at-risk.

In the spring of 2019, volunteers from the Pacific Spirit Park Society (PSPS) helped Metro Vancouver with regular monitoring at the ponds, tracking mating frogs, egg-laying and tadpole development. They found northwestern salamanders, long-toed salamanders, Pacific tree frogs and red-legged frogs, which is one of the B.C. species at risk.



Working with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks natural resource management staff, the PSPS volunteers developed a plan to restore and improve the ponds and surrounding habitat – with the help of a grant from the George Ross Legacy Stewardship Program.

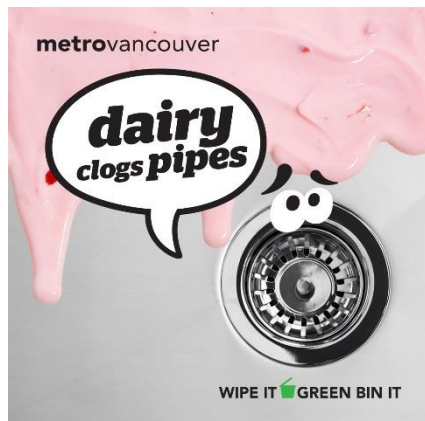
During the summer, when the amphibians migrated to the forest, PSPS volunteers removed litter from the site as well as invasive plants and excess woody debris. Later this fall, they'll plant native vegetation and deepen the ponds.

The project is an example of the integral role of community in regional parks – and how wildlife, volunteers, park visitors and others can benefit from getting involved in caring for these important places.

To find out more about the PSPS, visit their [website](#). PSPS and Metro Vancouver have a strong collaborative relationship to help manage and protect “our” (we can call it that, can't we?!) Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

<http://pacificspiritparksociety.org/>

Wipe It Green Bin It



Metro Vancouver wants you to think twice about washing foods like gravy, yogurt or leftover salad dressing down the drain.

Most Metro Vancouver residents know cooking grease shouldn't be poured down the drain, but many are unaware that dairy products, salad dressings and margarine can also wreak havoc on the sewer system, according to recent focus group conducted by Metro Vancouver.

The Wipe It Green Bin It campaign calls on residents to properly dispose of all fats, oils and grease (FOG) in their green bin, and not down the sink.

Fat-containing products create chemical reactions in the sewers, hardening and binding with other materials when washed down a drain, coagulating into blobs, or 'fatbergs,' which cause clogs and sewage overflows.

Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions annually spend at least \$2.7 million unclogging, repairing and replacing regional infrastructure impacted by FOG – not to mention the costly plumbing and restoration expenses that stratas and homeowners face when these blockages hit home.

Simply wipe it up or scrape it in your green bin – it's easy, quick, and won't cause problems in the sewer system. Nearly every home in Metro Vancouver now has an organics recycling program that accepts small amounts of oil, fat and grease. Anyone with large volumes of oil from deep fryers is reminded to take the oil to specialized recycling depots.

A dedicated website – www.wipeitgreenbinit.ca – provides a list of what can't go down the drain, how to properly dispose of FOG, and details of recycling depots that accept larger quantities of grease and oil. For those living in condominium buildings, consider sharing the list with your neighbors. www.wipeitgreenbinit.ca

Zero Waste Conference

When you order fresh fish for dinner, you don't expect it to come with a side of microplastics.

But that's increasingly happening around the world, as tiny bits of plastic from fleece clothing, carpets and personal care items infiltrate our oceans – and ultimately our food chain – are being ingested by fish and zooplankton. An excess of disposable plastics is compounding the problem, as more of them end up in our oceans.

The issue of oceans plastics and pollution will be raised at this year's 2019 Zero Waste Conference by keynote speaker **National Geographic's Valerie Craig**. **National Geographic** has launched the **Planet or Plastic?** initiative, a multi-year global effort to raise awareness and inspire action, with the ultimate goal of ending plastic marine pollution. She will share the stage with other keynote speakers **Harald Friedl**, CEO, **Circle Economy**; **Tom Szaky**,

founder and CEO of **Terracycle** and **Loop**; **Arthur Huang**, founder and CEO of **Miniwiz** and **Skylar Tibbits**, founder, **Self-Assembly Lab** at MIT.

The two-day conference (October 30 - 31) brings together thought leaders, change makers and innovators from Canada and around the globe, highlighting Circular Economy success stories, waste prevention innovations, and local and global perspectives as the shift to waste prevention and transition to a Circular Economy continues to gain momentum. Anyone can register to attend, and you can find out more at www.zwc.ca. I also encourage you to read the Zero Waste Conference blog, as it highlights much of the innovative work of the speakers and provides easily-digestible pieces on concepts like the Circular Economy, upcycling and ocean plastics.

2019 Zero Waste Conference: Mobilizing for Success in the Circular Economy.

October 30 - 31, 2019, Vancouver Convention Centre East - 999 Canada Place, Vancouver

[Information and Registration](#)

<http://www.zwc.ca/>

Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation Updates

Data Enthusiasts: Check Out the Trip Diary 2017 Results

TransLink's Trip Diary is just like a census, but for transportation. Every five years, TransLink conducts a study to understand the overall travel habits and patterns of Metro Vancouver residents to find out where people go, and how they get there. Are residents walking, cycling, driving, car pooling, taking transit or using a combination of these modes?

This comprehensive study is then used by all public and private sector planning organizations, and it informs the many decisions involved in delivering a better transportation system. Responses from 28,000 randomly selected households responded, equating to approximately 56,000 people and 230,000 trips! You can learn more about the study in [this video](#). https://youtu.be/RXsjf_otvJ0

The numbers have been crunched and — for the first time ever — the data are available to the public online via the data visualization tool, [Tableau](#). https://public.tableau.com/profile/translink#!/vizhome/Trip_Diary_2017/TripDiary2017

Stay Safe on Transit

TransLink has launched a new experiential marketing campaign on transit — featuring octopuses, monkeys and sloths — reminding everyone to be safe! You'll see wrapped buses, as well as decals in interesting places such as the ceilings, poles and straps of buses, on windows, and staircases at SkyTrain stations.

Scroll through their [slideshow here to see their safety tips](#).

<https://buzzer.translink.ca/2019/10/take-it-slooooooow-says-the-sloth/>



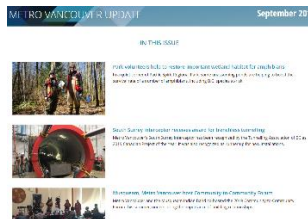
Media



Metro Vancouver Close Up shows how municipalities and community groups are promoting sustainability and shared regional goals. New videos are posted each month. To see sustainability stories about Metro Vancouver, you can search “Metro Vancouver Close Up” at metrovancover.org or follow metrovancoverblog.org.

For More Metro Vancouver News and Updates

<http://www.metrovancover.org/metroudate/>



Links & Connections

Metro Vancouver

www.metrovancover.org

Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

www.translink.ca/en/About-Us/Governance-and-Board/Mayors-Council.aspx

Jen McCutcheon's Website

www.areaajen.ca

Jen McCutcheon's Twitter

www.twitter.com/jcmcc2

Jen McCutcheon's Facebook

www.facebook.com/AreaAJen

Union of BC Municipalities

www.ubcm.ca

University Neighbourhoods Association

www.myuna.ca

University Endowment Lands Administration

www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca

UEL Community Advisory Council

www.uelcommunity.com

Metro Vancouver Media Releases

www.metrovancover.org/media-room

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