



**The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office**

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca)

May 13, 2020

*Via Email*

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: District of Saanich Resolution – Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy Change**

At their May 11, 2020 meeting, the District of Saanich Council endorsed a motion in support of joining the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and to encourage other Municipalities of British Columbia to provide their support.

Saanich Council endorsed the following motions:

That Council:

*“Join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy by submitting the commitment letter to the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat.”*

*“Direct staff to deliver on the commitments made within that letter and outlined in the report.”*

*“Direct staff to prepare correspondence to all local municipalities in the Province of British Columbia advising of Saanich's support of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and encourage all municipalities to support the initiative.”*

We encourage you to join in this collective potential and work together in combating climate change. Hopefully our combined actions will aid in reducing our ecological footprint and working to a sustainable future to safeguard the health and prosperity of our citizens.

A copy of the signed letter submitted to the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat and an excerpt of the May 11, 2020 Saanich Council minutes are attached for your reference.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Haynes', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Fred Haynes

Mayor

Encl.

cc: Saanich Council



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May 12, 2020

Global Covenant of Mayors  
c/o Global CoM Secretariat  
VIA EMAIL: [INFO@IUC-NA.EU](mailto:INFO@IUC-NA.EU)

**GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY SUBMISSION LETTER**

I, Fred Haynes, Mayor of the District of Saanich commit to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), joining thousands of other cities and local governments around the world currently engaged in climate leadership.

GCoM envisions a world where committed mayors and local governments – in alliance with partners – accelerate ambitious, measurable climate and energy initiatives that lead to an inclusive, just, low-emission and climate resilient future, helping to meet and exceed the Paris Agreement objectives.

Whatever the size or location, the mayors and local leaders committed to GCoM stand ready to take concrete measures with long-term impact to tackle the interconnected challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as access to sustainable energy.

To implement this vision, we pledge to implement policies and undertake measures to (i) reduce / avoid<sup>i</sup> greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (ii) prepare for the impacts of climate change, (iii) increase access to sustainable energy, and (iv) track progress toward these objectives.

Specifically, within three years of this commitment<sup>ii</sup>, we pledge to develop, adopt<sup>iii</sup>, use and regularly report on the following:

- A community-scale GHG emission inventory, following the recommended guidance;
- An assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities;
- Ambitious, measurable and time-bound target(s) to reduce/avoid GHG emissions;
- Ambitious climate change adaptation vision and goals, based on quantified scientific evidence when possible, to increase local resilience to climate change;
- An ambitious and just goal to improve access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy; and
- A formally adopted plan(s) addressing climate change mitigation / low emission development, climate resilience and adaptation, and access to sustainable energy.

The targets and action plans for mitigation / low emission development must be quantified and consistent with or exceed relevant national unconditional<sup>iv</sup> commitments defined through the UNFCCC (Intended) Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The targets and action plans

should be in line with National Adaptation Plans, where these exist; and should be consistent with the principles around energy access and urban sustainability embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We will explore the allocation of adequate staff resources and institutional arrangements. This includes governance processes, municipal structures and budget allocations to deliver on this commitment and secure continuity.

We acknowledge that there may be additional regional or country-specific commitments or requirements that we commit to follow, and that may be agreed through our city networks or through our direct engagement with local partners of GCoM.

The District of Saanich acknowledges that continued engagement in GCoM and associated Regional or National Covenants, as established, is contingent on complying with the above requirements within established timeframes.

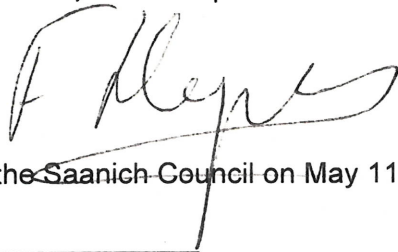
**Name and title of person signing this commitment**

Mayor Fred Haynes  
District of Saanich  
770 Vernon Avenue  
Victoria, BC, V8X 2W7  
Canada  
Saanich.ca

**Municipal Contact:**

Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability  
[Rebecca.newlove@saanich.ca](mailto:Rebecca.newlove@saanich.ca), +1-250-217-2457

District of Saanich, Canada, [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca)  
114,148 Inhabitants, 103.78 sq. kilometres



Mandated by the ~~Saanich Council~~ on May 11, 2020

<sup>i</sup> "Avoid emission" via low emission development

<sup>ii</sup> Flexibility is allowed to suit differentiated local circumstances and needs.

<sup>iii</sup> According to the city and local government's procedures

<sup>iv</sup> Many countries have submitted two sets of NDC targets: unconditional targets, to be implemented without any explicit external support; and conditional targets. The latter are more ambitious than unconditional targets and require external support for their fulfilment. The cities and local governments committing to the GCoM are required to commit at least to the equivalent of their country's unconditional targets, but are encouraged to be more ambitious where possible.



**REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

1410-04  
Report - Council

**GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY MEMBERSHIP**

Report of Mayor Haynes and Councillor Brice dated May 1, 2020 recommending that Council:

1. Join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy by submitting the commitment letter to the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat; and
2. Direct staff to deliver on the commitments made within that letter and outlined in the report.

**MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Plant: "That Council:**

- 1. Join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy by submitting the commitment letter to the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat; and**
- 2. Direct staff to deliver on the commitments made within that letter and outlined in the report."**

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- The six action areas follow a steady history of Saanich leading in climate change.
- The work can be accommodated within current resources.
- Saanich will be part of the solution.
- The ability to improve reporting across local governments in Canada on progress towards climate change mitigation is appreciated.
- It is concerning that the gesture may be symbolic and could lead to cynicism.
- It is important that the public understands that the current level of resourcing for climate change mitigation is not sufficient to meet the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Other municipalities are encouraged to commit and collaborate on the initiative.

In response to questions from Council, the Manager of Sustainability stated:

- Many of the commitments outlined in the Global Covenant of Mayors have already been completed.
- Staff are working on implementing the actions within the Climate Action Plan.
- There is a commitment to an ambitious and just goal to improve access to secure, sustainable and affordable energy; this project is underway and will be developed over the summer.
- There is an ongoing commitment to reporting annually.

**The Motion was then Put and CARRIED**

**MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Plant: "That Council direct staff to prepare correspondence to all local municipalities in the Province of British Columbia advising of Saanich's support of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and encourage all municipalities to support the initiative."**

**CARRIED**