



COMMITTEE REPORT

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject **Environmental Sustainability Committee -
Certification of the City of Langley as a Bat
Friendly Community**

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From: Councillor Paul Albrecht
Chair, Environmental Sustainability Committee

Date: July 22, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council support the Environmental Sustainability Committee's recommendation that the City of Langley apply to become certified as a Bat Friendly Community through the BC Community Bat Program.

SUMMARY:

At its June 13, 2024 meeting the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) received a presentation from the Community Bat Programs of BC to discuss the possibility of the City of Langley becoming certified as a Bat Friendly Community. The representative from Community Bat Programs of BC provided information on the benefits of bats within a community as well as the challenges facing the sixteen species that exist in BC, including white-nose syndrome and habitat loss. The ESC members were supportive of the City pursuing certification as a Bat Friendly Community and endorsed a motion to that effect:

THAT the Environmental Sustainability Committee recommends the City of Langley applies to become bat friendly certified.

The process to achieve Bat Friendly Certification includes three basic criteria:

1. Protect, create or enhance habitat
 - a. Identify bat habitat in the community
 - b. Build, install and monitor at least one approved bat house (Appendix 1)

- c. Consider other activities such as bat-friendly gardens or wetland protection
2. Provide information
 - a. Display literature regarding bats in City Hall, such as handouts from the BC Community Bat Project that will be supplied in electronic format.
3. Promote learning
 - a. Adopt Bat Week as promoted by Bat Conservation International, which is October 23 to 31, 2024.
 - b. Encourage bat-related activities at schools, daycares and the library and sponsor at least one bat-related event (e.g. community presentation, bat-house building workshop, art contest)

Upon certification as a Bat Friendly Community the City will receive a certificate as well as acknowledgement on the BC Community Bat Project website and Facebook page.

The City will have to plan activities each year as agreed with the Regional Coordinator of the BC Community Bat Project to retain the status as a Bat Friendly Community.

There are currently six certified communities in BC: Dawson Creek, Peachland, Comox, Richmond, Delta and Port Moody.

The activities required for certification, namely the installation and monitoring of a bat box as well as the educational activities will be led by Langley Environmental Partners Society and Langley Field Naturalists. City staff will ensure that the literature is available in City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,



Councillor Paul Albrecht
Chair

Attachment(s):

1. Picture of a bat house

