

MEETING MINUTES



Beyond, Every Day.

Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting Date:	January 21, 2021	Meeting Time:	1:00 – 3:00 PM
Location:	Microsoft Teams	Prepared by:	Wendy Avis
In Attendance:	Marion Town Wendy Avis Jennifer Aldcroft Mary Point Kevin Eng Cynthia Zhou Floyd Yamamoto Eliana Macdonald Shirin Kalyan Richard Holt Courtney Albert Rene McKibbon Theresa Fresco Judy Williams Morgan Guerin Gina Aitchison	YVR, Climate and Environment – Chair YVR, Climate and Environment YVR, Climate and Environment YVR, Indigenous Relations City of Richmond Citizen Representative, Richmond Citizen Representative - Alternate, Richmond City of Vancouver Citizen Representative, Vancouver Environment and Climate Change Canada Environment and Climate Change Canada Environment and Climate Change Canada Fraser Basin Council Fraser River Coalition Musqueam Indian Band Transport Canada	
Guests/Presenters:	Simon Robinson Brenden McBain Shaye Folk-Blagbrough	YVR, Climate and Environment YVR, Climate and Environment YVR, Climate and Environment	
Regrets:	Myrka Manzo Patrick Gosselin Shelina Sidi June Ryder	Air Canada Fairmont Hotel Vancouver Airport Metro Vancouver Nature Vancouver	
Secretary:	Wendy Avis	YVR, Climate and Environment	

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Discussion:

1. **Introductions & Welcome**

Marion Town welcomed the committee and shared some tips to ensure a successful online meeting.

2. **Review of previous minutes**

Marion asked the committee if there were any comments or questions on the draft meeting minutes from the October 22, 2020 meeting. There being none, the minutes were adopted as final and will be posted on the YVR website (www.yvr.ca).

Marion asked the committee if two year's of EAC minutes posted to the yvr.ca website would be sufficient and noted that minutes are archived for longer at YVR and that two years would only apply to the website. The committee had no objections. The EAC page on yvr.ca can be found at <https://www.yvr.ca/en/about-yvr/environment/environmental-advisory-committee>

3. **Airport Authority Updates**

Marion informed the committee that the Airport Authority is developing a new strategy including a focus on how we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, our role in supporting the regional economy, emerging opportunities in cargo operations and the airport's role in managing carbon. The strategy is expected to be released in February.

The Airport Authority organization has been realigned to support the new strategy. The name of the environment department has been changed to Climate and Environment and now sits in the Office of the CEO. Marion, as Director, reports directly to Tamara Vrooman, our CEO. This is an indication of the important role that environment and carbon management play for the airport.

The Annual and Sustainability Report (ASR), which in the past have been quite detailed and long, will be more concise for 2020 and will be more narrative. It will include key elements such as financial statements and data disclosures that align to the Global Reporting Initiative. Key metrics reporting on our environmental performance will be included. The ASR will be released prior to the Annual General Meeting in May 2021.

Marion highlighted that since the last meeting, YVR has rolled out a very successful COVID-19 testing program with Westjet. The industry is under considerable pressure due to the need to screen passengers on international flights, and the possibility of restrictions on inter-provincial travel.

A question was asked about the return of the Boeing 737 MAX and Marion noted that the aircraft was now approved for use in Canada again and that Westjet had flown their first flight, from Calgary to Vancouver, today.

4. **Environmental Management Plan Updates**

Wendy Avis and Jennifer Aldcroft provided highlights of the EMP plan progress in 2020 including the preliminary data for the Terminal which indicates a 65% reduction in the amount of waste, a 72% reduction in the consumption of potable water and a 1% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. It was noted that greenhouse gas emissions did not decrease significantly even though YVR had fewer passengers because the terminal buildings still need to be heated and cooled.

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Two initiatives from 2020 were highlighted for the Committee. The Green Excellence Awards are given out annually to Sea Island businesses that stand out for their commitment to improving the environment. The 2020 winners were Air Canada, Fairmont Hotel Vancouver Airport, Harbour Air, Hellman Logistics and SkyTeam VIP Lounge.

In addition, YVR has completed a tendering process for the purchase of carbon offsets to achieve carbon neutrality for 2020 and apply to the Airport Carbon Accreditation program for certification at the Neutrality level. The choice of projects will be announced as part of the ASR. Two questions were asked about whether the carbon offsets will be located in BC and what the difference is between carbon neutral and net zero. Wendy responded that the RFP indicated a preference for BC-based offsets. For carbon neutral vs net zero, both pathways start with reducing emissions and then take accountability for whatever emissions remain. Carbon neutrality involves purchasing carbon offsets, which prevent carbon emissions from taking place. For net zero, cuts to emissions are more aggressive (as close to zero as possible), and require investments in carbon removals; that is, a project which removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Three initiatives that will take place in 2021 were then highlighted for the Committee – EnergyWise@YVR, Salmon-safe recertification and zero waste. Sponsored by BC Hydro, the Airport Authority is piloting a new program to work with tenants on energy conservation. EnergyWise@YVR consists of energy audits called Treasure Hunts that identify potential energy-saving projects which align with Provincial and utility incentives and rebates, as well as a list of energy-saving behaviours to encourage in the workplace. Tenants also receive on-going training and resources. Two tenants – World Duty Free Group and Helijet – have agreed to participate in the pilot in 2021.

The Airport Authority is seeking to recertify as Salmon-Safe in 2021, now that our first 5-year certification period is coming to an end. Recertification will include reviewing the last 5 years of progress, especially on each of the ten action items (conditions) and then a look ahead to the next 5 years. All but one condition has been completed. The habitat enhancement project has been designed and is ready for tender but is currently on hold due to budget constraints.

Shaye Folk-Blagbrough presented the draft Single-Use Plastic Reduction Plan which is expected to be finalized in early 2021. The Plan will ensure that YVR and its businesses are in compliance with anticipated Federal and City of Richmond regulations and includes eliminating single-use plastics and compostable plastics, adopting fibre-based materials for front-of-house services that are BPI certified, potentially transitioning from plastic bottles to aluminum, a review of using food court tray service to reduce single-use materials and exploring opportunities with tenants to move to reusable materials.

A question was asked about why the Airport Authority was eliminating compostable plastics and Shaye responded that compostable plastics are problematic because they require special composting facilities to ensure that the composting process is successful. In addition, this is in alignment with the Federal regulations which will ban compostable plastics. In response to a question about if the airport has seen an increase in the use of single-use plastics due to COVID-19, Shaye responded that the overall trend in waste at YVR is a dramatic decrease due to reduced passengers.

Shaye shared that a Roadmap to Zero Waste is being created for YVR over the next six months and asked for input and ideas from the Committee. The general definition of Zero Waste is to divert at least

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90% of waste from landfills and incinerators. It was noted that the City of Richmond is also working on Zero Waste and there will be a report coming shortly. City of Vancouver also has a Zero Waste plan that could be useful.

A question was asked about the BPI certification and if fibre-based containers use recycled materials or virgin wood products. Shaye responded that the BPI certification ensures that the container is free from PFAS, a contaminant of concern. The ultimate goal of the Zero Waste plan will be to reduce single-use plastic, use fibre-based paper products and advance circularity as with our chopstick upcycling program through ChopValue.

5. **2020 Environmental Audit Program Results**

Brenden McBain presented on the results of the Airport Authority's 2020 environmental audit program. The Authority undertakes annual third-party environmental audits of our operations and that of our tenants in order to mitigate environmental risk, provide assurance of due diligence and meet Transport Canada obligations. A risk-based approach is used to determine which tenants should undergo an audit and how often. Some of the criteria used in risk assessment includes the size of the operation, the use of hazardous materials, proximity to sensitive ecosystems and results from any previous audits. Audits look for how well the tenant is managing fuel tanks, hazardous waste, water pollution controls, halocarbons, any contamination and their emergency spill response preparedness.

In 2020, nine audits were conducted and all but one was last visited in 2017. Tenants noted significant challenges to their business due to the COVID-19 pandemic – either a dramatic decline or an increase in business. The audit program, which is normally conducted in the spring, was deferred and staggered over the late summer and fall to minimize risk and follow COVID-19 guidelines. None of the findings were deemed high-risk or in need of immediate corrective action to prevent site contamination or other ongoing environmental impact. There was a reduction in findings associated with hazardous waste management over the 2017 findings, which has been an area of focus for tenant education over the last few years. The administrative components around petroleum storage tanks was identified as an area for improvement and work is ongoing to ensure these findings are addressed.

A question was asked about whether there was a need to test frozen goods due to COVID-19 and Marion indicated that the audits only cover environmental issues but that the airport's Health & Safety team works to help both tenants and airport operations be safe.

6. **Update on Development Projects at YVR**

Simon Robinson reported that many construction projects at YVR have been deferred due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are four active development projects – remaining close-down work on CORE, the Templeton Site redevelopment, the Seair dock replacement and the Air Canada flight Simulator Expansion. One project – the Pier D expansion – is now complete.

Three new projects are underway – the Ferguson Road Cycling Safety Upgrades which was covered in the October 2020 meeting and is still in design, the replacement of Floodbox E and the restart of the South Field Electrical Centre (SEFC). The SEFC consists of a 577m² building to house airfield electrical equipment and will be completed by October 2022. It will not trigger the Impact Assessment Act.

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The Floodbox E project will replace the flood box and pump station where it crosses the dyke/Inglis Road. The majority of the work will be under the road. The floodbox is a culvert that crosses the dike to move airport drainage into the river. The culvert has a flapgate on the end to prevent water entering. It's a one-way valve so water can leave the airport but not flow back in. The pump is used to move water off the airport during high tides. The new structure will be better able to withstand earthquakes and seismic events improving resilience and reliability. The project is located on the edge of the river and environmental impacts will be carefully managed. All work will be isolated from the river with no impact to fish. An environmental management plan will be implemented, and an environmental monitor will work closely with the project team and inspect the construction work as it proceeds. The project is in a design phase and will be constructed in 2022 and once more information is known this project will show as a project under the Impact Assessment Act.

7. **Industry Collaboration and Current Issues**

Marion shared that she is now the Vice-Chair of the Airport Council International World Environment Committee. The Committee has been working on a long-term goal for carbon for airports which has included looking at best practices, a series of interviews with airport CEOs and will deliver a report to the World Governing council which aims to advance the adoption of a goal for airports.

Marion has also been working with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on decarbonization issues, specifically on reducing emissions from ground support operations including gate infrastructure that allows aircraft to plug-in and turn off engines, efficient apron operation and sustainable aviation fuels.

YVR works with other airports across Canada as part of the Canadian Airports Council (CAC). A number of Climate and Environment staff participate in meetings and task groups and Jennifer Aldcroft is now the Vice-Chair. Key areas of focus include waste management, decarbonization and managing contaminated sites. One "hot topic" issue at the moment is the need for Transport Canada (TC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to work together to clarify guidelines around glycol management due the changes to the Fisheries Act. ECCC has regulatory enforcement powers under the Fisheries Act to regulate deleterious substances that enter fish-bearing waters while TC has purview over the safe operations of airports, including deicing. YVR reports annually to TC any water samples that contain over 100 mg/L of glycol, a metric that will be presented at the next EAC meeting, along with the other results under the Environmental Management Plan.

8. **Other Business –**

None

9. **Roundtable / Discussion**

The suggestion was made that the Airport Authority could look to make a statement about the Robert's Bank Terminal Two project, given its impacts on wetlands. Marion responded that the Airport Authority generally restricts its comments on regional issues to those related to aviation or have the potential to affect the direct neighbours of YVR, especially the Musqueam Indian Band and the City of Richmond. However, the Airport Authority will take the comment under consideration given our focus on the health of the Sea Island ecosystem.

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10. Next Meetings

- May 6 @ 1PM
- May 13 @ 3PM – Annual General Meeting
- Summer Tour – tbd
- October 21, 2021 @ 1PM

Action Items: none

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 1 p.m. via Microsoft Teams