



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** November 30, 2010
From: Cecilia Achiam, MCIP, BCSLA **File:** 01-0005-01/2010-Vol 01
 Interim Director, Sustainability and District Energy
 Senior Program Manager, CPMG
Re: **The Global City Covenant on Climate -"Mexico City Pact"**

Staff Recommendation

That Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Global City Covenant on Climate (Mexico City Pact) on behalf of the City.

Cecilia Achiam, MCIP, BCSLA
Interim Director, Sustainability and District Energy
Senior Program Manager, Policy Development, CPMG
(604-276-4122)

Att.

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>MAC</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>CAO</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

At the 2010 World Mayors Summit on Climate (WMSC) in Mexico City on November 21, 2010, 135 world mayors, including Canadian mayors from Delta and Montreal, signed the Mexico City Pact. At the November 26, 2010 Metro Vancouver Board meeting, the Board instructed staff to explore opportunities to sign the pact as a regional district. It also made a recommendation requesting member municipalities to consider becoming a signatory to the Mexico City Pact and (**Attachment 1**). The Mayor brought this matter to the attention of staff. This report is prepared accordingly to discuss the Metro Vancouver Board recommendation.

Analysis

The main goals of the Mexico City Pact include:

1. Affirmation of the important leadership roles of local government in addressing climate change;
2. Commitment of signatory cities to adopt and implement voluntary reduction targets to reduce local green house gas emissions, mitigate and address local impact of climate change;
3. International cooperation with other world cities to increase direct access to international climate funding for cities;
4. Adoption of a standardized reporting system (the *Carbomm* Cities Climate Registry) to record our emission targets and results, so that the implementation results and lessons learnt can be widely shared and accessed via the Internet; and
5. A request that the signatories enter their climate data (i.e. commitments, performance and actions) in the *Carbomm* Cities Climate Registry within eight (8) months from the date of signing the Mexico City Pact.

The joining together of world cities will be another opportunity to raise the profile of climate change and show that local governments are leading the way to address this important issue. From the City's perspective, the key consideration is whether the Mexico City Pact is representative of the City's climate change goals and aspirations, and the impact on resources as a signatory.

The content of the Mexico City Pact matches well with the City's climate change goals. The City is already well underway in our climate change effort. Richmond is amongst the first municipal governments to adopt overarching corporate and community sustainability policies.

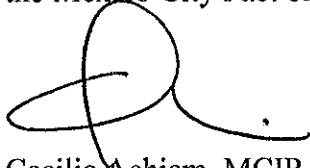
The *Carbomm* Cities Climate Registry will be used as the voluntary reporting mechanism for cities and local governments to report their targets and results to ensure transparency and accountability of local climate action. The Mexico City Pact invites the signatory cities to set their own voluntary targets and success criteria for measurement. Nonetheless, the City should be mindful that along with the adoption of a global reporting system, will be the inevitable comparisons with other world cities in what voluntary targets we set and how well we meet these targets. Allocation of appropriate resources, strategic partnership and careful implementation, in addition to our Council's commitment and leadership, will be necessary to continue Richmond's success in achieving the City's climate action goals.

Financial Impact

At this point, there is no cost associated to the signatories to participate in the *Carbomm* Cities Climate Registry. If in the future, there are costs arising from the City's participation, such as the maintenance of the international registry, staff will bring back a report to seek direction from Council.

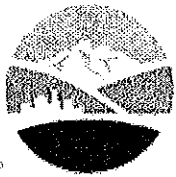
Conclusion

The signing of the Mexico City Pact is congruent with the City of Richmond's philosophy and commitment to climate change actions. Staff recommend that Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Mexico City Pact on behalf of the City.



Cecilia Achiam, MCIP, BCSLA
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Attachment 1: Material from Metro Vancouver Board Meeting on November 26, 2010


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GVRD Additional Item Section E

5.4

GVRD Board Meeting Date: November 26, 2010

To: Board of Directors

From: Lois E. Jackson, Chair

Date: November 22, 2010

 Subject: **Global Cities Covenant on Climate – “Mexico City Pact”**

Recommendations:

That the Board:

a) Forward the Mexico City Pact to member municipalities for their consideration as a signatory to the pact.

b) Direct staff to investigate the opportunity for Metro Vancouver to sign the Mexico City Pact as a regional district.

1. PURPOSE

To provide information on the November 21, 2010 World Mayors Summit on Climate in Mexico City and the signing of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate – “Mexico City Pact” by Mayors from around the world.

2. CONTEXT

Metro Vancouver's international engagement program, endorsed by the Board at its July 16, 2010 meeting, recommends “participation in UCLG and other international organizations and events as opportune to advance an agenda of collective local government action on:

- mitigating and responding to climate change
- an international approach to zero waste
- capacity building in local government”.

At the July 16, 2010 meeting the GVRD Board, the Board approved the participation of two Metro Vancouver Directors at the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Congress in Mexico City from November 16 through November 20. Included as part of the UCLG Congress was the World Mayors Summit on Climate (WMSC) which took place November 21. Lois Jackson, Chair, Metro Vancouver Board and Derek Corrigan, Metro Vancouver Director represented Metro Vancouver at the Congress and Lois Jackson attended the WMSC.

This report addresses attendance at the WMSC only – a later report will address the UCLG Congress.

The World Mayors Summit on Climate (WMSC) was convened by Mexico City in conjunction with the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and UCLG. The Summit was timed to coincide with the

conclusion of the UCLG World Congress, and to lead into the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP), specifically the COP16 to be held in Cancun, Mexico from November 29 to December 10, 2010.

One of the key events at the WMSC was the opportunity for Mayors from all over the world to sign a voluntary pact known as the *Global Cities Covenant on Climate*, or more commonly, "the Mexico City Pact". This pact is intended to send a message to the international community that cities play an important role in combating climate change. In addition, one of the key themes leading into the WMSC was the need for local governments to take action on climate change, with an undertone of dissatisfaction with the outcome of COP15 held in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009.

The Mexico City Pact and Carbonn Cities Climate Registry

The Mexico City Pact (Attachment 1) consists of two parts:

- 1) a series of considerations as to why cities are strategic in combating climate change; and
- 2) a set of voluntary commitments to promote strategies and actions aimed at mitigating GHG emissions and adapting cities to the impacts of climate change.

The signatories commit to:

- Reduce local greenhouse gas emissions voluntarily
- Adopt and implement local climate mitigation measures designed to achieve voluntary reduction targets
- Develop local adaptation strategies to address the local impact of climate change
- Register their emission inventories, commitments, climate mitigation and adaptation measures and actions in a measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) manner
- Seek the creation of mechanisms that allow direct access to international funding for local climate actions
- Establish a Global Cities Covenant on Climate Secretariat
- Promote the involvement of civil society in the fight against climate change
- Advocate and seek partnerships with multilateral institutions and national governments on local climate actions
- Promote partnerships and city-to-city cooperation
- Spread the message of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate

By signing the Mexico City Pact, the signatories agree to enter their climate actions in the *Carbonn Cities Climate Registry*. This registry is powered by the Bonn Centre for Local Climate Action and Reporting and will be launched in late November 2010.

The *carbonn* registry will become a registry of best practices in climate action commitments and actions by local governments. It provides a mechanism for cities and local governments to regularly report on their climate actions, and by doing so, demonstrate leadership in dealing with climate change, and be better prepared for verification of their commitments, performance and actions. The registry has two parts, one for cities that are at the early stages of climate change measures, and another for cities that already have climate actions in place.

There will be no cost to signatories to participate in the *carbonn* registry in 2010 and 2011; over the longer term, the ongoing technical and financial support of partners has not yet been confirmed. Cities and local governments would likely be expected to cover the costs of their attendance in knowledge development and capacity building events.

It was acknowledged that there are a number of different countries and organizations (e.g. the Western Climate Initiative in North America) developing their own protocols for measuring, reporting and verifying greenhouse gas emissions and offsets, and that achieving consistency and harmonization in protocols will be challenging. The *carbons* registry aims to be the definitive global mechanism for reporting local climate action. Over time, the establishment of best practice examples in the registry will inform local governments and improve global reporting standards and harmonization.

The first WMSC was convened specifically for cities. The Mexico City Pact will be open at a later date to the incorporation of other local authorities at other levels of government such as Metro Vancouver.

Next Steps

At the WMSC on November 21, 2010, 135 world mayors signed the Mexico City Pact. Canadian mayors signing the Mexico City Pact included Mayor Jackson on behalf of the Corporation of Delta and Mayor Tremblay on behalf of the City of Montreal.

With the conclusion of the Summit, there is now an opportunity for other mayors in Metro Vancouver to sign the Mexico City Pact, through www.citiesclimateregistry.org
<<http://www.citiesclimateregistry.org>>

Signatories of the Mexico City Pact are requested to enter their climate data (i.e. commitments, performance and actions) in the *Carbonn* Cities Climate Registry within eight (8) months from the date of signatory of the Pact.

In addition, there are transitional provisions built in for potential signatories that need approval from their respective Councils. In the case where signing Mayors require their decision to be processed through other instances of their governments; their signature will be subject to ratification in an 8 months term.

3. ALTERNATIVES

None presented.

4. CONCLUSION

The World Mayors Summit on Climate affirms the important role of local government in combating global warming. It falls within the context of a series of prior efforts by cities and local authorities to take direct, on the ground action against climate change. The Mexico City Pact encourages cities to sign on to a set of voluntary commitments to promote strategies and actions to mitigate GHG emissions and adapt cities to the impacts of climate change.

Signatories to the Mexico City Pact agree to jointly cooperate with the aim of increasing direct access to international climate funding for cities. The *Carbonn* Cities Climate Registry will provide a compilation of best practices in local government climate actions, as well as commitments.

The Mexico City Pact sends a strong message to the international community that cities play an important role in combating climate change. As leaders in our communities I encourage all of Metro Vancouver member municipalities to join the global community in taking action on climate change by signing **GP 40** important Pact sending a clear

Mexico City Pact

GVRD Board Meeting Date: November 26, 2010

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message to the upcoming United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP 16) taking place later this year in Cancun, Mexico that Mayors from around the world are united in their commitment to combating climate change.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Mexico City Pact (4597903)
2. Press releases (4597904)

(4597991)

Global Cities Covenant on Climate

"The Mexico City Pact"

Acknowledging that cities play a strategic role in the fight against climate change, because they are centres of economic, political and cultural innovation, host to half of the world population, and manage vast public resources, infrastructure, investments and expertise;

Recalling that between 1992 and 2007, whilst the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol were designed, numerous local governments demonstrated leadership and implemented innovative actions to combat climate change at the local level;

Reminding that as today half of the world's population lives in cities; that the International Energy Agency estimates that cities accounted for 67% of the world's primary energy demand and more than 70% of global CO₂ emissions in 2006. With continued urbanisation and urban growth, energy use in cities is projected to increase to 73% of the global total, and CO₂ emissions to 76%, by 2030;

Noting that since our cities are at increased risk of the devastating consequences of global climate change, particularly affecting the urban poor, many cities around the world, despite limited budgets and capacities, are already developing and implementing local adaptation strategies to address problems caused by climate change, even in the absence of a binding global commitment on adaptation;

Recognizing that since 2007, when national governments embarked on the UN Climate Roadmap, local governments signed the World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement and developed a parallel *Local Government Climate Roadmap* to mirror and influence the on-going work of the Conference of the Parties (COP), with the purpose of seeking recognition for local climate action within global climate governance;

Emphasizing that during COP15 in 2009, when the Copenhagen Accord was announced with national commitments and actions of governments, local governments published the *Copenhagen World Catalogue of Local Climate Commitments*, which identified more than 3,500 voluntary greenhouse gas reduction commitments of local governments in countries of Annex 1 and Non-Annex 1 countries;

Welcoming and seeking synergies with regional initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors in Europe and the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement in the U.S.A;

Inviting more cities, local and regional governments to initiate action or accelerate their climate efforts, both in developed as well as in developing countries;

Acknowledging that our local commitments and actions must be measurable, reportable and verifiable in order to attract recognition and support from existing or new multilateral institutions and funding mechanisms;

Considering that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined that reductions in greenhouse gases emissions must limit the increase of global temperatures to less than 2 degrees Celsius by the end of this century;

Gathering on the eve of COP16, at the World Mayors Summit on Climate, in Mexico City on 21 November 2010, we state the following:

WE, THE MAYORS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES BY SIGNING THE GLOBAL CITIES COVENANT ON CLIMATE "THE MEXICO CITY PACT", WE COMMIT TO:

1. Reduce our local greenhouse gas emissions voluntarily

We shall promote measures, public policies, laws, plans and campaigns to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in our cities, taking into account our individual resources and capacities to do so.

2. Adopt and implement local climate mitigation measures designed to achieve our voluntary reduction targets

If we have set targets for reducing GHG emissions, we will adopt and implement measures to achieve them, in areas such as sustainable transportation, proper waste management, energy efficiency, as well as implement low carbon options that help to green our local economies and lifestyles.

3. Develop local adaptation strategies to address the local impact of climate change

We shall design appropriate local adaptation plans and implement climate change adaptation and preparedness measures with operational mechanisms that improve the quality of life of our inhabitants, in particular the urban poor, who are most vulnerable to the harmful impacts of climate change.

4. Register our emission inventories, commitments, climate mitigation and adaptation measures and actions in a measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) manner

With a view to launch and follow-up on our commitments, we will enter our climate actions in the **carbonn Cities Climate Registry**. Acknowledging our common but differentiated responsibilities in responding to climate change, we agree to make our actions transparent and provide regular information and data so that our efforts can be measured, reported and verified.

5. Seek the creation of mechanisms that allow direct access to international funding for local climate actions

We will seek the development of mechanisms to directly access financing for our registered mitigation and adaptation actions and in doing so, we will seek the support of various national governments and multilateral funding institutions.

6. Establish a *Global Cities Covenant on Climate Secretariat*

We agree that a Global Cities Covenant on Climate Secretariat will be established to follow-up on actions arising from this instrument and to promote the Global Cities Covenant on Climate with other local and regional authorities. We request the Secretariat to undertake all efforts to facilitate cooperation, exchange and expertise on climate mitigation and adaptation among all signatories of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate.

7. Promote the involvement of civil society in the fight against climate change

We will engage our citizens in our actions to address climate change, and will support proposals from civil society that encourage changes in lifestyles that contribute to our local climate actions.

8. Advocate and seek partnerships with multilateral institutions and national governments on our local climate actions

We agree to cooperate actively with each other to advocate support before multilateral institutions and national governments - within the scope of the UNFCCC process and beyond -, to seek recognition and support for our measurable, reportable and verifiable local climate actions, and to implement sub-national, national, regional and multilateral frameworks that are complementary to our climate actions and which may result from multilateral climate negotiations.

9. Promote partnerships and city-to-city cooperation

We agree to seek active partnerships and promote city-to-city cooperation among all signatories of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate, including sharing information and knowledge, capacity building and technology transfer in all areas relevant to climate mitigation and adaptation.

10. Spread the message of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate and, in particular, encourage and invite other leaders of local and sub-national governments to join our climate actions.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISION:

In the case that signing Mayors require their decision to be processed through other instances of their governments; their signature will be subject to ratification in an 8 months term.

Signed by:

(Name of the authorised representative of the city or local government)

Representing (the city of _____)

Date:

Annex 1

The carbonn Cities Climate Registry

The carbonn Cities Climate Registry will be launched on 21 November 2010 in Mexico City at the World Mayors Summit on Climate (WMSC / CCLIMA).

Under the auspices of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change and with the endorsement of United Cities and Local Governments and Club of Madrid, the carbonn Cities Climate Registry (cCCR) has been developed with support from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and Government of Mexico City. The cCCR will be operated by the Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and Reporting – carbonn.

The carbonn Cities Climate Registry is a mechanism for cities and local governments that ensures transparency and accountability of local climate action through a commitment of regular reporting.

By being included in the carbonn Cities Climate Registry, cities demonstrate leadership in transparency and accountability of local climate action and will be better prepared for verification of their commitments, performance and actions, which should facilitate their direct access to global climate funds.

The carbonn Cities Climate Registry aims to be the global response of cities and local governments for measurable, reportable, verifiable climate actions that are also being discussed by the UNFCCC.

By signing the Global Cities Covenant on Climate, the signatories agree to enter their climate actions in the carbonn Cities Climate Registry and to submit their official documentation as a part of a regular reporting system on their greenhouse gas reduction commitments, on the performance of their GHG emissions and their portfolio of mitigation and adaptation actions through the online infrastructure of carbonn.

The carbonn Cities Climate Registry has two sections:

- Section 1 is for cities that wish to undertake mitigation and climate change adaptation measures and that, by signing the Global Cities Covenant on Climate, pledge to take the first steps, such as preparing their emissions inventory, design and implement a Climate Action Plan and will adopt local legislation that favours GHG emissions reductions, among other measures.
- Section 2 is for those cities that have already climate actions in place and which they wish to be measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV).

Signatories of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate are requested to enter their climate data (i.e. commitments, performance and actions) in the carbonn Cities Climate Registry within eight (8) months from the date of signatory of the Covenant.

Cities included in the carbonn Cities Climate Registry will also be ranked through a carbonn Cities Climate Index based on their commitments, performance and actions.

The information submitted to the carbonn Cities Climate Registry, will be handled with full confidentiality whereas the data output will be transparent and online.



World Mayors Sign Climate Agreement in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 21, 2010 /PRNewswire/ -- Mayors from around the world today signed an agreement to address climate change at the World Mayors Summit on Climate, hosted by the Government of Mexico City and Marcelo Ebrard, Mayor of Mexico City and chair of the World Mayors Council on Climate. During the summit, representatives from 135 global cities signed the Mexico City Pact, which establishes a monitoring and verification mechanism for cities to address climate change. The Mexico City Pact will be presented to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) when it meets later this month in Cancun, Mexico.

With more than half the world's population today living in cities for the first time in human history, mayors and urban leaders are on the frontline of the planet's fight against a changing climate. Today, the cities meeting here are taking action to reduce harmful greenhouse emissions through their commitment to the Mexico City Pact," said Marcelo Ebrard, Mayor of the Mexico City and chair of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change.

In partnership with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, and the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC), the Government of Mexico City organized the summit to provide a forum for the signing of an agreement that commits cities to action and urges national governments to advance a binding global treaty.

Cities have great capacities to address climate change, even in the absence of a binding global treaty among nations, which is why we are here today. We are demonstrating the leadership of mayors and cities around the world to take action," said Martha Delgado, Mexico City's secretary of the environment and ICLEI vice president.

The Mexico City Pact calls for cities to develop and implement climate action plans that promote local laws and initiatives to reduce GHG reductions. To establish and follow up on cities' commitments, the signers will establish their climate actions in the Carbon Cities Climate Registry (CCCR) at the Bonn Centre for Local Climate Action and Reporting (carbons).

Funding is a critical component to ensure that cities around the world have the financial resources to implement their climate action plans. Mayors believe that if financial resources become available through transfers from developed to developing countries, a significant portion of these monies should be passed through to cities and local governments to implement local climate programs," Ebrard said.

Mexico City is currently implementing a Green Plan designed to reduce GHG emissions by 7 million metric tonnes between 2008 and 2012 through a comprehensive program of new investments in public transportation, conservation of public lands, reductions in air pollution, improvements in water, solid waste and sanitation infrastructure, and encouraging companies and citizens to adopt climate-friendly practices.

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World mayors sign climate change pact

By blade

Created 21/11/2010 - 21:18

Mayors from around the world signed a voluntary pact in Mexico City on Sunday to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a meeting meant as a precursor to next week's UN-sponsored talks in Cancun.

The gathering in one of the world's most polluted cities assembled some 3,000 local and regional leaders to discuss a wide range of economic and social issues, including climate change.

Participants from some 135 cities and urban areas signed a pact committing them to adopt a slate of measures to stem climate change.

The pact will be presented at next week's UN climate talks in Cancun, Mexico from November 29-December 10.

Climate scientists from around the world hope in Cancun to break the deadlock on reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and channeling aid to poor, vulnerable countries after the widely regarded failure of the last climate summit in Copenhagen.

Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard and Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë, the current president of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), opened the mayoral gathering, set to last four days.

"We have to tell the international community that it's in the cities that the battle to slow global warming will be won," Ebrard said in the lead-up to the meeting.

Mexico last week promised to reduce its annual greenhouse gas emissions by around 14 percent.

Meanwhile, a new study released on Sunday found that fossil-fuel gases edged back less than hoped in 2009, as falls in advanced economies were largely outweighed by rises in China and India.

Annual emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the burning of oil, gas and coal were 30.8 billion tonnes, a retreat of only 1.3 percent in 2009 compared with 2008, a record year, they said in a letter to the journal *Nature Geoscience*.

The global decrease was less than half that had been expected, because emerging giant economies were unaffected by the downturn that hit many large industrialized nations.

In addition, they burned more coal, the biggest source of fossil-fuel carbon, while their economies struggled with a higher "carbon intensity," a measure of fuel-efficiency.

Emissions of fossil-fuel gases in 2009 fell by 11.8 percent in Japan, by 6.9 percent in the United States,

by 8.6 percent in Britain, by seven percent in Germany and by 8.4 percent in Russia, the paper said.

In contrast, they rose by eight percent in China, the world's number one emitter of fossil-fuel CO₂, which accounts for a whopping 24 percent of the total.

China was followed by India, where emissions rose 6.2 percent and in South Korea, where they were up 1.4 percent.

AFP Sciences

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