

A. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

For years the City of Vancouver has been a municipal pioneer in setting ambitious goals to ward a healthy, sustainable, and resilient city. In April 2016, City Council supported the Vancouver Citywide Integrated Rainwater Management Plan (IRMP). The IRMP identifies a vision, principles, and actions to improve Vancouver's water quality, reduce combined sewer overflows (CSO), and ensure cleaner urban rainwater run-off entering our surrounding waterbodies. It also recognizes that green infrastructure practices are needed to proactively prepare for climate change impacts, while also supporting neighbourhood livability and biodiversity.

To deliver a holistic city wide outlook for our urban rainwater, an implementation plan is being developed for the Rain City Strategy: A green infrastructure and urban rainwater management initiative. A broad variety of perspectives will help inform these efforts to meet the rearticulated vision and goals, and existing target that will be presented to Council on November 1, 2017.

Proposed vision:

Vancouver's rainwater is embraced as a valued resource for our communities and natural ecosystems.

Proposed goals

1. Improve and protect Vancouver's water quality;
2. Increase Vancouver's resilience through sustainable water management; and
3. Enhance Vancouver's livability by improving natural and urban ecosystems.

Target

Capture and clean 90% of Vancouver's rainfall on both public and private property.

B. PURPOSE AND ROLES

1. Purpose

The City is currently developing a high level implementation plan by summer of 2018. The purpose of the Expert Panel is to bring a broad variety of perspectives to the implementation planning process and will advise and provide feedback to City staff on emerging directions leading up to the implementation plan.

2. Roles of the Expert Panel members (figure 1)

To ensure that the emerging directions leading up to the implementation plan reflect a broad variety of community interests the role of the Expert Panel members is to:

- a. Share their body of knowledge and ideas related to sustainable urban rainwater management and green infrastructure practices and provide feedback on ideas, strategies, and actions under development by City staff;
- b. Help identify citywide needs, opportunities, and constraints to guide the application of sustainable urban rainwater management and green infrastructure practices in the public and private realm;
- c. Help identify benefits, barriers, and risks implementing green infrastructure and sustainable urban rainwater strategies and actions in the public and private realm;
- d. Advise City staff on connections and/or collaboration opportunities with other related initiatives within their field of practice; and

- e. Provide feedback on the approach of the public engagement process.

It is important to note that the:

- a. Expert Panel members may have opinions and express opinions that are different from one another, and consensus is not necessarily expected;
- b. Expert Panel is advisory to City Staff, and through staff to City Council, but will not be making the final decision on recommendations or adoption of strategies, actions or plans as this is the responsibility of City Council;
- c. Expert Panel members will act as liaison between the Expert Panel and their community or organization and will help to identify issues and priorities of importance to that community or organization;
- d. Expert Panel members are an important component of the entire engagement process and their feedback will complement the feedback obtained through other engagement channels; and
- e. Expert Panel members will serve without remuneration.

3. City staff role

City staff will be responsible for developing an implementation plan as defined in the approved Council Report (April 19, 2016). To facilitate the Expert Panel, City staff will:

- a. Organize meetings and agendas;
- b. Provide a note taker and minutes;
- c. Organize meeting spaces; and
- d. Provide background material when relevant or requested.

C. MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING SCHEDULE

1. Membership composition

The Expert Panel will have up to 16 appointed members that have demonstrated strong leadership and knowledge in sustainable urban rainwater management and green infrastructure practices. Members should represent a range of expertise.

Expertise and knowledge will be sought in the following areas:

- a. Sustainable urban rainwater management;
- b. Green infrastructure practices;
- c. Climate adaptation measures;
- d. Architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, public space planning;
- e. Green building sector;
- f. Construction and development industry;
- g. Urban ecology;
- h. Urban hydrology;
- i. Arts; and
- j. Community advocacy and non-profit sector related to urban rainwater management or green infrastructure.

Individuals employed by the City of Vancouver or Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation may not apply to be members of the Expert Panel.

The City acknowledges that Vancouver is on the unceded traditional territory of the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh. Throughout the implementation planning process, the City will work with the three nations to address opportunities and issues that they identify in relation to sustainable urban rainwater management.

2. Membership application and appointment

Applicants can be self-nominated or nominated by organizations. Expert Panel members will be appointed by an internal committee preceding an open public call for applications. Where the number of nominees exceeds what is needed, staff will seek to recommend members based on achieving gender balance and a range of backgrounds including age and cultural diversity.

Request of Interest: October 16, 2017

Application due: November 5, 2017

3. Meeting schedule

Expert Panel meetings are expected to take place from November 2017 until as late as Summer 2018. Meetings will most likely be 2 hours in length, and held on weekday late afternoons or evenings. Meeting frequency will be approximately every 4-6 weeks, however the number of meetings may be less or more depending on need.

4. Membership responsibilities (figure 1)

It is expected that members will attend the majority of meetings and will keep active correspondence with the Expert Panel and City staff. Any member unable to participate will be replaced by another representative of their organization or by someone with complementary expertise.

Activities will include:

- Attendance at regular meetings;
- Attendance at selected workshops or public events upon request and subject to availability. This may involve some Saturdays and evenings;
- Outreach to networks to seek advice or opinions; and
- Staying up-to-date and knowledgeable on project materials.

5. Term

It is expected that the Expert Panel will serve until approximately two months after the implementation plan will be presented to Council (Summer 2018). City Staff note the term of the Expert Panel may be ended at any time.

Figure 1: Roles and Responsibilities

RAIN CITY STRATEGY		Manage the implementation planning process	Outreach	Identifying issues & opportunities	Providing feedback on options	Drafting implementation plan directions	Reviewing the implementation plan	Implementation plan approval
	Expert Panel		✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Stakeholder Groups			✓	✓		✓	
	City Staff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Council							✓