



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

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Re: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Sustainable Cities Conference (SCC) Summary

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) hosted their annual Sustainable Cities Conference (SCC) virtually on October 20 to 22, 2020. Stacey Jeffery, Climate Change Officer attended the conference from the municipality. Attendees of the SCC included elected officials, government (all levels), private sector (including non-profit), and members of the public.

Discussions throughout the SCC were focused around the opportunities that the pandemic has provided to evaluate our structure and systems in place to make the necessary changes that address many long-standing issues that have not been recognized as a priority.

The following topics were discussed in detail during the SCC sessions:

- Asset management;
- Building back greener after COVID; and
- Climate action planning (equity and transformation).

Below is a high-level summary of the key messages and resources from the SCC sessions that may be of interest to the members of the Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Committee.

Topic	Key Message(s)	Resources
Asset Management (Engineered and natural assets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public wants these services at a certain level, to be affordable, and to reliable (i.e. when we turn on the tap, clean water comes out). They do not necessarily need to know about the fine details of an asset management plan, rather that the end result is a certain level.• Asset management historically only included engineered assets, however, natural assets need to be included for the services they provide and value they hold.• Business case exists for natural assets. They are just as part of the engineered asset system and the same principles as engineered assets can be applied. Natural assets should not be managed based on one service – they should be managed for all services provided.• All communities are benefitting from services from natural assets – it is less good governance and risky approach to not understand natural assets, the services they provide and the risk, how to optimize/preserve assets.• Risk to the service delivery must be considered in asset management – what is a risk to deliver the service and how you can address it.• Asset management isn't a legislative requirement across Canada, however, it is being invested in even where it is not	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Development Goals – What local governments need to know• FCM Asset Management Readiness Scale• Asset Management for Sustainable Service Delivery (BC Framework)• FCM Tool: Starting the asset management conversation in your municipality

	<p>required (i.e. British Columbia it is not legislated, but many municipalities there are investing in asset management).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and information management is key for asset management but often the most difficult to put systems into place (for South Huron, current Service Delivery Review efforts will enhance data and information management) • Important to build asset management into basic municipal functions across the organization – it's a multidisciplinary practice involving all departments, manager and council (including advisory committees). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Natural Assets Initiative
Building Back Greener after COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pandemic has provided opportunities for communities to build back greener and more sustainable. • Opportunity to evaluate structure and determine whether or not it allows for resilience (flexibility) – it has allowed communities to do the work they always needed to do all along • The importance of natural spaces was a reoccurring theme for this panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Invest in parks and trails as an essential services – these should not be the first thing to cut ○ Natural spaces must not only be invested in, but restored and preserved • We understand our spaces better after COVID. Public spaces are required to support physical distancing, spaces to get out to participate in active transportation. During the pandemic, some temporary spaces created have been created as permanent ones. (i.e. Victoria's main shopping street historically has not had a clear use (last 30 years there have been ongoing discussion whether to close to cars or not. During COVID, they closed for walking and biking only with this being extended into 2021). • Vulnerable members in community will always be impacted more by a crisis (whether it be a pandemic, or climate change). Local actions are critical. • Access to nature from an equity lens is a concern. Not all members of the community have access to nature. Questions to ask: How can we improve access to nature? How can we do better? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-naturalize those areas that have been historically changed into grass. ○ Re-evaluate access to nature (i.e. Edmonton has re-evaluated access to nature by continuing to prioritize 15 minute neighbourhood initiative to ensure the public can walk to amenities (including nature) in 15 minutes. ○ Parkland adds value to development. • Sustainability priorities for buildings. Instead of building the way we always have we need to build it right from the beginning (with pandemic and climate change in mind) instead of retrofitting in the future, which is often required sooner than we think. • Success of any initiative must be embedded into the strategic plan in order to move everyone within the organization in the same direction and to allocate resources 	

Climate Action Planning for Equity and Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More downloading and front-line responsibilities to municipalities. • Growing inequality across the country (poverty and lack of affordable housing). • Generations of systems that have been built that have to be broken down and changed to make progress to achieve what we need to • Impacts (pandemic and climate change) are not felt equally within our communities – we must ensure that we are bringing everyone along • All buildings types retrofitted, new builds net zero, target certain infrastructure (i.e. low income housing) and populations to ensure they can participate in decarbonisation • Positive actions in one area can negatively impact other areas (must understand full set of trade-offs to further all objectives). • Transformation of the entire organization is required. Change in governance model for setting priorities to guide decision making (bring priorities it into the heart of organization). • Social sustainability must be in the core for success of climate action –addressing equity will help achieve climate action and sustainability goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building the social foundation will ensure no one is left falling short on essentials. ○ The pandemic has allowed recognition of the links between social and climate considerations • Leadership plays an important role in acknowledging how organizations can do better, establishing effective communication and ongoing engagement for accountability. • Don't reinvent the wheel – learn from other jurisdictions and utilize what is already in place (i.e. strategic plan) to accomplish priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doughnut Economics (Concept)
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Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Jeffery, Staff Liaison

Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Committee