

March 3, 2026

Good morning Mayor Meed Ward, Chair, Members of Committee, City staff, and the Burlington community.

On behalf of BurlingtonGreen, thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on three items on today's agenda.

1. Burlington Community Strategic Plan – Horizon 2050 (TRN-03-26)

Vision: Climate must be core

There is good language in the draft Horizon 2050 Plan pertaining to the environment. We particularly like the Sustainable & Future-Ready Guiding principle that indicates: *The city protects and enhances our natural environment, acts on climate change, and plans with long-term responsibility. As a community, we contribute to sustainability by caring for our natural spaces, making climate-minded choices, and supporting a resilient future for generations to come.*

Recommendation: BurlingtonGreen suggests the important VISION STATEMENT better reflect this scope. The current statement is limited to the 'protection of nature', only, and we know the city's mandate and community responsibility goes beyond this as we collectively work to address the climate and biodiversity crisis.

Replacing *'where nature is protected'* with something along the lines of *'where a healthy environment is a priority'* would better reflect the scope required for Burlington's vision.

BurlingtonGreen also concurs with the written input provided by the Burlington Sustainable Development Committee, as well as the Bay Area Climate Change Council.

- Burlington is a community where ~~nature is protected~~, growth is purposeful, and everyone thrives.

- Burlington is a community where **a healthy environment is a priority**, growth is purposeful, and everyone thrives.

2. **Strategic Parking Framework for downtown Burlington:**

BurlingtonGreen appreciates the inclusion of a climate lens for the downtown parking strategy, recognizing parking's role in supporting climate and mobility goals. Among other key considerations, the report recommends careful evaluation of any future parking expansion to avoid overbuilding, ensuring investments align with city's emissions reduction objectives. We suggest that the successful implementation of this strategic framework will depend on **consistent** decision-making and execution, prioritizing the **principles and goals of the IMP and Climate Plan over pressures to expand traditional car travel and parking**.

- Investments in transit and Active transportation / micro-mobility provide access to the downtown without a personal vehicle.
- The DPP also supports climate objectives by reinforcing mode-shift goals through parking policies that prioritize access, encourage short stays in core areas, and complement investments in walking, cycling, and transit. By managing parking as a finite and valuable resource, the DPP helps align parking supply with broader land use and mobility goals, rather than inducing additional vehicle demand.

3. **Electric Vehicle Charging Policy and fee options:** BurlingtonGreen commends the city's progress in expanding EV charging infrastructure. The report's reference to just over 500 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions having been saved through the utilization of the City's EV charging stations is a very positive step forward for the environment.

We support the implementation of a cost-recovery pricing model, with income also used to further grow the local charging network.

We support Option 4 but would like to know if energy-based pricing (per kilowatt-hour) rather than time-based pricing was considered. This method is fairer to older EVs that charge more slowly and is supported by data from ChargePoint, the city's charging network provider. **the switch makes pricing more equitable since everyone is paying for exactly what they get.**

This pricing model has been introduced in other cities like Mississauga and not sure if this would be an option available here in Burlington.

The City may experience a reduction in EV charger usage as a result of the introduction of fees, with some folks opting to charge more regularly at home. As stated in the report,

community engagement is key, including messaging pertaining to good EV charging etiquette.
BurlingtonGreen will be pleased to support this.

Thank you

Amy Schnurr

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Amy Schnurr".

Executive Director
BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association