

Report to Council

**Agenda item 7.1
Council**

Proposed attendance by Councillor Cathy Oke to ICLEI Global Executive meetings, Bonn, Germany and Ecocity World Summit 2019, Vancouver, Canada.

30 April 2019

Presenter: Councillor Cathy Oke

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Councillor Cathy Oke to participate in the following:
 - 1.1. A series of meetings associated with the ICLEI Global Executive Committee and Resilient Cities Congress 2019 in Bonn, Germany.
 - 1.2. Ecocity World Summit 2019 in Vancouver, Canada at the invitation of the President, British Columbia Institute of Technology.
2. Councillor Cathy Oke is the First Vice President of ICLEI, on the Global Executive Committee and is President of the Board of ICLEI World Secretariat. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a network of more than 1750 local and regional governments, supported by a team of global experts, driving sustainable urban development worldwide. Active in over 100 countries, ICLEI impacts over 25 per cent of the global urban population.
3. A biennial event, Ecocity World Summit is the longest-standing international conference that addresses building cities in balance with nature. Councillor Oke was a member of the Executive Advisory Board for the Ecocity World Summit hosted in Melbourne in 2017, and co-curated the city practice stream.

Key issues

4. In her capacity as First Vice President of ICLEI, Councillor Oke has been asked to attend a series of high level meetings in Bonn, Germany. Travelling privately at the time, any costs associated with Councillor Oke's participation will be funded by ICLEI and Councillor Oke.
5. The 2019 Ecocity World Summit (Summit) in October is hosted by the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) in collaboration with the City of Vancouver and Tourism Vancouver. The Summit will bring together a diverse mix of researchers, policy makers, city-building professionals, business innovators, and civil society leaders from over 75 countries. This year's primary theme is "socially just and ecologically sustainable cities." Important sub-themes include: climate action, circular economy, and informal solutions for sustainable development.
6. Councillor Oke has been invited to bring to Vancouver a message from the City of Melbourne as host city of Ecocity World Summit 2017 and to participate as a conference speaker/rapporteur.
7. As an invited speaker, Councillor Oke's participation in the Summit will be jointly funded by Ecocity and Council. The cost to Council will be approximately \$2000 which covers part of airfare costs and incidentals.
8. Councillor Oke's invitation to the Summit is included as Attachment 2.

Recommendation

9. That Council:
 - 9.1. Approves Councillor Cathy Oke's proposal to attend meetings in Bonn, Germany for ICLEI Global Executive Committee meetings (at no cost to Council) and Vancouver, Canada for the Ecocity World Summit 2019 at a cost to Council of up to \$2000.
 - 9.2. Notes that Councillor Oke will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of returning from Vancouver, Canada.

Attachment:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 3)
2. Invitation to Ecocity World Summit 2019 (Page 3 of 3)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

Finance

2. Costs associated with attending meetings in Bonn, Germany will be funded by ICLEI and Councillor Oke.
3. The cost to Council associated with Councillor Oke's travel to Ecocity World Summit 2019 is estimated at \$2000 (the variation between business and economy fares and incidental expenses). Ecocity World Summit 2019 organisers will fund the cost of registration (\$1663), accommodation (\$1063) and cost of economy airfare and transport (\$5560).

Conflict of interest

4. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Relation to Council policy

5. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the proposed travel accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
6. The objectives of the proposed travel align with the Council Plan goal of *A City that cares for its environment* and a range of environmental and sustainability strategies and policies.

Health and Safety

7. Councillor Oke will undertake standard personal safety and awareness precautionary steps which apply to overseas travel.

Environmental sustainability

8. The carbon emission resulting from air travel to Germany and Canada will be offset with the purchase of credits.



Attachment 2
Agenda item 7.1
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30 April 2019

Dr. Cathy Oke
Councillor
City of Melbourne
Australia

Dear Councillor Oke,

Re: Invitation to Ecocity World Summit 2019 – October 7-11, 2019, Vancouver, Canada

The British Columbia Institute of Technology is pleased to invite you to the next Ecocity World Summit to be hosted in Vancouver, October 7-11, 2019. We are honoured to be working with the City of Vancouver and Ecocity Builders to convene this important event, which will be taking place for the first time in Western Canada. Attendance is expected to exceed 1,200 people, representing government, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

The theme of the conference is **“Socially Just and Ecologically Sustainable Cities”** with sub-themes addressing:

- Climate Action
- Circular Economy
- Informal Solutions for Sustainable Development

As a past conference convenor and leader of many local government initiatives aligned with Ecocity objectives, I sincerely hope you will be able to join us as a conference speaker/rapporteur. Funding for your travel and accommodations at this event is available. We will be organizing several VIP meetings during the course of the conference and invite your participation according to your interest. These activities include a reception and discussion about some of humanity’s most pressing urban issues. Addressing these issues requires both resilience and transformative action. Insights coming out of the Ecocity World Summit 2017 will be important to incorporate in the upcoming Ecocity World Summit 2019.

I look forward to receiving your confirmation soon and meeting you in Vancouver for what promises to be an exciting and progressive discussion on achieving mutually shared goals for sustainable living in ecocities.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kinloch
President
British Columbia Institute of Technology