



**City of Hamilton**  
**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**  
**REVISED**

**Meeting #:** 23-027  
**Date:** October 18, 2023  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Council Chambers  
Hamilton City Hall  
71 Main Street West

Angela McRae, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 5987

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**1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES**

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

(Added Items, if applicable, will be noted with \*)

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 October 4, 2023

**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

- \*5.1 Correspondence from Jeffrey Cowan, President and CEO and David E. Inkley, Vice President - Engineering and Development, Hamilton Community Enterprises, respecting Item 8.1 - Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update (PED23222)

Recommendation: Be received and referred to consideration of Item 8.1.

**6. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

- 6.1 Kevin Gonci, Mohawk Sports Park - Sports Council, respecting the proposed development of a new Multi-Use Community Hub Facility (In-Person) (For a future meeting)

\*6.2 Delegation Requests respecting Item 8.1 - Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update (PED23222), from the following individuals:

- \*a. Zoe Green, Action 13 (Virtually)
- \*b. Adeola Egbeyemi, Environment Hamilton (In-Person)
- \*c. Don McLean, Hamilton 350 Committee (Virtually)
- \*d. Jesse Elders, Bay Area Climate Change Council (In-Person)

## 7. DELEGATIONS

## 8. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update (PED23222) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)

- \*a. Staff Presentation - Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update (PED23222) (City Wide)

\*8.2 Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation Housing Accelerator Fund (HSC23017(a)/FCS23062(a)/PED23143(a))

## 9. CONSENT ITEMS

9.1 Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee Report 23-004 - September 25, 2023

9.2 Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee Report 23-001 - September 28, 2023

9.3 Interview Sub-Committee to the General Issues Committee Report 23-002 - October 10, 2023

## 10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.1 King West Business Improvement Area Dormancy (PED23198) (Ward 2)

10.2 Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area Dormancy (PED23199) (Ward 2)

10.3 Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant - 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton (PED23200) (Ward 2)

10.4 Downtown Hamilton Office Report Update (PED23081(a)) (Ward 2)

10.5 Conservation Authority Agreements for Non-Mandatory Programs and Services (FCS23081) (City Wide)

10.6 Encampment Response Update - September 2023 (HSC23066(a)) (City Wide)

10.7 Red Hill Valley Parkway Inquiry Update (LS19036(t)) (City Wide)

\*10.8 Airport Sub-Committee Report 23-004 - October 6, 2023

**11. MOTIONS**

**12. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**13. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS**

**14. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

14.1 Closed Session Minutes - October 4, 2023

Pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-sections (b), (e) and (f) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (b), (e) and (f) of the *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to personal matters about identifiable individuals, including municipal or local board employees; litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the City or a local board; and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

14.2 Hamilton Light Rail Transit Property Acquisition (PED23221) (City Wide)

Pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-section (c) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-section (c) of the *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land for City or a local board purposes.

14.3 Greenbelt Judicial Review Motion (LS23035) (City Wide)

Pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-sections (e) and (f) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (e) and (f) of the *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the City or a local board; and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

\*14.4 Legal Update Regarding Judicial Review Application – Urban Boundary Expansion (LS16029(i)) (City Wide)

Pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-sections (e) and (f) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (e) and (f) of the *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the City or a local board; and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**



## GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES 23-026

9:30 a.m.

October 4, 2023

Council Chambers, City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

**Present:** Mayor A. Horwath  
Deputy Mayor M. Tadeson (Chair)  
Councillors J. Beattie, C. Cassar, J.P. Danko, M. Francis, T. Hwang,  
T. Jackson, C. Kroetsch, T. McMeekin, N. Nann, E. Pauls,  
M. Spadafora, A. Wilson, and M. Wilson

**Absent:** Councillor B. Clark - Personal

### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

#### 1. **Biindigen Well-Being Centre (Item 7.1)**

**(M. Wilson/A. Wilson)**

That staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee on the feasibility of the inclusion of Biindigen Well-Being Centre in the Community Share Program.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora

Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**2. Parks Master Plan (PW23064) (City Wide) (Parkland Acquisition Strategy PW Report 18-008, Item 9) (Outstanding Business List Item) (Item 8.1)**

**(i) (Beattie/Cassar)**

- (a) That Appendix "A" attached to Report PW23064 respecting Parks Master Plan (prepared by O2 Planning + Design Inc.) be approved as the basis for the planning of parkland;
- (b) That staff be directed to update the City's Parkland Dedication policies and By-law in accordance with the approved Parks Master Plan;
- (c) That staff be directed to develop parkland acquisition strategies (including funding) for priority focus areas identified as being 'High', 'Very High' or 'Medium' in the Parks Master Plan, and to submit capital and/or operating budget requirements to support the Parks Master Plan to the appropriate budget process(es) for consideration, as required;
- (d) That staff be directed to develop a strategy to communicate priority parkland acquisition focus areas at the neighbourhood level (including parks, planning, funding, and financing), as identified in the Parks Master Plan; and
- (e) That the matter respecting OBL Item E, regarding the Parkland Acquisition Strategy (PW Report 18-008, Item 9) be identified as complete and removed from the Public Works Committee Outstanding Business List.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar

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Yes - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson  
 Yes - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora  
 Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**(ii) (Jackson/Pauls)**

That staff be directed to explore the feasibility of increasing the current Parkland Acquisition Fund amount (of \$9,000,000) by an additional \$6,000,000/year beginning in 2025 and report back during the 2024 Budget Process.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:**

Yes - Mayor Andrea Horwath  
 Yes - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson  
 Yes - Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch  
 Yes - Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann  
 Yes - Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang  
 Yes - Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis  
 Yes - Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson  
 Yes - Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls  
 Yes - Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko  
 Absent - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark  
 Yes - Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie  
 Yes - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson  
 Yes - Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar  
 Yes - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson  
 Yes - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora  
 Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**3. Interview Sub-Committee to the General Issues Committee Report 23-001 - September 25, 2023 (Item 9.1)**

**(Pauls/Cassar)**

**(a) APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR (Item 1)**

- (i) That Councillor N. Nann be appointed as Chair of the Interview Sub-Committee to the General Issues Committee for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term.
- (ii) That Councillor T. Hwang be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Interview Sub-Committee to the General Issues Committee for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term.

**(b) Screening Tools to be Used During Deliberations of the Applications to the City of Hamilton's Advisory Committees (Item 5.1)**

(i) That the following screening tools be approved and remain confidential, for use during the Interviews for the Climate Change Advisory Committee:

- (1) Confidential IDEA Interview Scoring Rubric; and,
- (2) Confidential Screening Tool, as amended; and,

(ii) That the following screening tools be received and remain confidential, for use during the Interviews for the Climate Change Advisory Committee:

- (1) Confidential Selection Committee Guiding Principles; and,
- (2) Confidential Interview Guide

**(c) Deliberation of Applications to the Climate Change Advisory Committee (Item 5.2)**

That the direction provided to staff in closed session, be approved and remain confidential.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin



**4. Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD) Report 23-009 - September 12, 2023 (Item 9.2)**

**(McMeekin/Cassar)**

**(a) Amendment to the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities' Terms of Reference to Include the Annual "Ability First" Accessibility Fair (Item 12.2)**

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities' Outreach Working Group organizes an Annual "Ability First" Accessibility Fair; and,

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the success of the event if all members of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities were to participate in the organization and planning of the Annual "Ability First" Accessibility Fair, including on the day of the event.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities be amended by adding thereto a section after "Working Groups" entitled "Annual Events" and listing the "Ability First" Accessibility Fair" as follows:

**Annual Events**

*"Ability First" Accessibility Fair*

Members of ACPD shall be strongly encouraged to participate in the organization and planning of the Annual "Ability First" Accessibility Fair, which would include their attendance and participation on the day of the event.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie

Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14	Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

**5. Business Improvement Area (BIA) Sub-Committee Report 23-008 -  
September 12, 2023 (Item 10.1)**

**(Hwang/Nann)**

**(a) Expenditure Requests - International Village Business Improvement  
Area (Item 11.1)**

- (i) That the expenditure request from the International Village Business Improvement Area, in the amount of \$7,308.03 be spent on graffiti removal, banners, beautification and office equipment to be funded from the Contribution to Operating Budget Program for the Business Improvement Areas (BIA Payments Account 815010-56905), be approved; and,
- (ii) That the expenditure request from the International Village Business Improvement Area, in the amount of \$12,362.71 be spent on events, programming and activations to be funded from the Parking Revenue Sharing Program for the Business Improvement Areas and payments in Lieu of the Parking Revenue Sharing Program (Parking Revenue Account 815010-52505), be approved.

**(b) Expenditure Request - Waterdown Business Improvement Area (Item  
11.2)**

That the expenditure request from the Waterdown Business Improvement Area, expenditure request in the amount of \$5,276.46, for the purchase of 49 hanging baskets to be funded from the Contribution to Operating Budget Program for the Business Improvement Areas (BIA Payments Account 815010-56905), be approved.

**(c) Expenditure Requests - Locke Street Business Improvement Area  
(Item 11.3)**

- (i) That the expenditure request from the Locke Street Business Improvement Area, in the amount of \$2,664.31 be spent on streetscape items like planters, watering service for planters, plants, and lighting, to be funded from the Contribution to Operating Budget Program for the Business Improvement Areas (BIA Payments Account 815010-56905), be approved; and,

- (ii) That the expenditure request from the Locke Street Business Improvement Area, in the amount of \$11,774.03 be spent on streetscape items like planters, watering service for planters, plants, and lighting, to be funded from the Parking Revenue Sharing Program for the Business Improvement Areas and payments in Lieu of the Parking Revenue Sharing Program (Parking Revenue Account 815010-52505), be approved.

**(d) Expenditure Request – Stoney Creek Business Improvement Area (Item 11.4)**

That the expenditure request from the Stoney Creek Business Improvement Area, in the amount of \$10,959.81 be spent on streetscape items like planters, watering service for planters, and lighting, to be funded from the Contribution to Operating Budget Program for the Business Improvement Areas (BIA Payments Account 815010-56905), be approved.

**(e) Expenditure Requests - Westdale Village Business Improvement Area (Item 11.5)**

- (i) That the expenditure request from the Westdale Village Business Improvement Area, in the amount of \$10,439.73 be spent on streetscape items like planters, watering service for planters, and lighting, to be funded from the Contribution to Operating Budget Program for the Business Improvement Areas (BIA Payments Account 815010-56905), be approved; and,
- (ii) That the expenditure request from the Westdale Village Business Improvement Area, in the amount of \$16,067.66 be spent on streetscape items like planters, watering service for planters, and lighting, to be funded from the Parking Revenue Sharing Program for the Business Improvement Areas and payments in Lieu of the Parking Revenue Sharing Program (Parking Revenue Account 815010-52505), be approved.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls

Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14	Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

**6. City of Hamilton Meta Advertising (Item 11.1)**

**(Danko/Francis)**

WHEREAS, Meta announced in June 2023 that it has already started blocking Canadian news content and links on its social media sites, including Instagram and Facebook platforms;

WHEREAS, Meta has refused to comply with federal legislation, the Online News Act, and instead has deliberately chosen to disadvantage 40 million Canadians, including nearly 600,000 Hamilton residents, by removing the ability to share local and national news on their platforms, limiting the ability for Canadians to view content from local and national news publications in Canada;

WHEREAS, in the past several years, Hamilton has faced severe weather conditions, including extreme cold and blizzards, heat waves, and funnel clouds; as well as other emergencies, including but not limited to homelessness, crime and an epidemic related to substance use and addictions; and particularly the recent COVID-19 pandemic; in all of these situations, the ability to share timely, reliable, local news with residents was critically essential;

WHEREAS, Meta's decision would severely impact and limit the ability of both the City of Hamilton, and individual Members of Council, to share information with residents; and to share critical and timely updates from local media;

WHEREAS, recognizing that utilizing all available media, may at times be required for disseminating critical and public safety information, as well, that existing communication plans may contain budgetary and contractual legal obligations;

WHEREAS, Hamilton residents have a fundamental right to a strong, free, and independent Press, one that is not censored or dictated by American social media giants; and,

WHEREAS, access to reliable, quality news information, prepared by independent journalists and media, is essential to any healthy, functioning democracy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That any new, non-critical advertising campaigns by Public Information and Media Relations be immediately suspended on all Meta-owned platforms;
- (b) That the suspension last until Meta resumes discussions with the government of Canada, or until it reverses its ban on placing Canadian media news stories on its platforms up to a maximum of 6 months; and,
- (c) That this motion be shared with the Ontario Premier's Office, local Members of Parliament, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and all Ontario municipalities.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 10 to 4, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
No	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
No	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
No	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
No	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Absent	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**7. Human Rights Litigation Information Update (HUR23015 / LS23036) (City Wide) (Added Item 14.2)**

**(Hwang/Beattie)**

That Report HUR23015 / LS23036, respecting Human Rights Litigation Information Update, be received and remain confidential.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Absent	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann

Yes	-	Ward 4	Councillor Tammy Hwang
Absent	-	Ward 5	Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14	Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)**

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 5.1 Correspondence from Joel Hughes, Hamilton Beach Community Council, respecting Item 11.2 - Naming of Parkette, "Jim Howlett Parkette", 505 Beach Blvd, Hamilton (Ward 5)

Recommendation: Be received.

**8. PRESENTATIONS**

- 8.2 2023 Economic Development Workforce Strategy (PED23194) (City Wide) - WITHDRAWN and placed on the October 18, 2023 General Issues Committee agenda

**11. MOTIONS**

- 11.2 Naming of Parkette, "Jim Howlett Parkette", 505 Beach Blvd, Hamilton (Ward 5) - WITHDRAWN

**14. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

- 14.2 Human Rights Litigation Information Update (HUR23015 / LS23036) (City Wide)

**(Cassar/Hwang)**

That the agenda for the October 4, 2023 General Issues Committee meeting, be approved, as amended.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:**

Absent	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Absent	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Item 4)**

**(i) September 20, 2023 (Item 4.1)**

**(Nann/Hwang)**

That the minutes of the September 20, 2023, General Issues Committee meeting be approved, as presented.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:**

Absent	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Absent	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar

Yes - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson  
 Yes - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora  
 Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)**

**(i) Correspondence from Joel Hughes, Hamilton Beach Community Council, respecting Item 11.2 - Naming of Parkette, "Jim Howlett Parkette", 505 Beach Blvd, Hamilton (Ward 5) (Added Item 5.1)**

**(Kroetsch/A. Wilson)**

That the correspondence from Joel Hughes, Hamilton Beach Community Council, respecting Item 11.2 - Naming of Parkette, "Jim Howlett Parkette", 505 Beach Blvd, Hamilton (Ward 5), be received.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:**

Absent - Mayor Andrea Horwath  
 Yes - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson  
 Yes - Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch  
 Yes - Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann  
 Yes - Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang  
 Yes - Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis  
 Absent - Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson  
 Absent - Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls  
 Yes - Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko  
 Absent - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark  
 Yes - Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie  
 Yes - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson  
 Yes - Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar  
 Yes - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson  
 Yes - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora  
 Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**(e) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)**

**(i) Rob Maclsaac, Hamilton Health Sciences, respecting Hamilton Hospital Redevelopment (In-Person) (For the November 15, 2023 meeting) (Item 6.1)**

**(Beattie/Cassar)**

That the Delegation Request from Rob Maclsaac, Hamilton Health Sciences, respecting Hamilton Hospital Redevelopment, be approved for a future meeting.



**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Absent	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**(f) DELEGATIONS (Item 7)**

**(i) Jo-Ann Mattina, Biindigen Well-Being Centre, respecting an update on the Biindigen Well-Being Centre development and next steps (Approved July 10, 2023) (Item 7.1)**

Jo-Ann Mattina, Biindigen Well-Being Centre, Pat Mandy, Biindigen Steering Committee Chair, Cathy Connor, Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, and Monique Lavallee, Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg, addressed the Committee respecting an update on the Biindigen Well-Being Centre development and next steps.

**(a) (Hwang/Nann)**

That the delegate be provided with an additional 10 minutes to complete their delegation.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Absent	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Absent	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko

Absent	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14	Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

**(b) (Hwang/Horwath)**

That the delegation from Jo-Ann Mattina, Biindigen Well-Being Centre, Pat Mandy, Biindigen Steering Committee Chair, Cathy Connor, Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, and Monique Lavallee, Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg, respecting an update on the Biindigen Well-Being Centre development and next steps, be received.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 1.

**(ii) Paul Vermaat, White Star Group, respecting an agreement involving 205-215 Cannon Street East as set out in resolution Report 05-012 and issues relating to non-collectible Taxes, Environmental Concerns and Commercial Development Enterprise (In-Person) (Approved September 20, 2023) (Item 7.2)**

Paul Vermaat, White Star Group, addressed the Committee respecting an agreement involving 205-215 Cannon Street East as set out in resolution

Report 05-012 and issues relating to non-collectible Taxes, Environmental Concerns and Commercial Development Enterprise.

**(Pauls/Beattie)**

That the delegation from Paul Vermaat, White Star Group, respecting an agreement involving 205-215 Cannon Street East as set out in resolution Report 05-012 and issues relating to non-collectible Taxes, Environmental Concerns and Commercial Development Enterprise, be received.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 9 to 4, as follows:**

No	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
No	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Absent	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Absent	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
No	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
No	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**(g) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 8)**

**(i) Parks Master Plan (PW23064) (City Wide) (Parkland Acquisition Strategy PW Report 18-008, Item 9) (Outstanding Business List Item) (Item 8.1)**

Carlyle Khan, General Manager of Public Works, and Cynthia Graham, Director, Environmental Services, provided opening remarks and introduced Johnathan Vandriel, Senior Project Manager, Environmental Services who provided Committee with a presentation respecting Report PW23064, Parks Master Plan.

**(Hwang/M/ Wilson)**

That the staff presentation respecting Report PW23064, Parks Master Plan, be received.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 2.

**(h) PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL (Item 14)**

**(i) September 20, 2023 - Closed Session Minutes (Item 14.1)**

**(Beattie/Cassar)**

That the General Issues Committee Closed Session Minutes of September 20, 2023, be approved and remain confidential.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**(ii) Recess**

**(McMeekin/Nann)**

That the General Issues Committee recess for 40 minutes until 1:10 pm.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**(Beattie/Cassar)**

That Committee move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-sections (b), (e) and (f) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (b), (e) and (f) of the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to personal matters about identifiable individuals, including municipal or local board employees; litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the City or a local board; and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:**

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Absent	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Absent	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark

**General Issues Committee  
Minutes 23-026**

**October 4, 2023  
Page 18 of 18**

Yes - Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie  
 Yes - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson  
 Yes - Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar  
 Yes - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson  
 Yes - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora  
 Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

**(iii) Human Rights Litigation Information Update (HUR23015 / LS23036)  
(City Wide) (Added Item 14.2)**

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 7.

**(i) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)**

**(Spadafora/Cassar)**

That there being no further business, the General Issues Committee be adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

**Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 13 to 0, as follows:**

Yes - Mayor Andrea Horwath  
 Yes - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson  
 Absent - Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch  
 Yes - Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann  
 Yes - Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang  
 Absent - Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis  
 Yes - Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson  
 Yes - Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls  
 Yes - Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko  
 Absent - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark  
 Yes - Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie  
 Yes - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson  
 Yes - Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar  
 Yes - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson  
 Yes - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora  
 Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

Respectfully submitted,

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Deputy Mayor Mark Tadeson  
 Chair, General Issues Committee

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Angela McRae  
 Legislative Coordinator  
 Office of the City Clerk



October 17, 2023

General Issues Committee

City Council

City of Hamilton

**RE: HCE Written Delegation to: Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update – PED23222**

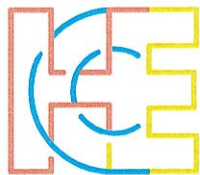
I am writing today on behalf of everyone at Hamilton Community Enterprises — our board, staff, customers and partners — to express support for the City of Hamilton's Office of Climate Change Initiatives on the occasion of its inaugural annual presentation to Council.

Hamilton Community Enterprises (HCE) is a city-owned corporation that provides smart energy and telecommunications solutions to local residents, businesses and institutions. We work collaboratively with municipal staff and a host of other stakeholders to help tackle the climate crisis through accelerating the transition to a net-zero future while promoting jobs and prosperity in Hamilton's economy. Our 3C Pathway to Net-Zero Carbon starts with Conservation, followed by Connection and finally Conversion. For example, we are now focusing on Conservation by applying our expertise in the fields of energy systems and digital technologies to enable a community-wide shift to high-efficiency, low-carbon building heating and cooling, an essential element of Hamilton's decarbonization drive.

HCE has a positive track record working with the Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI) to achieve outcomes that align with the Council's Priorities in the area of Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development.

Sample recent successes include:

- Collaborating with city staff and community partners to help create an evidence-based framework for Hamilton's Climate Change Strategy
- Supporting the establishment of OCCI as the engine to power the implementation of the strategy over time
- Leading/supporting several priority components of the climate strategy, including ongoing efforts to:



- Decarbonize building heating and cooling through conservation, network connections, and the conversion to fossil-free fuels;
- Harvest residual energy from local manufacturers as a source of low-carbon building heating;
- Modernize and expand Hamilton's downtown district energy system using low-carbon technologies and practices;
- Provide affordable and reliable space heating and domestic hot water to vulnerable citizens living in public housing;
- Fund and mobilize the Hamilton Regional Decarbonization Hub in collaboration with the Transition Accelerator;
- Engage the wider business community in the drive to net-zero through the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and other channels, and
- Involve faculty and students from local postsecondary institutions in various decarbonization projects.

OCCI assists work associated with advancing these and other priorities by convening stakeholders, formulating plans, and coordinating and funding efforts. These activities are vital in activating community-wide resources in the battle to lower GHG emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

HCE supports OCCI's recommendation of the five initial projects proposed for funding through the Climate Change Reserve.

Moving ahead in partnership with OCCI, HCE is committed to work now underway, including a vision to implement Canada's Thermal Corridor — a green infrastructure project that would help heat all types of buildings with waste thermal energy from local industry.

We are also keen to work with OCCI to explore additional opportunities, including helping to further decarbonize the footprint of municipal buildings and expand access to locally generated, low-carbon energy.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Cowan  
President and CEO  
Hamilton Community Enterprises

David E. Inkle  
Vice President – Engineering and Development  
Hamilton Community Enterprises



Submitted on Tue, 10/10/2023 - 10:49  
Submitted by: Anonymous  
Submitted values are:

**Committee Requested**

Committee  
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?  
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?  
No

**Requestor Information**

Requestor Information  
Kevin Gonci  
Mohawk Sports Park - Sports Council

Preferred Pronoun  
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request  
General Issues Committee

The Mohawk Sports Park – Sports Council is a registered community non-profit organization which advocates for the long-term sustainability of our community’s largest outdoor multi-sport park with a vision of supporting inclusive and accessible sport & recreation opportunities for residents of Hamilton regardless of level of interest or ability.

Our most recent initiative involves the proposed development of a new Multi-Use Community Hub facility which will provide a variety of direct and indirect benefits to our community and several adjacent regions.

We would like to present additional information about our proposed initiative which includes a comprehensive community engagement and consultation process involving a variety of potential community stakeholders and the City of Hamilton.

As part of the engagement process, request is made to allow City staff to engage with members of our Project Committee to identify potential collaborative opportunities and synergies which may potentially exist with regards to the upcoming Master Planning process involving the Mohawk Sport Park complex.

- Kevin Gonci

Will you be requesting funds from the City?  
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?  
Yes

Submitted on Sun, 10/15/2023 - 10:42

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Committee Requested**

Committee  
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?  
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?  
No

**Requestor Information**

Requestor Information  
Zoe Green  
Action 13

Preferred Pronoun  
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request  
GIC meeting October 18  
Item 8.1 - Climate Strategy annual update

Will you be requesting funds from the City?  
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?  
No

Submitted on Sat, 10/14/2023 - 19:10

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

### **Committee Requested**

Committee  
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?  
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?  
No

### **Requestor Information**

Requestor Information  
Adeola Egbeyemi  
Environment Hamilton  
[aegbeyemi@environmenthamilton.org](mailto:aegbeyemi@environmenthamilton.org)

Preferred Pronoun  
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request  
Highlighting key parts of the OCCI's first annual report for city council :)

Will you be requesting funds from the City?  
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?  
No

Submitted on Mon, 10/16/2023 - 11:05

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Committee Requested**

Committee  
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?  
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?  
No

**Requestor Information**

Requestor Information  
Don McLean  
Hamilton 350 Committee

Preferred Pronoun  
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request  
Comment on Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update (PED23222) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item), item 8.1 on the agenda of GIC Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Will you be requesting funds from the City?  
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?  
No

Submitted on Mon, 10/16/2023 - 16:14

Submitted by: jesse.elders

Submitted values are:

### **Committee Requested**

Committee  
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?  
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?  
No

### **Requestor Information**

Requestor Information  
Jesse Elders  
Bay Area Climate Change Council  
135 Fennell Avenue W.  
Hamilton, Ontario . L9C0E5  
[jesse.elders@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:jesse.elders@mohawkcollege.ca)

Preferred Pronoun  
she/her


Reason(s) for delegation request  
The Bay Area Climate Change Council (BACCC) would like to delegate to the GIC on Wednesday, October 18th with respect to Agenda Item 8.1, the Staff Presentation and Annual Report on Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?  
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?  
No



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Office of Climate Change Initiatives**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	October 18, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update (PED23222) (City Wide) <b>(Outstanding Business List Item)</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Beatrice Ekoko (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3589 Trevor Imhoff (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1308 Cathrin Winkelmann (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3916
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Lynda Lukasik Director, Office of Climate Change Initiatives Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That Appendix "A" to Report PED23222 "Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy Annual Climate Change Update 2023" be received.
- (b) That Appendix "B" to Report PED23222 "Status Update Regarding Climate Actions in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy" be received.
- (c) That the following investments to be funded from the 2023 Budget allocation to the Climate Change Reserve (Account No 108062) be approved:
  - (i) E-Bike Pilot for Hamilton Bike Share to an upset limit of \$750k
  - (ii) Municipal Parking Lot Greening / Climate Adaptation pilot project to an upset limit of \$200k
  - (iii) Enhancement/Expansion of Secure Bike Parking Facilities to an upset limit of \$350k
  - (iv) De-paving pilot project to an upset limit of \$350k
  - (v) Fire Truck Anti-Idling Technology to an upset limit of \$900k

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

**SUBJECT: Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update (PED23222)  
(City Wide) - Page 2 of 14**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In March of 2019, Hamilton City Council unanimously declared a climate emergency. Coming out of that declaration was a commitment to work with the broader community to create a community roadmap to net zero, now known as Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy. Since that time, the evidence continues to mount; we are in a climate emergency that demands aggressive climate mitigation and adaptation actions at the local level.

Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy, and the climate mitigation and adaptation plans found within it, was adopted in August 2022 (Report CM22016/ PED22058(a)/ HCS22030(a)) and it is the City's roadmap to drastically cutting carbon emissions and achieving net zero by 2050, or sooner, as is now being urged.

As part of the City's Climate Action Strategy, the Office of Climate Change Initiatives was created in late 2022. This report is the first annual report of the Office of Climate Change Initiatives on the implementation of the Climate Action Strategy. It provides an update on the Office of Climate Change Initiative's 2023 Priority Areas of Focus, as well as a first-year status update on the implementation of actions found in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.

This report is also seeking Council approval of a number of investments into new initiatives and programs to further advance the City's Climate Action Strategy. The City's 2023 Budget included the creation of a Climate Change Reserve to fund projects and programs that advance the City's Climate Action Strategy. Through engagement and discussions with divisions across the City, the Office of Climate Change Initiatives has identified five initiatives representing an investment of \$2.55M as priorities for investing the 2023 Climate Change Reserve funds.

**Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable****FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: There are no financial implications associated with the receipt of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy Annual Climate Change Update 2023 attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED23222.

This report is also seeking Council approval of a number of investments into new initiatives and programs to further advance the City's Climate Action Strategy. As part of the 2023 Budget, Council approved the creation of a Climate Change Reserve. The Reserve is funded through the General Tax Levy by \$2.5M per year. In 2023, a one-time transfer of \$800K was also made through the allocation of a portion of the remaining capital levy. The

**SUBJECT: Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update (PED23222)  
(City Wide) - Page 3 of 14**

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current uncommitted balance of the Climate Change Reserve (Account No 108062) is \$3.65M. Through engagement and discussions with divisions across the City, the Office of Climate Change Initiatives has identified five initiatives representing an investment of \$2.55M as priorities for investing the 2023 Climate Change Reserve funds.

Staffing: There are no staffing implications associated with the adoption of this report.

Legal: Not applicable

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

March 27, 2019 – City Council Report 19-006 approves the Climate Emergency Declaration directing staff to investigate actions for Hamilton to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

August 2022 – City Council approves Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy and the mitigation and adaptation plans within it, including approving the creation of an Office of Climate Change Initiatives, the transfer of a Senior Project Manager from Healthy & Safe Communities into the office and the hiring of a Director to lead the office (Report CM22016/PED22058(a)/HSC22030(a)).

November 2022 – The Office of Climate Change Initiatives is officially established.

March 2023 – As part of the 2023 Operating Budget, City Council approves two additional FTEs – a Project Manager and a Senior Project Manager – as part of the newly established Office of Climate Change Initiatives. The 2023 Budget also confirms a sustainable source of funding for the city’s Climate Change Reserve via an annual charge to the General Tax Levy.

September 2023 – Council adopts its Term of Council Priorities which includes as Outcome 3 “accelerate our response to climate change” and establishes as a Measures of Success the accelerated reduction in the City’s GHG emissions and the assessment of infrastructure projects against their impact on the City’s climate resilience and readiness.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

Not applicable.



**SUBJECT: Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update (PED23222)  
(City Wide) - Page 4 of 14**

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**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Planning and Economic Development Department (Transportation Planning & Parking, Planning, Growth Management, Building, and Economic Development Divisions), Corporate Services Department (Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Division), Public Works Department (Environmental Services, Office of Energy Initiatives, Hamilton Water, Transit), and Healthy and Safe Communities Department (Healthy Environments, Hamilton Fire, and Housing Services Divisions).

**ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Hamilton is responding to the global climate emergency through a community-wide, comprehensive Climate Action Strategy. With mitigation and adaptation plans now approved and in place, efforts have shifted to implementation and it is essential that effective and accountable systems are developed to track progress over time. This report is the first annual report of the Office of Climate Change Initiatives on the implementation of the Climate Action Strategy. It provides an update on the Office of Climate Change Initiative's 2023 Priority Areas of Focus, as well as a first-year status update on the implementation of actions found in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.

**Overview of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy**

Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy is a strategy made up of two plans:

- "ReCharge Hamilton – Our Community Energy + Emissions Plan" (CEEP); and
- "Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan" (CCIAP).

The CEEP addresses climate change mitigation through the reduction of greenhouse gases. The actions in this plan focus on five low-carbon transformations that are pivotal in achieving Hamilton's low-carbon future. They consist of:

1. Innovating our Industry;
2. Transforming our Buildings;
3. Changing how we Move;
4. Revolutionizing Renewables; and
5. Growing Green.

The CCIAP addresses climate change adaptation by building up the City's resiliency to the impacts of a changing climate. Objectives and actions in this plan are organized around four resilient theme areas consisting of:

1. Built Environment;
2. People and Health;
3. Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water; and,

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

**SUBJECT: Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update (PED23222)  
(City Wide) - Page 5 of 14**

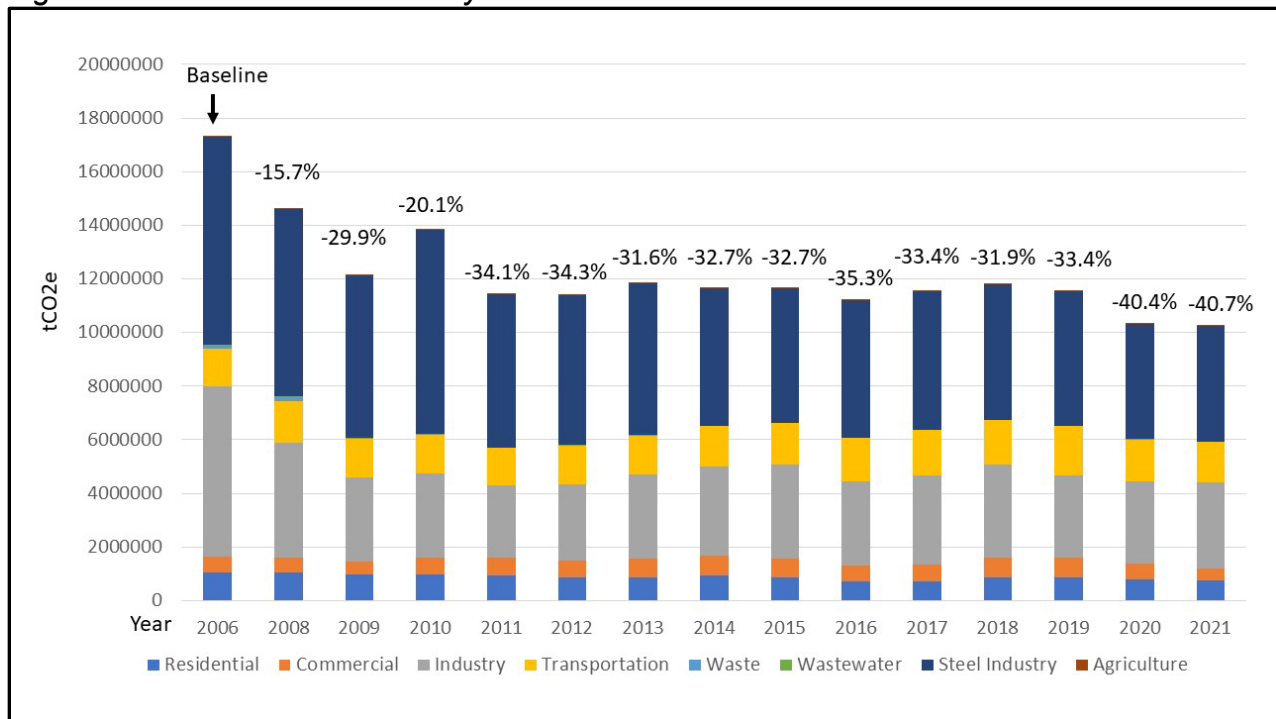
4. Energy and Economy.

These two plans provide the framework and actions to address the climate change emergency.

**Hamilton Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

The City of Hamilton has been tracking and reporting annually community-wide greenhouse gas emissions from sectors including; Buildings (broken down by Residential, Commercial and Industry), Transportation, Industrial Emissions, Waste, Wastewater, and Agriculture since 2008. Using the year 2006 as a baseline and the most recent greenhouse gas inventory year of 2021, it is estimated Hamilton's community-wide emissions have been reduced by approximately 40.7%. This equates to 10,289,987 tCO<sub>2e</sub> in 2021 compared to 17,349,813 tCO<sub>2e</sub> in 2006.

*Figure 1.0 Hamilton's Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2006-2021*



**Hamilton's Corporate Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

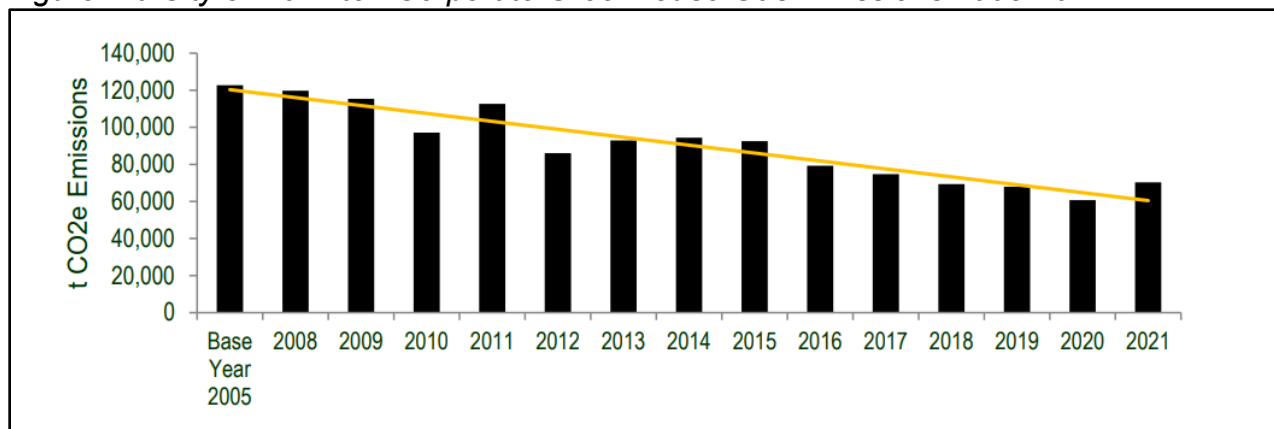
The City of Hamilton's Office of Energy Initiatives is responsible for reporting annually regarding corporate greenhouse gas emissions. The most recent report was presented to Public Works Committee on September 18, 2023 (Report PW21094(b)). The 2021 inventoried results show a 16% increase in corporate greenhouse gas emissions when

**SUBJECT: Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy 2023 Annual Update (PED23222)  
(City Wide) - Page 6 of 14**

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compared to 2020. As reported by the Office of Energy, this is partly due to increased city activity coming out of the pandemic. It is also partly due to an emissions calculation error that was corrected in 2021; emissions for the vehicle fleet and contracted vehicle fleet were being underreported prior to 2021.

*Figure 2.0 City of Hamilton Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2005-2021*



### **Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy - Progress Report on Action Implementation**

This annual progress report is the first from the Office of Climate Change Initiatives. Some highlights are provided below and a more detailed report can be found as Appendix "A" to Report PED23222. Note that the appended report will undergo enhanced formatting and graphic design for final posting to the City's website. Appendix "B" to Report PED23222 provides a summary chart with brief status updates for every action in the Strategy. This year's progress report is more comprehensive where city-led actions are concerned. Future reports will provide updates on progress for both city-led and community-led actions as we develop more formalized and rigorous methods for tracking progress.

#### **(i) Recharge Hamilton – Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)**

Highlights of some of the actions achieved to implement the Community Energy and Emissions Plan are provided below. A more detailed report can be found as Appendix "A" to Report PED23222.

#### **Low-Carbon Transformation #1: Innovating Our Industry**

Mitigation Action 1.0 calls for the creation of a net zero industrial working group in Hamilton. In May 2023 City Council approved a four-year funding contribution of \$240,000 for Hamilton's Regional Decarbonization Hub. Funding will also come from

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higher levels of government and private partners. The plan is to establish the Hub in 2024.

**Low Carbon Transformation #2: Transforming Our Buildings**

Mitigation Action 6b calls for a small-scale neighbourhood deep energy and emissions retrofit program. A pilot home energy retrofit opportunity – now known as the Better Homes Hamilton program – has been approved by Council and will launch this fall.

**Low-Carbon Transformation #3: Changing How We Move**

Mitigation Action 7.0 calls for efforts to expand and connect active transportation networks. In 2023, approvals were in place to build 35km of new bike lanes. Hamilton City Council approved accelerating the implementation of the Cycling Master Plan in February of 2023. This has resulted in additional staffing and other resources for this work. A recommendation is also in place to update the Transportation Master Plan to identify where highest need for network improvements is and to prioritize these areas.

**Low-Carbon Transformation #4: Revolutionizing Renewables**

Mitigation Action 19.0 is focused on both decarbonizing and expanding the Hamilton Community Enterprises downtown district energy system. Efforts are now underway to explore how to expand and decarbonize the system by using waste heat from industry.

**Low-Carbon Transformation #5: Growing Green**

Mitigation Action 23 commits the broader community to planting 50,000 trees per year. The City, through the Forestry and Horticulture Division, is committed to planting 20,000 of those trees. Forestry gave away 3,500+ native trees to homeowners for rear yard planting and will increase that number to 5,000 trees in 2024.

**(ii) Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan (CCIAP)**

Highlights of some of the actions achieved to implement the Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan are provided below. A more detailed report can be found as Appendix "A" to Report PED23222.

**Resilient Theme #1: Built Environment:**

Action 2.2 calls for the City to improve winter travel conditions by further expanding sidewalk clearing. Public Works staff report that in November of last year, sidewalk clearing was expanded from 397km to 866km. A report is coming to Public Works Committee in October 2023 with additional proposed enhancements.

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**Resilient Theme #2: People and Health**

Actions 4.3 (initiate neighbourhood buddy systems for wellness check-ins during extreme heat events), 6.2 (expand heating and cooling centre programming and interventions) and 6.3 (improve monitoring, data collection, notification around extreme weather events) focus on vulnerable populations and climate adaptation. The Healthy Environments Division is developing a Heat Response Strategy going to Public Health Committee in Q1 2024. The strategy will address all of these adaptation-related actions.

**Resilient Theme #3: Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water**

Action 8.1 calls for the City to build community partnerships to get more trees planted to address urban heat island effect and enhance ecosystem functioning. In 2023 Forestry staff aimed to get 1,800 trees planted on public property by partnering with community on community planting days. To date, over 3,600 trees have been planted using volunteer power, with 5,000 trees now the target for 2024.

**Resilient Theme #4: Energy and Economy**

Action 11.1 calls for the City to establish low carbon back-up power systems in all of its facilities so these spaces might serve as community hubs during emergencies. The Corporate Facilities and Energy Management Division has started to review existing generators within corporate facilities, studying the viability of shifting to low-carbon fuels, and ensuring appropriate sizing of backup power systems for enhanced resiliency.

**Office of Climate Change Initiatives 2023 Priority Areas of Focus**

For its first year of operation, the Office of Climate Change Initiatives set out Priority Focus Areas, presented to the General Issues Committee in April of this year (Report PED23064). Priorities were identified to enable focused action right from the start. Below is a progress update on the implementation of those Priority Focus Areas.

**(i) OCCI Focus Area #1 – Climate Change Governance & Innovation**

In 2023, the following milestones have been achieved with respect to Focus Area #1 – Climate Change Governance & Innovation:

- Establishment of a **Climate Change Initiatives Steering Committee** made up of City Directors from across the corporation and with a central mandate to facilitate corporate-wide monitoring and centralized reporting on progress with city-led actions in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy

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- Establishment of an internal **Extended Leadership Group**, made up of managers and other relevant staff from key departments and divisions responsible for implementation of city-led Climate Action Strategy actions (first meeting to be held in Q4 2023).
- Establishment of a **Community Climate Change Advisory Committee** to review the City's corporate and community-wide climate targets and actions, and to monitor progress with implementation efforts. A Terms of Reference was approved by Council on January 25, 2023 (Report PED23028). In June, 2023, interested community members were invited to formally apply to serve on the Committee. Application review and Committee member selection is now underway through the Interview Sub-Committee of the General Issues Committee. The hope is that the Committee membership will be finalized and a first meeting held prior to the end of 2023.
- Launch of the first internal cross-departmental call for investment proposals from the Climate Change Reserve for City projects that **facilitate and support municipal innovation on climate mitigation and adaptation**. The recommended investments are outlined later in this report.

**(ii) OCCI Focus Area #2 – Community Climate Outreach**

In 2023, the following milestones have been achieved with respect to Focus Area #2 – Community Climate Change Outreach:

- In 2023, the City finalized an updated 4-year **agreement and partnership with the Bay Area Climate Change Council**, the multi-stakeholder organization supported by the cities of Hamilton and Burlington to facilitate regional solutions to climate issues. The City provides the Council with \$160k in support each year, through a Memorandum of Understanding that also brings important collaborative supports to the City's efforts to develop and implement climate action priorities.
- The Office of Climate Change Initiatives has started the development of a **Climate Communications & Engagement Strategy** with both external and internal components. The goals include:
  - raise awareness about the climate crisis in Hamilton with the goal of mobilizing action;
  - raise awareness about the City of Hamilton's climate leadership, significant actions, and innovations happening through the Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy;
  - promote key programs, opportunities, and resources (Office of Climate Change Initiatives, City-led and other) and gain greater participation;
  - provide key messaging around programs and opportunities;

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- center climate justice throughout our communications and engagement;
- celebrate and highlight stakeholder/community-led achievements;
- provide a platform for two-way communication on climate issues with the public; and,
- align with other relevant City Communications & Engagement Strategies.

**(iii) OCCI Focus Area #3 – Carbon Budgeting**

Staff in the Office of Climate Change Initiatives have taken the lead on developing the scope of work for “Hamilton’s Carbon Accounting and Budgeting Framework”, a multi-phase and multi-year initiative that includes three main pillars of work:

- *Pillar 1 – Net Zero Calculations and Support Policies* - to calculate Hamilton’s community and corporate ‘fair-share’ finite carbon budget that aligns with the 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming target
- *Pillar 2 – Protocols and Processes* - to establish clear and easy to understand, publicly transparent protocols and process that provide the City of Hamilton with the ability to align budget and planning processes with its finite carbon budget
- *Pillar 3 – Tools and Resources* - to support City staff, Council and community efforts to implement the Carbon Accounting and Budgeting Framework. This will include tools/resources for quantification, analysis and reporting.

This work is being initiated in 2023 via a pilot in two selected Divisions to generate lessons learned while working through a competitive tender process to hire an expert consultant to begin carbon budget calculations in early 2024.

**(iv) OCCI Focus Area #4 – Green Buildings**

In 2023, the following milestones have been achieved with respect to Focus Area #4 – Green Buildings:

- The **Better Homes Hamilton pilot project** was approved by Council in May 2023 (Report PED23106). The program will provide property owners low barrier access to upfront capital for them to retrofit their homes, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and live more comfortably. Up to 50 Hamilton homeowners may be eligible for a zero-interest loan for up to a maximum of \$20,000 for energy efficiency home improvements paid back via a local improvement charge through their property tax bill over a 10 to 15-year repayment term. Eligible property types are single detached houses, semi-detached houses, and town homes.

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- Development of an **Energy Performance/Net Zero Standard for all new City of Hamilton facilities** is being pursued in close collaboration with the City's Corporate Facilities and Energy Management Division. The goal is to have a new Energy Performance/Net Zero Standard created by mid-2024 and a strategy for implementation – including a plan for funding any additional costs associated with constructing buildings in this manner - in place by Q4 2024.

**(v) OCCI Focus Area #5 – Urban Greening**

Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy sets the ambitious goal of seeing 50,000 trees planted each year across the municipality. The City of Hamilton itself has committed, through the Forestry and Horticulture Division, to have 20,000 of those trees planted via direct planting efforts by Forestry, in combination with free tree giveaways to residents, and Forestry-facilitated community tree planting events on city property. The Office of Climate Change Initiatives has taken on the task of creating a system to track the tree planting undertaken by community stakeholders, in order to evaluate our community's success in realizing the annual 50,000 tree target. Conversations are also underway with several key community partners to establish plans to amplify efforts to green up heavily urbanized areas through 'depave' projects and other innovative approaches to greening urban streetscapes and surrounding sites – including private property.

**Climate Change Reserve**

The City of Hamilton's Climate Change Reserve (Policy No. FPAP-RE-015) was established in 2018 to fund initiatives that advance the City's approved climate change goals. More specifically, the fund is intended to support the piloting of new and innovative climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. A preliminary allocation of \$1.5 M was placed into the Reserve when it was first established. As part of the 2023 Budget process, Council approved a sustainable source of funding for the Reserve through the general tax levy, allocating an additional \$2.5 M to the Reserve in 2023.

To date, Council has approved the following investments from the Climate Change Reserve:

- **Natural Areas Inventory Update** (\$200,000) – this inventory will provide current information on flora and fauna and natural area site boundaries to the public and other entities, including the City, that are responsible for protecting and enhancing these features. (PED21065(c))
- **Natural Areas Acquisition Fund** (\$150,000) – through this fund, the City will provide funding to eligible Conservation Organizations for land acquisition (direct fee-simple or conservation easements) up to 50% of the acquisition cost to a maximum of \$50,000 per property (PED21065(c))

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- **Better Homes Hamilton Home Energy Retrofit Pilot** (up to \$275,000) – to cover costs for program administration (Report PED23106)
- **Hamilton Regional Decarbonization Hub** (\$80,000 over four years) – for the operation of this stakeholder roundtable process (CM22013(a)/PED22176(a))
- **Community Climate Change Advisory Committee** (\$9,000) – to support the functioning of the Committee, including provision of supports to participants. (PED23028)
- **EV Charging Electrical Upgrades at City Facilities** (\$535,000) – pending Council approval through Report PW23064.

Taking into account the investments outlined above, the current uncommitted balance of the Climate Change Reserve (Account No 108062) is \$3.65M.

In order to identify 2023 priorities for Climate Change Reserve funding for city-led initiatives, an internal process was created by the Office of Climate Change Initiatives. For 2024, the process will become more formalized with both the internal Climate Change Initiatives Steering Committee and the external Community Climate Change Advisory Committee reviewing and advising regarding applications for Reserve support.

Through this report, the Office of Climate Change Initiatives is recommending investment in five initiatives representing an investment of \$2.55M from the 2023 Climate Change Reserve funds. The initiatives are summarized in Table 1.0 below.

*Table 1.0: Recommended Climate Change Reserve Investments*

<b>Project</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Funding</b>
<b>E-Bike Pilot for Hamilton Bike Share</b>	Purchase of a minimum of 100 e-bikes and equipment to support the e-bikes, including contractual costs to Bike Share to manage and maintain the e-bikes as part of the Bike Share fleet, in order to enable a 3-year Bike Share E-Bike pilot in Hamilton. Pilot is anticipated to facilitate additional modal shifts by increasing the range within which people can easily travel.  Addresses CEEP Action 9.0 (expand e-mobility services)	<b>\$750,000</b>
<b>Municipal Parking Lot Greening/ Climate Adaptation</b>	Greening and introduction of permeable, sustainable surfaces at six city parking lots. Proposed improvements include piloting different porous asphalts, supporting greening with tree and native plant installation, and incorporating bike parking and street furniture. The parking lots proposed for improvement are at various locations including:	<b>\$200,000</b>

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	<p>Dundas (45 King St W &amp; 2 Foundry St), Kenilworth Ave N, 115 Campbell Ave, 51 Balmoral Ave N, and 346 Barton St E.</p> <p>Addresses CEEP Action 23 (plant 50k trees) and CCIAP Action 1.1 (develop &amp; implement low impact development (LID) guidelines)</p>	
<b>Enhancement/ Expansion of Secure Bike Parking Facilities</b>	<p>Enhance existing secure bike parking facilities and establish new secure bike parking facilities at transit hubs and major destinations including: City Hall, Convention Centre, York Boulevard Parkade, McMaster University, Mohawk College, Eastgate Square Transit Terminal and other locations to be determined through further consultation.</p> <p>Upgrades to existing facilities: \$50,000 Development of three new facilities: \$100,000 per facility x 3 facilities = \$300,000</p> <p>Addresses CEEP Action 7.0 (expand and connect active transportation networks)</p>	<b>\$350,000</b>
<b>De-paving Pilot Project</b>	<p>Undertake targeted de-paving initiatives on City-owned lands, including boulevards and streets, to provide and test strategies for enhanced stormwater retention, tree canopy coverage, and urban greening. Focus areas to include locations identified as priorities through the Urban Forest Strategy.</p> <p>Addresses CEEP Action 23 (plant 50k trees) and CCIAP Action 1.1 (develop &amp; implement low impact development (LID) guidelines) and CCIAP Action 8.2 (Implement the Urban Forest Strategy)</p>	<b>\$350,000</b>
<b>Fire Truck Anti-Idling Technology</b>	<p>Purchase and install battery-powered auxiliary power units (APUs) on 15 existing heavy fire vehicles. This technology can reduce fire apparatus idling by up to 45% and overall engine use by up to 15%, leading to greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 18 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr per vehicle.</p>	<b>\$900,000</b>

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	Addresses CEEP target to achieve net zero across the entire municipal fleet by 2050.	
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$2,550,000</b>

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Not applicable.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report PED23222 – Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy Annual Climate Change Update 2023

# **HAMILTON'S CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY ANNUAL UPDATE 2023**

**October 2023**

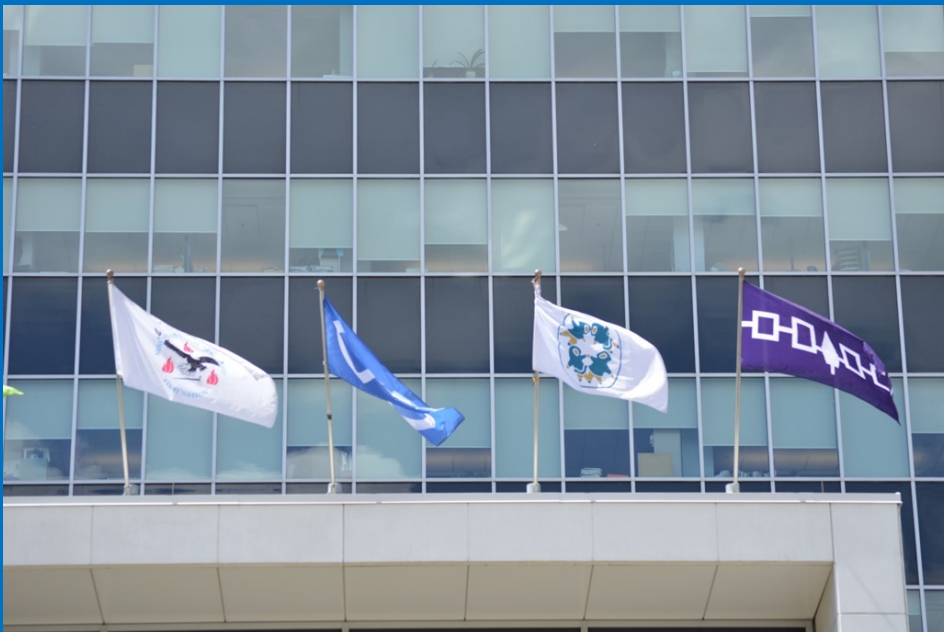


Hamilton

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas for the Credit First Nations.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners, and caretakers.



Hamilton

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## Introduction

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s AR6 Synthesis Report confirms that emissions and atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases are now at record highs globally. It says that with every increment of global warming, regional changes in mean climate and extremes become more widespread and pronounced. Risks and projected adverse impacts and related losses and damages from climate change escalate with every increment of global warming (very high confidence). Climatic and non-climatic risks will increasingly interact, creating compound and cascading risks that are more complex and difficult to manage (p. 14)<sup>1</sup>.

Across the country, Canadians are personally experiencing loss, pain, and suffering brought on by extreme weather impacts, including unprecedented wildfires, adverse health impacts from wildfire smoke, and drastic increases in flooding from extreme weather events. As warming continues, those least responsible for causing climate change are the ones suffering the most from its impact. But there is still hope. As the IPCC also says in its report, there is still a window of opportunity to prevent the worst-case scenario of over 1.5 degrees Celsius increase in global temperatures (we are at 1.1 degrees Celsius). But we must act immediately, and that action involves financial commitments and commitment to a fair transition to net zero carbon.

In Hamilton, residents are turning to the City for climate leadership including direction on how to work collaboratively to manage climate change. Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy (HCAS), and the climate mitigation and adaptation plans found within it, is our pathway to drastically cutting our carbon emissions and achieving net zero by 2050, or sooner, as is now being urged. There is much work still to be done, but the update is hopeful with clear signs that Hamilton is on the right path to net zero by 2050.

## Purpose of Report

The City of Hamilton is on a mission to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and the Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI) is tracking and supporting its progress. This Annual Report provides an update on the City's progress in reducing GHG emissions and how the City is supporting the community to reduce GHG emissions through the creation of actions, policies, plans, and incentives. In addition, this report provides an update on how the City is preparing both the corporation and the community for the impacts of a changing climate.

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<sup>1</sup>IPCC, 2023: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, pp. 1-34, doi: 10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647.00. Retrieved from: [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_SYR\\_SPM.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf)

## About the Office of Climate Change Initiatives

In August 2022, Hamilton City Council's General Issues Committee approved the creation of a new climate-focused office—the Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI) — to oversee the implementation of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy (HCAS). Both the HCAS and the OCCI were approved at the same time to ensure adequate resources were put in place to immediately begin implementation. HCAS's climate adaptation and mitigation plans are Hamilton's roadmap to drastically cutting carbon emissions to achieve net zero by 2050, while at the same time reducing, preparing, and recovering from the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

Lynda Lukasik was appointed Director for the OCCI, and long-time city staff member Trevor Imhoff took on the role of Senior Project Manager in this office. Exactly a year later (2023), two additional members have been added to the team: Cathrin Winkelmann, Senior Project Manager, and Beatrice Ekoko, Project Manager.

To get in touch with the OCCI to learn more about Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy, to request a presentation, or for potential collaborations we encourage you to email [climatechange@hamilton.ca](mailto:climatechange@hamilton.ca) or you can get in touch individually with the OCCI Team.



Lynda Lukasik, Ph.D  
Director, Office of Climate Change Initiatives  
Ph: (905) 546-2424 ext. 3169  
Em: [Lynda.Lukasik@hamilton.ca](mailto:Lynda.Lukasik@hamilton.ca)



Trevor Imhoff, B.E.S  
Senior Project Manager, Office of Climate Change Initiatives  
Ph: (905) 546-2424 ext. 1308  
Em: [Trevor.Imhoff@hamilton.ca](mailto:Trevor.Imhoff@hamilton.ca)



Cathrin Winkelmann, Ph.D, MLA, LEED AP  
Senior Project Manager, Office of Climate Change Initiatives  
Ph: (905) 546-2424 ext. 3916  
Em: [Cathrin.Winkleman@hamilton.ca](mailto:Cathrin.Winkleman@hamilton.ca)



Beatrice Ekoko,  
Project Manager, Office of Climate Change Initiatives  
Ph: (905) 546-2424 ext. 6885  
Em: [Beatrice.Ekoko@hamilton.ca](mailto:Beatrice.Ekoko@hamilton.ca)



### Office of Climate Change Initiatives Priority Focus Areas for 2023

Climate change is known as a 'wicked' problem with complicated and multi-disciplinary solutions required. In order to properly address climate change the entire community, businesses, industry, major institutions and residents all need to collectively take action. There are already substantial actions happening through the efforts of the City of Hamilton and across the community.

In order to prioritize the Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI) workload and move forward on establishing the important climate action strategy governance pieces and processes, while also immediately beginning implementation of important actions, the OCCI put forward and received Council approval in April 2023 for these priority focus areas:

Climate Change Govern-  
ance and Innovation

Carbon Budgeting

Green Buildings

Urban Greening

Community Climate Outreach

## OCCI PRIORITY: Climate Governance and Innovation

In order to develop and align processes across the City of Hamilton, establishing the following critical governance pieces was identified as a priority. The table below provides a brief update on the current status of the priority items under climate governance and innovation.

*Table 1.0 Climate Governance and Innovation Update*

Governance Piece	Status Update
Establishment of the City of Hamilton Climate Change Initiatives Steering Committee	<b>COMPLETE</b> - This steering committee comprised of Directors from key departments and divisions was approved by the Senior Leadership Team and recruitment has been completed. This committee's Terms of Reference have been established and an initial kick-off meeting has been held.
Establishment of the City of Hamilton Climate Change Initiatives Extended Leadership Group	<b>IN PROGRESS</b> - This group of managers and other relevant staff is expected to be formed in late 2023 following the direction of the Director-Level Steering Committee.
Recruiting and On-Boarding of New OCCI Staff	<b>COMPLETE</b> - The OCCI received approval from Council through the 2023 budget process to hire two additional staff. Hiring has been completed and the office now includes a Director, two (2) Senior Project Managers, and a Project Manager.
Establishment of and Support for the Community Climate Advisory Committee	<b>IN PROGRESS</b> – The recruitment for the advisory committee has now closed. Staff in the OCCI conducted a variety of engagement and communications tactics to successfully raise awareness. This Advisory Committee has 20 seats maximum. The Selection Review Committee at the time of writing this report is currently in the process of reviewing all of the applications. It is expected this Advisory Committee will be formed and meeting in early 2024.

## OCCI PRIORITY 2023: Carbon Budgeting

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) within the AR6 Chapter 5 - Frequently Asked Questions provides some additional context on what a carbon budget is:

*"The term remaining carbon budget is used to describe a total net amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that human activities can still release into the atmosphere while keeping global warming to a specific level, like 1.5 °C or 2 °C relative to pre-industrial temperatures." – IPCC AR6 Chapter 5 FAQ 5.1.<sup>2</sup>*

Staff in the OCCI have taken the lead on developing the scope of work for what is being called "Hamilton's Carbon Accounting and Budgeting Framework". This is proposed to be a multi-phase and multi-year initiative that includes three (3) main pillars of work including:

**PILLAR 1 – Net Zero Calculations and Support Policies**

To calculate Hamilton's community and corporate 'fair-share' finite carbon budget that aligns with the 1.5 °C global warming target;

**PILLAR 2 – Protocols and Processes**

To establish clear and easy to understand, publicly transparent protocols and process that provide the City of Hamilton with the ability to align budget and planning processes with the City's finite carbon budget as outlined in Pillar 1; and

**PILLAR 3 – Tools and Resources**

To support City of Hamilton Staff, Council and community efforts to implement the Carbon Accounting and Budgeting Framework. Will include a variety of tools/resources for quantification, analysis and reporting

This work will begin before 2023 year end starting with a pilot for climate considerations and prioritization exercise in two selected Departments/Divisions for lessons learned while working through a competitive process to hire an expert consultant to begin climate budget calculations in early 2024.

## OCCI PRIORITY 2023: Green Buildings



The City of Hamilton is piloting a residential energy efficiency retrofit program called Better Homes Hamilton (BHH). The program will provide property owners low barrier access to upfront capital for them to retrofit their homes, in order to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve energy efficiency, and live more comfortably.

Up to 50 Hamilton homeowners may be eligible for a zero-interest loan for up to a maximum of \$20,000 for energy-efficiency home improvements paid back via a local improvement charge through their property tax bill over a 10- to 15-year repayment term. Eligible property types are single detached houses, semi-detached houses, and town homes.

Based on extensive research and engagement, tenant rights and important equity considerations have been embedded into the BHH program, which is being implemented with applied climate justice principles, including:

- Ensuring that any retrofits that lead to the displacement of tenants will be deemed ineligible.
- Providing low-barrier access to upfront capital for those who may not otherwise qualify for traditional financing.
- Prioritization of Hamilton homes located within neighbourhoods that have been identified as having high rates of energy poverty through the Canadian Urban Sustainability Practitioners (CUSP) Energy Poverty Mapping Tool and/or have above-average utility-calculated heating fuel (natural gas, propane, or oil), including in rural areas.

For more information on the BHH program including a list of eligible retrofit measures and a list of anticipated benefits see Low-Carbon Transformation #2 below in the report on Page 18 or visit the City's Engage Website [Better Homes Hamilton](https://engage.hamilton.ca/betterhomes-hamilton)

## OCCI PRIORITY 2023: Urban Greening

Through Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy (HCAS), the City set an **ambitious 50,000 trees per year planting target**.

This is a community-wide target and further supported through the adoption of Hamilton's Urban Forest Strategy with a **target of growing Hamilton's urban tree canopy cover to 40%**.

The City of Hamilton, through the Forestry & Horticulture Division and in combination with free tree giveaways, has committed to get 20,000 of those trees planted.

The OCCI has taken on the task of creating a system to track the tree planting undertaken by community stakeholders, in order to evaluate our community's success in realizing the annual 50,000 tree target.

Discussions with several key community partners are underway to establish plans to amplify efforts to green up heavily urbanized areas through 'depave' projects and other innovative approaches to greening urban streetscapes.



## OCCI PRIORITY 2023: Climate Communications and Outreach

Engaging the broader community around climate action is key to our mandate. Between November 2022 and September 2023, the OCCI reached audiences from diverse sectors, including youth, faith groups, Indigenous communities, neighbourhood associations, and businesses. Given the recent creation of our office, we are proud of our extensive engagement to date and will be looking to build momentum moving into 2024.

### By the Numbers

- 14 events and talks with 1,000 + individuals reached
- Invitations to present from 10 organizations
- 2.8K visitors to the Engage Hamilton Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) page with 1.4K participants made aware of the call out for applications and 358 informed participants
- 1.7K visitors to the Engage Hamilton Better Homes Hamilton (BHH) pilot program page with 1.4K aware participants, and 484 informed participants
- 60+ applications received for the CCAC
- 28,000 impressions and 426 engagements from social media content regarding climate action from both City and external partners.

### **Community Climate Change Advisory Committee**

The creation of a community advisory committee to help guide the implementation of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy is underway. Community stakeholders and residents attended four virtual information sessions throughout the first two quarters of 2030 via the Engage Hamilton page.

The response for participation was very strong, with over 60 applications submitted for participation on the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC). These applications are currently in the process of being reviewed by an Interview Subcommittee, and there are a total of 20 seats available on this Advisory Committee.

For more information and to stay informed on the CCAC, check the City's website here at [CLIMATE CHAMPIONS](#).

## A Climate Justice Framework for the City of Hamilton

Climate Justice recognizes the disproportionate impacts of climate change on low-income, under-served, marginalized, racialized communities, and people and places least responsible for causing the climate crisis. Climate Justice addresses the root causes of climate change and in doing so, seeks solutions that simultaneously tackle the broad range of social, racial, and environmental injustices.

The OCCI has begun working with students in the CityLab Fall 2023 Semester in Residence to develop a design for a Hamilton-specific Climate Justice Framework. The Framework is intended to be used as a tool to guide City decision-making and planning and applied where process-oriented issues are concerned, such as engagement methods. It will be used as a tool that will ensure decisions regarding mitigation and adaptation actions are made in a manner that promotes climate justice moving forward. The Framework will also be used for further discussions on broader, intersecting themes, and address the historical context of climate injustice.

## Climate Communications and Engagement Strategy

The OCCI will continue to refine its communications and engagement techniques and ongoing tracking methodology. This will be done through a comprehensive Climate Communications and Engagement Strategy (CCEC). Consultation with internal corporate communications, marketing, engagement staff, and diverse community stakeholders is underway.

## Community Stakeholders: Collaborations

The OCCI is exploring pathways of collaboration with the [Bay Area Climate Change Council \(BACCC\)](#), a multi-stakeholder organization supported by the cities of Hamilton and Burlington to facilitate regional solutions to climate issues. Currently, we are in conversation with BACCC and Mohawk College representatives regarding the City's climate action priorities, how BACCC can best support municipal efforts, and how, in turn, OCCI can contribute to realizing their regional decarbonization goals.

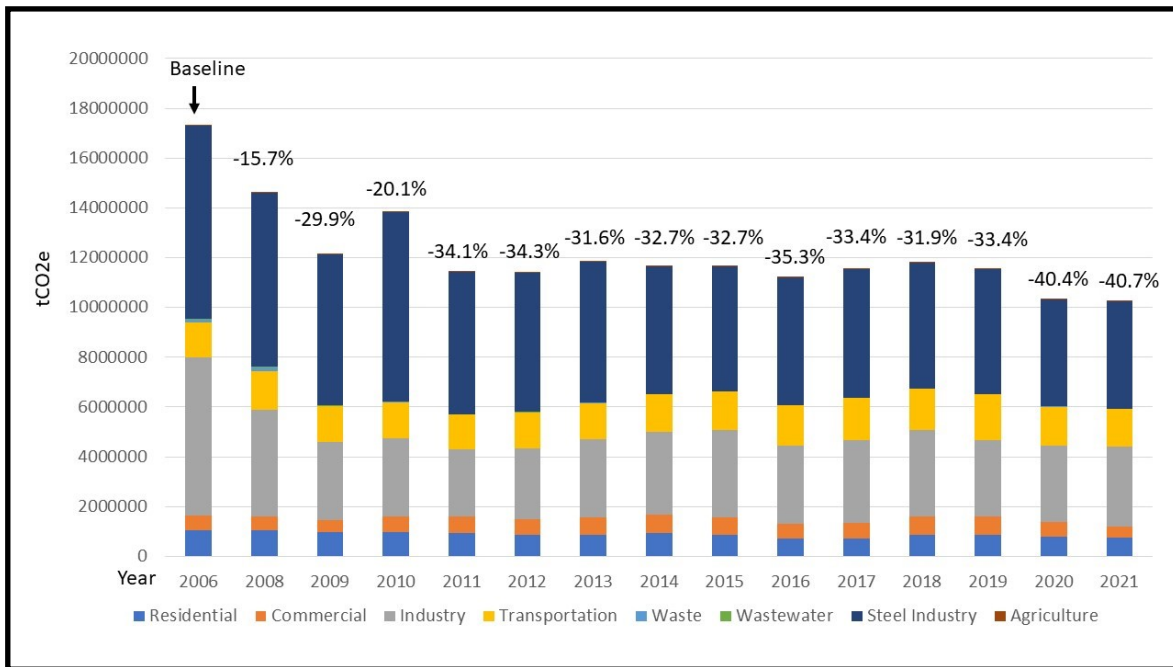
If you would like Staff from the OCCI to do a presentation or talk at your event, committee, or organization, please do not hesitate to email [climatechange@hamilton.ca](mailto:climatechange@hamilton.ca) or call our Project Manager at (905) 546-2424 ext. 6885.



### HAMILTON'S COMMUNITY-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY 2006 – 2021

The City of Hamilton has been tracking and reporting annually community-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from sectors including: Buildings (broken down by Residential, Commercial and Industry), Transportation, Industrial Emissions, Waste, Wastewater, and Agriculture since 2008. Using the year 2006 as a baseline and the most recent GHG inventory year of 2021, it is estimated Hamilton's community-wide emissions have been reduced by approximately 40.7%. This equates to 10,289,987 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021 compared to 17,349,813 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2006.

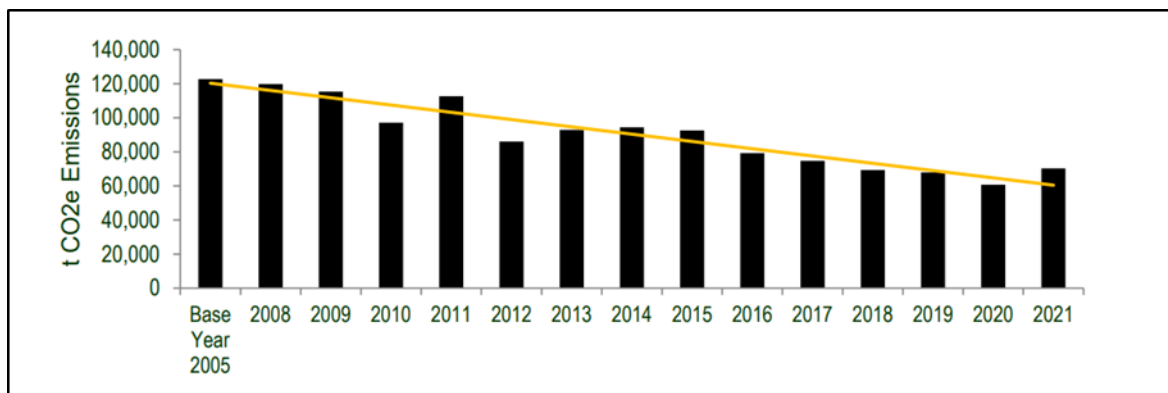
Figure 1.0 Hamilton's Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emission 2006-2021



### HAMILTON'S CORPORATE GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY 2005 – 2021

Through the Corporate Facilities and Energy Management Division, City Staff report on Corporate GHG emissions. Figure 2.0 was adapted from Report PW21094(b) and shows a 16% increase in corporate GHG emissions in 2021 vs 2020. This is due to return to post-pandemic levels of activity combined with correction of an emissions calculation error that underestimated previous city fleet emissions. When compared to 2005 levels, 2021 GHG emissions have decreased 43% or by approx. 52,428 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

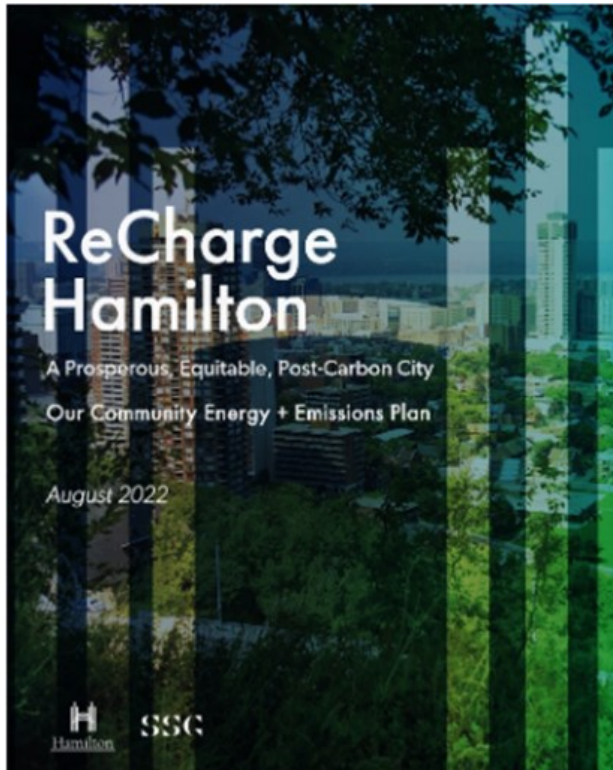
Figure 2.0 Hamilton's Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2005-2021





## HAMILTON'S CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY

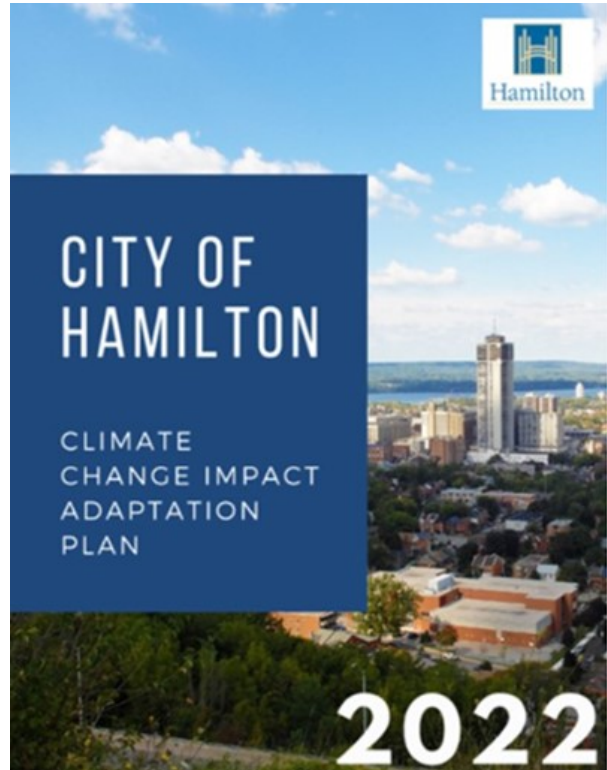
Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy (HCAS) is the City's most ambitious and detailed climate plan to date. It was developed between 2018 and 2022 through extensive research, technical modelling, community-wide engagement, and consultation. The HCAS includes both a climate mitigation plan to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050, and a climate adaptation plan to help our entire community reduce, prepare, and recover from the unavoidable impacts of climate change.



**“ReCharge Hamilton – Our Community Energy and Emissions Plan”**

**Vision:**

*“ReCharge Hamilton identifies a pathway to net zero GHG emissions by 2050 that increases the resilience of the energy system and improves economic prosperity for all. Drawing on a history of work, policies, and initiatives in this area, ReCharge Hamilton builds on Hamilton’s historic and current strengths as an industrial leader in the midst of a rich natural environment, and as a caring community.”*



**“Hamilton’s Climate Change Impact Adaptation”**

**Vision:**

*“The City of Hamilton will be a national leader on climate adaptation: a healthy, equitable, vibrant, and sustainable community that responds to the needs of residents, businesses and institutions, and is resilient in the face of a changing climate”*

The remaining sections of this report are broken out into the Low-Carbon Transformations and Resilient Themes as outlined and approved within 'ReCharge Hamilton' and 'Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan'.

The following sections include major and impactful actions within each Low-Carbon Transformation and Resilient Theme. For a complete list and status update for all of HCAS's specific actions see Appendix "B" to Report PED23222.

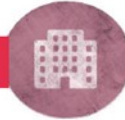
The Five (5) Low-Carbon Transformations and Four (4) Resilient Theme Areas are broken out as follows:

## 5 Low-Carbon Transformations

TRANSFORMATION 1: Innovating Our Industry



TRANSFORMATION 2: Transforming Our Buildings



TRANSFORMATION 3: Changing How We Move



TRANSFORMATION 4: Revolutionizing Renewables



TRANSFORMATION 5: Growing Green



## 4 Theme Areas for Climate Adaptation Actions

RESILIENT THEME 1: Built Environment/Systems



RESILIENT THEME 2: People and Health



RESILIENT THEME 3: Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water



RESILIENT THEME 4: Energy and Economy



## Low-Carbon Transformation #1: Innovating Our Industry

### ArcelorMittal Dofasco Decarbonization Plans



(Source: Canadian MetalWorking, 2022)

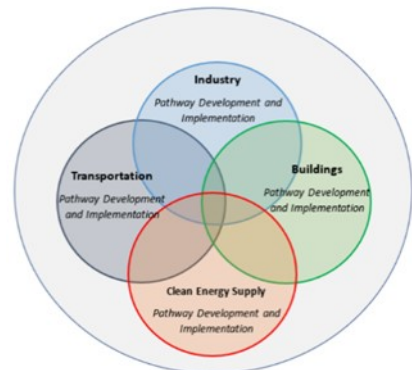
The nearly **\$2 billion decarbonization investment** was officially launched on October 13, 2022. With significant investments from both the provincial and federal government, ArcelorMittal Dofasco (AMD) is showing exceptional leadership and is among the first in the world to transition off coal for the ironmaking process. The benefits of this transformative initiative at one of Hamilton’s largest integrated steel mill will include:

- Reducing Carbon Emissions by **3 million tonnes or about 60% by 2028**;
- Equivalent to taking **725,000 internal combustion engine cars off the road** or planting **138 million trees**; and
- Significantly **improve local air quality** with the reduction of harmful known carcinogens like benzene and benzo(a)pyrene.

At the peak of project construction, AMD estimates it will see about 900 workers on site. Once complete, the new assets will mean employees will work in state-of-the-art green facilities after undertaking an estimated 160,000 collective hours of training<sup>2</sup>. This decarbonization transition is not only good for the environment and climate action but will provide a globally competitive advantage in a world where more and more customers are demanding climate action and that steel be as clean as possible.

### Hamilton Regional Decarbonization Hub

Although the concept of a “Hub” is not new, the proposed **Hamilton Regional Decarbonization Hub (HRDH) is a “first of its kind” in Canada** and presents an evolution of the more limited Hub concept model into a full, regional decarbonization effort, centred on forms of low or zero carbon and their interconnections.



<sup>2</sup>ArcelorMittal Dofasco (2022). ArcelorMittal breaks ground on first transformational low-carbon emissions steelmaking project. Retrieved from: <https://corporate.arcelormittal.com/media/press-releases/arcelormittal-breaks-ground-on-first-transformational-low-carbon-emissions-steelmaking-project>

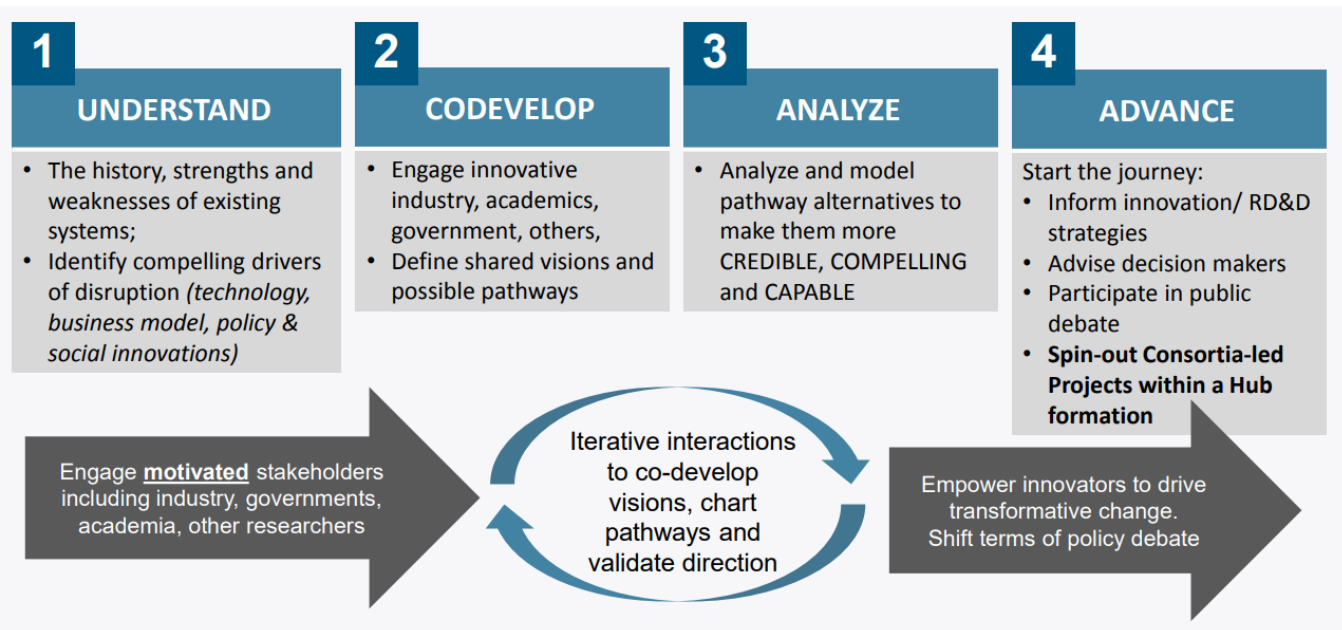
In May 2023 City Council approved a conditional 4-year funding contribution of \$240,000 which will be split equally between Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives, and City Managers Office. This funding represents approximately 7.6% of the total project budget, with major sources of funding anticipated from higher levels of government, along with additional funding from private partners.

The HRDH will include several steering committees and action teams working to deliver on the following targeted outcomes:

- \* Coordinate and build low/zero carbon energy demand to support sector development;
- \* Demonstrate leadership (environmental, social, economic) to attract investment and a broad range of economic development;
- \* Improve relations and knowledge across industries, public organizations, and the community at large;
- \* Facilitate the industrial sector’s ability to realize net zero carbon emissions by or before 2050.

The City will be partnering with the not-for-profit Transition Accelerator on this important initiative. The Transition Accelerator has a lot of experience developing similar hubs across Canada. Below is an adapted figure from the August 8, 2022 General Issues Committee presentation from The Transition Accelerator:

Figure 1.0 The Transition Accelerator Methodology



(Adapted from Report CM22013/HSC22046/PED22176 – Presentation, General Issues Committee August 8, 2023)

## Low-Carbon Transformation #2: Transforming Our Buildings

### Better Homes Hamilton's Pilot Program

In May 2023 City Council approved **\$1.0 M to provide up to 50 Hamilton homeowners** to access zero-percent interest loans for energy efficiency upgrades. The Better Homes Hamilton (BHH) pilot program is an innovative way to help homeowners access low-barrier loans to make eligible retrofits to their homes.

The following are eligible measures:

- a) **Assessments and Permits:** Pre and post energy assessments and building permits.
- b) **Building Envelope:** Air-sealing/draft proofing and insulation (attic, basement and walls).
- c) **Mechanical Systems:** Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP), including cold-climate (ccASHP), hybrid ASHP, and mini-splits, as well as supporting smart thermostats/controllers.
- d) **Supporting Infrastructure:** Breaker panel upgrades and ductwork only when required to support installation of ASHP.

The BHH pilot program is anticipated to result in numerous benefits both in the City's fight against climate change and to participating homeowners. These benefits include:

- ⇒ Reducing household GHG emissions on average by 60% or 2.9 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) per participating household annually, based on the most common housing archetype in Hamilton.
- ⇒ **Potential for \$1,804 in cumulative savings** based on scenario upgrades occurring in 2023 and savings between 2023 and 2030 from avoided carbon pricing.
- ⇒ Improvement of indoor air quality and home comfort through reduction of fossil fuel burning and improving building envelope performance.

To learn more about the BHH pilot program see the City's Engage Website: [Better Homes Hamilton Program | Engage Hamilton](#)

Sign-up directly for the Pre-Launch List to stay informed here:

**BETTER HOMES HAMILTON PRE-LAUNCH LIST**

## CityHousing Hamilton's High-Performance Passive House Buildings

As started with 500 MacNab St. N., CityHousing Hamilton (CHH) has established Passive House certification as the goal for all new buildings. Passive House is a certification program that requires buildings to be built to very high energy efficiency through additional insulation, a high degree of air tightness, and efficient mechanical systems. What this means is that CHH projects are future-ready for Hamilton's 2050 Climate Goals. CHH has four projects currently under construction that will be certified under passive house upon completion:

- 106 Bay St N – 55 units
- 257 King William St – 24 units
- 55 Queenston Rd – 40 units
- 1620 Main St E – 42 units

These projects will be some of the most energy-efficient buildings in all of Hamilton and are entirely electric in terms of heating, cooling, and hot water. This means that they will emit no greenhouse gases at all during typical operation. In addition, many of these **projects will also include solar** generation on site which is expected to **reduce the annual electricity consumption on site by 25-50%**.

CHH's existing housing stock continues to integrate energy efficiency into all the capital projects where possible. As of the beginning of 2023, the impact of integrating energy efficiency into CHH capital projects has led to a 13.3% reduction in energy use and a **13.9% reduction in GHG emissions** compared to 2017 levels across CHH's portfolio of over 7000 units.

In 2023, CHH partnered with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) and Enbridge Gas Inc. to implement a portfolio-wide in-suite energy retrofit initiative. This initiative will reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions at CityHousing Hamilton's properties through a combination of smaller measures (e.g., fridge replacements, smart thermostats, LED lighting, insulation, etc.) and will also be providing education and awareness to promote energy-efficient behaviour.



(Render of 55 Queenston Rd., Courtesy of CityHousing Hamilton)





(Render of 106 Bay St. N., Courtesy of CityHousing Hamilton)

**Low-Carbon Transformation #3: Changing How We Move**

**Active and Sustainable Mobility**

The City of Hamilton’s Transportation Planning and Parking Division, Planning and Economic Development is supporting Hamilton’s shift to more sustainable travel options.

**SMART COMMUTE HAMILTON** is a GTHA program that helps individuals and organizations travel efficiently and sustainably. Hamilton’s shared Micro-mobility Program comprises two complementary programs:

<p><b>Hamilton Bike Share System</b></p>  <p><b>2023 STATS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 854 Bike Share Units</li> <li>• 324,939 km of total travel*</li> <li>• 35 km of bike lanes planned (total 765 km as of 2022)</li> </ul> <p>*As of August 2023</p>	<p><b>Shared Commercial E-Scooter Pilot Program</b></p>  <p><b>2023 STATS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 275 Commercial E-Scooters</li> <li>• 232,414 km of total travel*</li> </ul>
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With easing of public health pandemic restrictions, the Smart Commute Program has been re-establishing relationships with workplaces across Hamilton. Important programming and events have been completed such as:

- Re-launching in 2022 the Emergency Ride Home allowing members to claim up to \$75 to cover expenses;
- Bike Day at City Hall Event and Trip Planning Tutorials;
- Active and Sustainable School Travel Program, including 3 school street events and additional 20 schools engaged in the active travel planning process.

To learn more and participate see the City’s [SMART COMMUTE WEBSITE](#)

### Hamilton Street Rail (HSR) Decarbonizing Transit

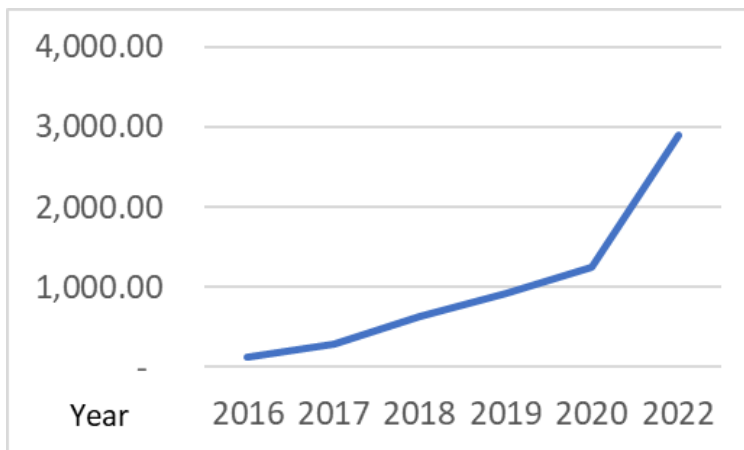
The City of Hamilton has committed to reducing corporate GHG emissions and achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

As of 2022 **64% of HSR buses were powered by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)**. CNG when compared to diesel, generates far less carbon and other harmful emissions. This not only reduces GHG emissions but helps improve local air quality.

The HSR plans to have **100% of its diesel buses phased out by 2026**.

### Electric Vehicles on the Rise in Hamilton

Figure 3.0 Community Electric Vehicles Numbers in Hamilton 2016-2022\*



**Electric Vehicles (EVs) are on the rise in Hamilton.** This is great news as the Transportation Sector in Hamilton represents the second largest source of GHG emissions after Industry.

EVs continue to grow in popularity due their increased range, fuel cost savings, low maintenance schedule and better performance.

To learn more about the benefits of EVs see Plug 'N Drive's [ELECTRIC VEHICLE ADVANTAGE](#).

### City of Hamilton Supporting the EV Revolution

To help support the growing shift from internal combustion engines (ICE) to Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) the City of Hamilton is undertaking a City-Wide Electric Vehicle Strategy. This important study will help ensure Hamilton is a 'Electric Ready' City and will be completed throughout 2024.

The City is also planning to train its own Public Works mechanics as the City works to implement its [Green Fleet Strategy](#) by converting to BEV light-duty vehicles.

\*Prior to 2021 EV data based on odometer data purchased from Ministry of Transportation. 2022 data can be found directly on MTO website here: <https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/electric-vehicles-in-ontario-by-forward-sortation-area>



## Low-Carbon Transformation #4: Revolutionizing Renewables

### System-Based Approach to Decarbonization

The global energy transition away from fossil fuels is the most important thing we can do for our planet and future generations. In order to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, the world needs to decarbonize (reduce GHG emissions) by 50% by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050 or sooner.

The City of Hamilton is well-positioned to be a national and global leader in decarbonization. **Hamilton is already one of the fastest, decarbonizing cities in Canada.** From the transition away from the use of coal in steel-making, to deep energy retrofits in our buildings, to shifting to more sustainable forms of transportation, Hamilton has a lot to be proud of. However, in order to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels and to capitalize on the economic benefits this transition brings, we need a systems-based approach to decarbonization.

That is why the City of Hamilton is looking to partner with the [Transition Accelerator](#), federal and provincial governments, and private partners to develop a Hamilton Regional Decarbonization Hub. This important coalition will work to advance viable pathways, accelerate pilot and cutting-edge technology, and create a prosperous and net zero future.

### Low Carbon Building Heating Solutions

Our municipality greatly benefits from the contributions of [Hamilton Community Enterprises \(HCE\)](#), a city-owned entity that provides smart energy and telecommunication solutions to residents, businesses and institutions. HCE is helping accelerate Hamilton's transition to low carbon building heating through energy conservation, connections to energy sharing networks, and the conversion to fossil free energy sources.



[HCE's Energy Harvesting Initiative](#) is an example what can be accomplished through teamwork to drive deep decarbonization in the buildings sector. A group of leading public, private and non-profit organizations -- including the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce -- is collaborating on a one-of-a-kind study to determine the technical feasibility and commercial viability of a proposed network that would deliver residual thermal energy from local manufacturers to heat all types of buildings in the lower City of Hamilton and beyond.

The **vision is to build Canada's Thermal Corridor**, a green infrastructure investment that would significantly reduce local GHG emissions associated with space heating while supporting the ongoing modernization of local industry.

## Recognizing Gaps - Renewable Energy

Although there is substantial work happening in looking to the future to revolutionize renewables, we must be mindful of the proven existing technology already available that significantly reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, increase good, local-paying jobs, and helps to build more resilient distributed energy systems.

Within Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy (HCAS), and the technical low-carbon scenario modelled to achieve net zero, there are ambitious targets for both solar and wind, with knowledge that heat pumps (both ground via geothermal and air source) also need to be scaled up significantly. The targets for solar and wind renewable energy within the HCAS include:

### HCAS Solar PhotoVoltaic Targets

- By 2050 280 MW of ground mount solar PV installed;
- By 2050 installation of rooftop solar PV to power 50% of building electric load;
- By 2050 50% of municipal buildings will add rooftop solar PV
- Starting in 2031, all new homes have 30% annual load coverage by solar PV.

### HCAS Wind Targets

- Install 250 MW by 2050 inside or outside the City.

Currently there are limited options or incentives to encourage renewable energy and no requirements to support private development in installing renewable energy onsite. It is also recognized that, although the City's operations have long-standing co-generation facilities providing renewable natural gas, there is minimal solar power and no current corporate policies to require onsite renewables to power city facilities. It is expected the forthcoming work on a Corporate Net Zero Policy will help to move the corporate renewable energy generation piece forward.

## Hamilton's Academic Advantage

Hamilton is home to world renowned academic institutions and leading research in a variety of sectors. In future reporting years City Staff will endeavour to work more closely with our academic partners to better highlight the important curriculum, training and re-training programs of what all our insitutions are offering. This will be essential to power the work-force of today and of tomorrow to achieve an economically prosperous and climate resilient future.

Below are brief snap-shots of McMaster University's and Mohawk College's current research and programs that City Staff have been a partner in or have recently been made aware of.

**McMaster University's Thermal Energy Mapping for the Decarbonization of Building Heating Systems**— Will provide data and mapping on local carbon-free sources, providing important implementation tools for advancing recommendations from both HCE's *Energy Harvesting Initiative* and Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.

The City of Hamilton is a partner, providing in-kind resources and expertise on this important research project that includes the following objectives:

- ◇ Design a mapping framework to categorize and store total distributed energy resources;
- ◇ Develop and standardize data collection measurement methodologies for sources and heating loads;
- ◇ Create spatial and temporal decarbonized heat resource mapping techniques and visualization approaches;
- ◇ Demonstrate data collection and utilization of local thermal energy resource mapping tool capabilities through pilot programs in Hamilton, Halton Hills and Burlington;
- ◇ Identify policy-based programs, and building requirements for thermal distribution technologies to inform and support stakeholders on actionable policies.

To learn more about this initiative and to apply for PhD and MSc graduate student positions, see McMaster University's website here: <https://www.eng.mcmaster.ca/phd-masc-graduate-student-positions-available/>

**Mohawk College's Centre for Climate Change Management and Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery (C2R2)** - Supporting the transition to a thriving low-carbon economy the [Centre for Climate Change Management](#) (CCCM) is an applied research institute focused on decarbonization solutions.

Mohawk College has a variety of courses and programs in the sectors that will be required to take accelerated climate action. These include but are not limited to:

- [Green Building Technologies](#)
- [Climate Change and Business Adaptation](#)
- [Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps Inspection](#)
- [Sustainability and Business](#)
- [Energy Efficiency in Large Buildings](#)

Mohawk's CCCM provided the coordinating secretariat functions for the [Canadian Colleges for a Resilient Recovery](#) (C2R2) - a group of climate-action leading colleges, cégeps, institutions, and polytechnics from across Canada who have joined forces to educate a post-pandemic workforce to support a new climate-focused economic recovery.

The C2R2 was part of a federal **\$45 M fund awarded to generate over 100 micro-credentials and reach 10,000 learners** by March 2024. There are over 25 micro-credentials available for a variety of sectors. Microcredentials are accelerated training programs offered by post-secondary education institutes to help people, at no cost, retrain or upgrade their skills.

To learn more and search for microcredentials available visit [QUICKTRAIN CANADA](#)

## Low-Carbon Transformation #5: Growing Green

### Getting to Our 50,000 Tree Planting Target

Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy sets an ambitious **50,000 per year community-wide tree planting target.**

Throughout 2023 the City's Forestry and Horticulture Section in Public Works has ramped up their efforts to get trees into the ground through a variety of activities, such as:

- **Increasing annual planting goal from 12,000 to 20,000 trees per year;**
- Surpassing 2023 Free Tree Giveaway goal of 3,000 to 3,536 trees; and
- Community Tree Planting Events increasing plantings to 1,970 trees in 2022 (compared to previous 3-year average of 941 trees).

As mentioned in the OCCI Priority Area 'Urban Greening', the 50,000 tree planting target is a community-wide target and Staff are currently investigating processes and partnerships to scale up community-wide tree planting and improve tracking going into 2024. Tree planting as climate action is something every resident of Hamilton can get involved with. Below are just two examples of great community action!

**Community Member Highlight** - When it comes to doing our part for the climate and for nature, we have more power than we think. Take Kirkendall neighbourhood resident, Rose Janson, who transformed her 600-square-foot backyard from a lawn into a mini forest. In 2018, drawing on the expertise of local botanist and landscape designer, Paul O'Hara, Rose ripped out the grass in favour of two dozen native tree and shrub species, as well as a variety of pollinator-friendly flowers.

Rose's urban forest is now serving as a vibrant, life-supporting haven for a wide diversity of birds, pollinators, and other little critters who are seeking shelter and food in what too often is a sea of asphalt. It's also a peaceful and beautiful space for humans to enjoy. Bravo Rose for helping our local biodiversity to thrive!



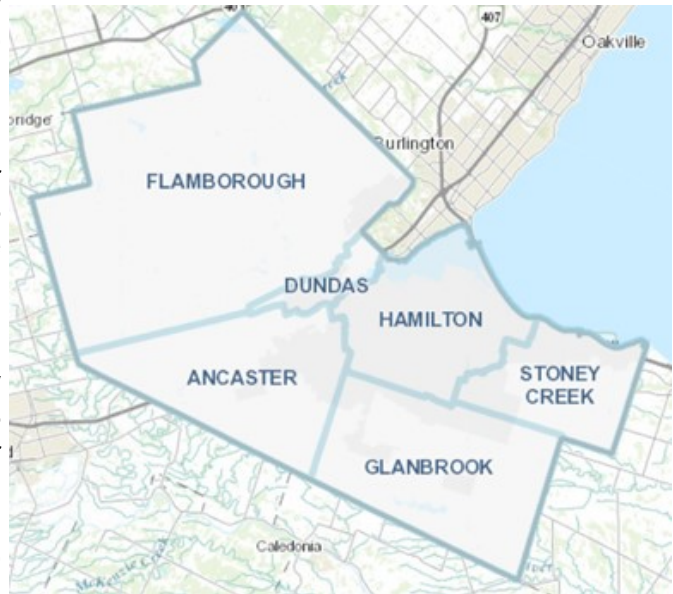
**Action 13: Community Climate Action** - Connecting the dots between climate change and many pressing, intersecting issues like hunger is what Action 13 (Ward 13--Dundas, Centre Flamborough) is good at. Since 2021, this community-led climate action group has taken the United Nations' #13 sustainability goal—action on climate change—seriously. Everything is affected by the changing climate, and everyone can be part of the solution. For example, group members encourage food security efforts such as community gardening, setting up seed libraries, and for those with minimal space, container gardening. There are also efforts to grow native plant species which help increase the resiliency of our habitats and ecosystems.

In 2024, we will be reporting regularly on more stories from our climate-conscious community that we hope will inspire even more residents to take action.

### Climate Considerations into Planning Policies

Through the hectic and ongoing changes in planning across Ontario, the City of Hamilton has remained committed to incorporating climate considerations into key planning tools and policies. These include elements such as:

- March 2022 – Waterdown Community Node Secondary Plan approved with climate action policy directions.
- Development of a Terms of Reference for an Energy and Environmental Assessment Report underway as part of the City's response to Bill 109.
- Climate action and community energy considerations will be integrated into future Secondary Planning processes for Urban Boundary Expansion Areas. These processes are being initiated and expected to continue over the next several years.
- As part of Phase 2 of the City's Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) Workplan – Local Context, there is intent to update Urban Hamilton Official Plan to incorporate the policy directions detailed in the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP). However, the MCR update has no completion date due to staff capacity and competing priorities to review other policy changes.



## CLIMATE ACTION HIGHLIGHT – Hamilton’s Conservation Authority Saltfleet Wetland Restoration

[Hamilton Conservation Authority](#) (HCA), located at the western end of Lake Ontario, is the area’s largest environmental management agency, and is dedicated to the conservation and enjoyment of watershed lands and water resources.

**HCA Vision:** A healthy watershed for everyone.

**HCA Mission:** To lead the conservation of our watershed and connect people to nature<sup>3</sup>.

**Saltfleet Conservation Area** – is HCA’s newest area to explore and boasts nearly **316 acres of unique natural features**.

This amazing initiative is a perfect example of the naturalization and restoration of Hamilton’s lands that are being called for in Low-Carbon Transformation #5: Growing Green and in Resilient Theme #3: Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water. This restoration project not only provides natural habitat for highly significant species, it also provides essential downstream flood risk reduction and erosion risk mitigation.

Once fully completed, the four proposed wetlands combined with woodlots and marshy fields, will provide the following benefits:

- Provide a **home to 50 species of breeding birds**, including a breeding ground for the Sedge Wren, a highly significant species of wren;
- Provide the ability to **hold the equivalent of 236 Olympic-size swimming pools** to prevent peak stormwater flows that can cause flooding and erosion downstream in lower Stoney Creek;

To learn more about this amazing restoration project, visit Hamilton Conservation Authorities’ [SALTFLEET CONSERVATION AREA](#)



<sup>3</sup>Hamilton Conservation Authority (2023). About Us. Retrieved from: <https://conservationhamilton.ca/about-us/>

## Resilient Theme #1: Built Environment

### Green Development Standards for Low-Impact Development

Green Development Standards (GDS) are measures that can guide, incentivize or mandate developers to build in more sustainable, climate resilient ways. Depending on the measures required, these standards can serve to reduce a property's carbon footprint through enhanced energy efficiency measures and, to facilitate a location's ability to better weather the extreme storms that climate change is bringing. This is through enhanced on-site stormwater management capacity provided by 'low impact development' (LID) measures.

Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan (CCIAP) calls for the incorporation of low impact development features and green infrastructure into new development and redevelopment projects. Work is now well underway to create Low Impact Development Guidelines for private developments in the City of Hamilton. These guidelines will serve an important role in helping to facilitate better management of stormwater on individual properties through features like bioswales, and by planting trees and other 'green infrastructure' to slow down storm flows. **Hamilton's 'Draft Green Standards and Guidelines for Low Impact Development'** have now been drafted to specifically guide private development applications. The final version of these guidelines is **expected in Q4 of 2023**.

### Stormwater Funding Fee Review

Many Ontario municipalities are updating their stormwater funding frameworks in order to more fairly address who pays for stormwater infrastructure and how much. These efforts also include ensuring that climate resilience is considered in program design, in acknowledgement of the fact that the climate crisis is imposing heavier burdens on municipalities where stormwater management is concerned. This approach supports the CCIAP recommendation that the city develop guidelines and incentives to homeowners and landlords to improve the resilience of residential buildings to climate-related risks through retrofits and upgrades.

The City of Hamilton initiated a stormwater funding review in late 2022 when draft guiding principles for the review were presented to General Issues Committee (Report FCS22043(a)). Part of the motivator for this review is the requirement for municipal compliance with Ontario Regulation 588/17—Asset Management Planning for municipal infrastructure.



This requires municipalities to establish sustainable funding mechanisms for key assets like stormwater management infrastructure. Final review guidelines were presented to GIC on June 23, 2023 (Report FCS22043(b)).

The City is currently working on a timeline that will see a new stormwater fee in place by January 1, 2025. Between now and then, public consultation will be undertaken to share more details about the new fee system. This includes sharing proposed approaches to offering incentives and/or credits to support on-property stormwater management measures as an integral part of the fee framework

### Improved Winter Side-Walk Clearing

Efficient and extensive sidewalk snow clearing is a mobility justice issue. With the increased possibility of more extreme weather events, including during the winter months, sidewalk clearing is becoming even more important to facilitate peoples' ability to move on foot or via public transit.

The CCIAP recognizes this need with an action calling for improvements to be made to winter travel conditions through further expansion to sidewalk clearing. Progress continues on this front at the City of Hamilton, as winter sidewalk clearing efforts expand:

- In November 2022, the Public Works Transportation Operations Division, Public Works **increased the kilometers of sidewalks** maintained during the winter by more than **2x from 397km to 866km.**
- All sidewalks are now routinely cleared along Priority 1 & 2A roadways where transit operates.
- A Recommendation Report is going to Public Works Committee in October 2023 to propose **additional enhancements to sidewalk snow clearing**, including sidewalk snow clearing around schools and MLE enforcement of sidewalk snow clearing requirements.





## Resilient Theme #2: People and Health

### Hamilton Public Health Services – Extreme Heat and Climate Action

The Healthy Environments Division of the City of Hamilton's Public Health Services is actively addressing a number of key adaptation actions found under Resilient Theme #2: People & Health – through the development of a Heat Response Strategy. That Strategy will be going forward to the Public Health Committee in Q1 of 2024.

The City also has in place a [Heat Response Plan](#) that was recently approved in 2023 and will be updated annually. This Plan sets out what actions the City will take during Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warning events, including when the Emergency Operations Centre will be activated.

Future updates of the Heat Response Plan will be designed to support the following Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan (CCIAP) actions:

**ACTION 3.1:** The development and implementation of a response program for vulnerable populations to protect residents from climate related risks.

**ACTION 3.3:** Exploring opportunities to expand current cooling & warming centre programming and interventions.

**ACTION 4.3:** Establishment of buddy systems/help-your-neighbour programs to implement during extreme weather events.

Staff from this team also administer Hamilton's Extreme Heat Working Group, a group made up of city staff from across a number of relevant divisions, including the Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI), as well as a growing number of community stakeholders from social service agencies and environmental and social advocacy organizations. This collective is actively engaged in important conversations about what more needs to be done and how, collectively, our community can step up and ensure that all possible measures are in place to ensure that people are supported when extreme conditions occur.

The group has lots of work still to do, but this collaborative and collective approach to a challenging issue is a positive pathway forward. Some amazing brainstorming happens around this stakeholder table. One wonderful example of progress in the right direction is the recent commitment from Hamilton Public Library to open the Central Library as a cooling centre when a heat alert coincides with a statutory holiday. This was done this past Labour Day – and library staff have confirmed that community members made use of the opportunity to cool down in this space.

**Beat the Heat: ACORN's campaign for a maximum heat by-law** - Summer is now considered the "danger season," due to life-threatening heat caused by an increasingly warming climate. Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), a tenant advocacy group with chapters in the Hamilton area, is working to prevent heat-related illnesses and death by mobilizing around the right to cooling in private and public spaces. As part of its Beat the Heat campaign, ACORN is pressing the City of Hamilton to implement a maximum heat bylaw for rental housing; support retrofits at older rental buildings; expand measures for people to cool off when in public; and track heat-related illness and death.



The City of Hamilton is listening to these community concerns and currently working on several of these including the development of a heat by-law.

**Resilient Theme #3: Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water**

**Expanding the Urban Forest Canopy**

Enhancing and expanding natural areas and taking action to expand the urban forest canopy cover, especially in neighbourhoods with low tree canopy cover is key to facilitating equitable climate adaptation through greening. Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy speaks to the need for more greening both in the climate mitigation and the climate adaptation plans. The Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan calls for the City to work with community partners and Hamilton residents to tackle urban heat islands and create thriving natural spaces by planting more trees.



Tree planting efforts are already accelerating in 2023:

- The 2023 **Free Tree Giveaway** resulted in over **3,500 trees being** distributed to residents for planting on private property – an important effort as 60% of the urban forest canopy cover is provided by trees growing on private property. Plans are already underway to give away at least 5,000 trees in 2024.
- The 2023 goal to see 1800 trees planted in public spaces through community tree planting events was more than doubled with over 3,600 trees planted using volunteer power. The goal is 5,000 for 2024.

**Want to see more trees planted in your neighbourhood's public spaces?**

**Request a community tree planting event**

## Recognizing Gaps – Protecting Agricultural Lands & Growing More Food Locally

While progress is being made on many fronts, it must be acknowledged that some adaptation efforts have not yet been initiated to any significant degree.. Within the Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water Theme, there is a need to focus attention on agriculture and climate resilience, as well as provide more education and associated supports to facilitate the broader community's ability to grow food locally.



Finally, and closely related, is the need to focus attention on food waste and ramped up efforts to divert organic waste from landfill. On this latter opportunity, some important work was undertaken this year by students enrolled in a CityLab winter term course, who helped the City's Office of Climate Change Initiatives by undertaking research around the potential for realizing a more circular food economy. It also must be noted that delaying efforts to gather more organic waste also means delaying the opportunity to tap into more resources for the local generation of renewable natural gas.

Agriculture in southern Ontario is facing growing and unprecedented risks from climate impacts. The provincial Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks in its recent report entitled 'Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment' makes it clear that southern Ontario field crops, and fruit and vegetable farming are already facing high risks that are projected to become very high risks by the 2080s with increasing climate impacts. Farmers need to be prepared.

### **Resilient Theme #4: Energy and Economy**

#### Planning for Energy Resilience

Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan (CCIAP) recognizes the critical need to consider the resilience of local energy generation as we move into a more climate uncertain future. The CCIAP calls for vulnerability and risk assessments to be undertaken, and for opportunities to be identified to increase local energy generation, in order to increase reliability – something that dovetails with the mitigation plan's call for the identification of suitable sites for renewable energy generation across the city.

Conversations have begun in 2023 around existing energy systems and pathways to decarbonization. Staff from several city departments (Planning and Economic Development (PED) – Planning,

Office of Climate Change Initiatives, Public Works (PW) – Corporate Facilities and Energy Management), along with representatives from Hydro One and Alectra, are currently participating in consultations being hosted/facilitated by the Independent Energy Service Operator (IESO) regarding infrastructure resilience and planning in the southwestern regional area that includes the City of Hamilton.

However, more needs to be done locally to facilitate the transition to a decarbonized, more climate resilient energy system for Hamilton. Efforts must include energy conservation, along with more local renewable energy generation, to name two key elements. Staff from the Office of Climate Change Initiatives also participate in organizations, including the Clean Air Partnership, Bay Area Climate Change Council, and The Atmospheric Fund, that advocate to the IESO and other provincial agencies on these matters. Leaders from the City's Energy Management Section also participate in various industry working groups that discuss provincial energy demand and supply and explore best practices and partnerships around this topic.

### Corporate Facilities Low-Carbon Review

Adapting to a climate uncertain future requires decarbonization of energy sources as mitigation, but it also requires these shifts to build resilience – especially in extreme, emergency contexts. The CCIAP calls for the City to establish low-carbon back-up power systems in all City-owned facilities so these locations can serve as community hubs during emergencies. The CCIAP calls for the City to encourage others in the community to make similar shifts for emergency energy supplies.

The City's Corporate Facilities & Energy Management (CFEM) has initiated a review of multiple generators within its portfolio and is conducting a study to assess opportunities to switch to low carbon fuel, including appropriate sizing of generators for enhanced resiliency.



## Conclusion

Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy (HCAS) provides an ambitious and comprehensive approach for the City, and broader community, to collectively work together to address the Climate Crisis. Significant climate mitigation and adaptation actions need to be thought of and worked on concurrently to maximize synergies and reduce unintended consequences.

This 2023 Annual Update Report provided progress within each major Low-Carbon Transformations detailed in 'ReCharge Hamilton – Our Community Energy and Emissions Plan' and within each major Resilient Theme detailed in 'Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan. This shows that substantial progress has been made on several of the major transformations and themes, key actions, as well as additional supporting actions.

This update also highlights the areas where there has been little progress or continues to be a struggle to move those actions forward. Those included actions to help support our local agricultural partners, and working to improve food insecurity and local urban farming. It also included the limited incentives/policies the City of Hamilton has in terms of accelerating the much-needed renewable energy generation to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and improve electrical grid resiliency.

Moving into 2024 the Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI) will continue the momentum on launching and completing existing approved programs like the Better Homes Hamilton pilot program, as well as forming the Community Climate Change Advisory Committee, and its associated workplan for 2024 and beyond. The OCCI will also focus on developing the needed policies, procedures and education to coordinate and accelerate climate action. These important initiatives will emerge throughout 2024 include, but not be limited to:

- The development of a Carbon Budgeting Framework for the City of Hamilton.
- Creation of a more refined framework to guide the funding of both city- and community-led initiatives through Hamilton's Climate Change Reserve.
- Finalization and implementation of the OCCI's Enhanced Climate Change Communications/Engagement Strategy including both internal and external dashboards for better and more transparent climate change action tracking and reporting.
- A Preliminary Report Back on the progress of the Better Homes Hamilton pilot program.

Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy is a community-wide plan; everyone needs to take action to the best of their ability. In the climate emergency, every source of GHG emissions matter as we all continue to work collectively to realize community change that will facilitate a transformation to a climate resilient, inclusive future for every Hamiltonian.

**APPENDIX “B” HAMILTON’S CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE 2023**

The following table represents the most current update as of September 2023 on the actions within Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy that was approved by City Council in August 2022. The table below is broken out between the two major climate mitigation and climate adaptation plans including:

- ReCharge Hamilton – Our Community Energy and Emissions Plan; and
- Hamilton’s Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan.

***ReCharge Hamilton – Our Community Energy and Emissions Plan 2023 Update***

<b>Enabling Actions within Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy</b>		
<b>HCAS Actions and Timelines</b>	<b>Lead Department/Division</b>	<b>Status Update</b>
<b><i>(Enabling Action i)</i></b> Investigate and Design a Carbon Accounting Framework	Planning and Economic Development/ Office of Climate Change Initiatives	<b>IN PROGRESS</b> Scope of Work currently drafted and being reviewed internally. Proposing 6-phase approach with pilot climate prioritization through 2024 budget process and full roll-out occurring in 2025.
<b><i>(Enabling Action ii)</i></b> Corporate Energy Reserve (revolving fund expansion)	Public Works, Corporate Facilities and Energy Management	<b>NOT STARTED</b>

<p><b>(Enabling Action iii)</b> Municipal and Community Green Bond Assessment</p>	<p>Corporate Services/ Financial Planning, Admin and Policy</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b>                  Staff are currently investigating Social and Green Bond frameworks including review of any alignment with the scope of work being established under the Carbon Accountability and Budgeting Framework. Update to Council in Q1 2024. Staff capacity continue to be an issue. Consultant to be retained.</p>
<p><b>(Enabling Action iv)</b> Climate Change Reserve</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development/                  Office of Climate Change Initiatives</p>	<p><b>COMPLETE</b>                  City Council approved through 2023 Budget process a 0.25% tax levy (approximately \$2.5 M annually) to fund this reserve on an annual basis.</p>

<b>Low-Carbon Transformation #1: Innovating Our Industry</b>		
<b>HCAS Actions and Timelines</b>	<b>Lead Department/Division</b>	<b>Status Update</b>
<p><b>CEEP Action 1.0:</b> Establish a net-zero Industrial Working Group</p> <p>2022 Onward</p>	<p>Joint collaboration between: City Manager’s Office, Chief Digital and Innovation; Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives; and Planning and Economic Development, Economic Development.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>City Council approved May 3, 2023 \$240K over 4 years to support the creation of a 'first-of-its-kind' Hamilton Regional Decarbonization Hub. Total 4-year budget estimated at \$3.2 M with funding being sought from federal government and private stakeholders</p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 1a:</b> Development and deployment of a zero-emissions industry program</p> <p>2022-2024</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (co-ordinating role)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Staff currently engaging with local academic institutions to gauge existing programs and curriculum in a variety of fields related to clean energy, energy efficiency, trades, engineering etc.</p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 2.0:</b> Establish a cleantech accelerator</p> <p>2022-2026</p>	<p>Joint collaboration between: City Manager’s Office, Chief Digital and Innovation; Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives; and Planning and Economic Development, Economic Development.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>See update on Action 1.0 above. Hamilton Regional Decarbonization Hub mandate, although not 100% confirmed, will be to initiate socio-economic analysis on clean technology (e.g. green hydrogen) to begin accelerating pilot initiatives and study the potential for scaling.</p>



<p><b>CEEP Action 3.0:</b> Expand local industrial energy management training programs (incl. subsidized opportunities for marginalized populations)</p> <p>2022-onwards</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (co-ordinating role)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> Staff currently engaging with local academic institutions as part of Action 1.a above and are investigating how these programs are or can support people and communities who are or have been vulnerable/marginalized.</p>
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### Low-Carbon Transformation #2: Transforming Our Buildings

HCAS Actions and Timelines	Lead Department/Division	Status Update
<p><b>CEEP Action 4.0</b> Develop and integrate City-wide new green development standards</p> <p>2022-2023</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Planning Division</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> Staff currently working with consultant to finalize Green Development Standards (GDS). Note - this is in addition to other GDS related to Low-Impact Development as described in Resilient Theme #1.</p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 5.0:</b> Install solar PV on new and existing buildings.</p> <p>2022-onwards</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development</p>	<p><b>NOT STARTED</b></p>

	Public Works, Corporate Facilities and Energy Management	<b>NOT STARTED</b>
<b>CEEP Action 6.0:</b> Design and plan for a mass deep energy retrofit program (may include retrofit delivery centre)  2022-2023	Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives	<b>IN PROGRESS</b> The Pilot Better Homes Hamilton Program approved by GIC in May 2023 with \$1.0M in approved loans and \$275K in fixed costs is expected to launch before the end of 2023.
<b>CEEP Action 6a:</b> Training and retraining programs  2022-onwards	Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (co-ordinating role)	<b>IN PROGRESS</b> Staff currently engaging with local academic institutions to gauge existing programs and curriculum in a variety of fields related to clean energy, energy efficiency, trades, engineering etc.

<p><b>CEEP Action 6b:</b> Launch a small-scale neighbourhood deep energy and emissions retrofit project in the residential sector</p> <p>2022-2023</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Pilot Better Homes Hamilton (as described above in Action 6.0) is targeting 50 low rise residential properties. However, this type of neighbourhood approach will be further explored throughout the pilot phase and the feasibility reported to Council after the two-year pilot phase is complete.</p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 6c:</b> Finance and deliver mass deep energy retrofit program for the residential sector, scaling up to city-wide program considering development of a commercial retrofit program</p> <p>2023-onwards</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Feasibility for expanding Better Homes Hamilton (as described above in Action 6.0) will be considered through the pilot phase with recommendations to Council following the 2-year pilot phase.</p>

### Low-Carbon Transformation #3: Changing How We Move

HCAS Actions and Timelines	Lead Department/Division	Status Update
<p><b>CEEP Action 7.0:</b> Expand and connect active transportation networks</p> <p>2022-onwards</p>	<p>Public Works, Transportation Operations</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>765KM of bike lanes in City at end of 2022. Additional 35KM's of bike lanes planned for 2023. City Council approved acceleration of Cycling Master Plan. Recommended Transportation Master Plan be updated to show where active mobility networks are most needed.</p>

<p><b>CEEP Action 8.0:</b> Decarbonize the bus fleet</p> <p>2022-onwards</p>	<p>Public Works, Transit</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>64% of buses were Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) at end of 2022. Expected diesel buses will be fully decommissioned by 2026. Next challenge is to replace natural gas with renewable natural gas. This will require additional budget and support from OCCI and others.</p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 9.0:</b> Plan for and develop expanded urban and rural transit service and e-mobility services</p> <p>2022-onwards</p>	<p>Public Works, Transit</p>	<p><b>NOT STARTED</b></p>
	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Transportation Planning and Parking</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Shared Commercial E-Scooter program launched on April 3, 2023 with e-scooters owned/operated by Bird Canada Inc. Service area initially matched Hamilton Bike Share system and expanded eastward into Ward 4 from Ottawa Street to Kenilworth Avenue. As of August 2023, total of 275 commercial e-scooters in service and logged 232,414KM of travel. Over same period there were 854 bike share units in service that logged 324,939KM of travel.</p>

<p><b>CEEP Action 10.0:</b> Establish then implement a city-wide EV Strategy (residential, commercial, and municipal)</p> <p>2022-2025</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Transportation Planning and Parking</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> Terms of Reference for City-Wide Electric Vehicle (EV) strategy has been completed and Steering Committee has been established. Competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) for strategy is expected to be released in early 2024. Additionally, as part of Parking Standards Review, new Zoning requirements to ensure new residential developments are EV ready are being developed.</p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 11.0:</b> Commercial Fleet Decarbonization Work Group</p> <p>2022-onwards</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (co-ordinating role)</p>	<p><b>NOT STARTED</b></p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 12.0:</b> EV mechanic training and retraining program</p> <p>2022-onwards</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (community co-ordinating role)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> Staff currently engaging with local academic institutions to gauge existing programs and curriculum in a variety of fields related to electric vehicles, clean energy, energy efficiency, trades, engineering etc.</p>

	Public Works, Fleet Services, Corporate Asset Management	<b>NOT STARTED</b>
<p><b>CEEP Action 13.0:</b> Limit parking in the downtown core and promote EV parking</p> <p>2022-2025</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Transportation Planning and Parking</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Since 2018 a total of 502 parking spaces in the Downtown have been repurposed for development. This represents 15% of the public parking supply. The installation of all 40 EV chargers in public lots was completed in early 2023.</p> <p>Parking Master Plan has been adopted, with emphasis on integrating parking supply with new development and supporting expansion of EV parking infrastructure.</p> <p>Draft updated parking standards, including eliminating parking minimums in some areas of the City and establishing zoning requirements for EV parking, approved for consultation in August 2023.</p>
	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (promotion and co-ordinating role)</p>	<b>NOT STARTED</b>

Low-Carbon Transformation #4: Revolutionizing Renewables		
HCAS Actions and Timelines	Lead Department/Division	Status Update
<p><b>CEEP Action 14.0:</b> Develop a next generation electrical grid</p> <p>2022-onwards</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (co-ordinating role for community)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Staff currently participating in Independent Energy Service Operator (IESO) southwestern regional planning that includes the City of Hamilton and our applicable Local Utilities. City Staff also participate in organizations (e.g. Clean Air Partnership, Bay Area Climate Change Council) that advocate to the IESO and other provincial agencies on these matters.</p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 15.0:</b> Encourage development of local renewable energy cooperatives</p> <p>2022-onwards</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (co-ordinating role for community)</p>	<p><b>NOT STARTED</b></p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 16.0:</b> Implement strategic renewable solar energy installations</p> <p>2022-2025</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (co-ordinating role for community)</p>	<p><b>NOT STARTED</b></p>
	<p>Public Works, Corporate Facilities and Energy Management</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Current work being done through Corporate Net Zero Roadmap for both deep energy retrofits and strategic solar renewable energy installations.</p>

<p><b>CEEP Action 17.0:</b> Technical feasibility study of expanded anaerobic digestion facilities</p> <p>2023-2025</p>	<p>Public Works, Hamilton Water and Waste</p>	<p><b>NOT STARTED</b> Awaiting results of future Organics Study being completed by Waste.</p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 18.0:</b> Technical analysis of green hydrogen potential, costs, as well as actions to increase green hydrogen deployment in the City through the creation of a hydrogen hub. (Part of CEEP Actions #1-3)</p> <p>2024-2025</p>	<p>Joint collaboration between: City Manager's Office, Chief Digital and Innovation; Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives; and Planning and Economic Development, Economic Development.</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> See update on Action 1.0 above. Hamilton Regional Decarbonization Hub mandate, although not 100% confirmed, will be to initiate socio-economic analysis on clean technology (e.g. green hydrogen) to begin accelerating pilot initiatives and study the potential for scaling.</p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 19.0:</b> Decarbonize and expand HCE downtown district energy system</p> <p>2023-2025</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (co-ordinating role for the City)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> City staff participate on Hamilton Community Enterprises (HCE) technical steering committee for the Energy Harvesting Feasibility Study with a goal of developing a scalable model for low-carbon building heating using residual waste heat from industry. Additionally, Economic Development's municipal incentive programs include enhanced eligibility that include buildings that are built to connect to District Energy and/or District Energy Ready.</p>



<p><b>CEEP Action 20.0:</b> Technical + financial analysis for expanded organics collection and diversion</p> <p>2022-onwards</p>	<p>Public Works, Waste</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> Staff currently moving forward with Organics Study to prepare a business case assessment of options and opportunities to support the City's long-term Organics Management Program.</p>
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<p><b>Low-Carbon Transformation #5: Growing Green</b></p>		
<p><b>HCAS Actions and Timelines</b></p>	<p><b>Lead Department/Division</b></p>	<p><b>Status Update</b></p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 21.0</b> Review + update Official Plan to address climate change and energy policies</p> <p>2022 - onwards</p>	<p>Planning Division, Planning and Economic Development</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> The review and update to the Urban Hamilton Official Plan to incorporate the policy directions in the CEEP will be completed as part of Phase 2 of the City's Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) Workplan - Local Context.</p>

<p><b>CEEP Action 22.0:</b> Integrate community energy/climate action policy directions into Secondary Plans</p> <p>2022 - onwards</p>	<p>Planning Division, Planning and Economic Development</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Climate Action policy directions were incorporated into the Waterdown Community Node Secondary Plan approved in March 2022. Climate Action and Community Energy considerations will be integrated into future Secondary Planning processes for Urban Expansion Areas. These processes are being initiated and are expected to continue over the next several years. In addition, there is development of a Terms of Reference for an Energy and Environmental Assessment Report underway as part of the City's response to Bill 109.</p>
<p><b>CEEP Action 23.0:</b> Set a target of 50,000 trees planted per year within City boundaries</p> <p>2022 - onwards</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (co-ordinating role for community)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Staff currently engaged in discussion with several community partners on coordinating and ramping up tree planting across Hamilton, specifically in hard to green areas of the City. Moving into 2024 Staff will be identifying processes for better and ongoing tracking/report mechanisms for community-wide tree planting.</p>
	<p>Public Works, Environmental Services Division</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>City's Forestry and Horticulture Section has ramped up their efforts to get trees into the ground through a variety of activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing the yearly goal of planting 12,000 – 20,000 trees per year;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surpassed their Free Tree Giveaway from a goal of 3,000 to 3,536; and</li> <li>• Community Tree Planting Events increasing plantings to 1,970 trees in 2022 (compared to previous 3-year average of 941 trees).</li> </ul>
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### *Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan 2023 Update*

<b>Enabling Actions within Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy</b>		
<b>HCAS Actions and Timelines</b>	<b>Lead Department/Division</b>	<b>Status Update</b>
<b>E.1</b> - Establish a Climate Change Office with staff dedicated to implementing and tracking the Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan.	Planning & Economic Development	<b>COMPLETED</b> Office of Climate Change Initiatives was established in Nov 2023. A Senior Project Manager was transferred into the Office in Nov 2023, a Director was hired in Dec 2023, and a new SPM and PM were funded in the 2023 Budget and hired in 2023. Staff in OCCI will facilitate and track progress of implementation of CCIAP.
<b>E.2</b> - Designate key metrics for climate impacts in the City and task staff with collecting and tracking data over time (e.g. traffic accident reports, basement flood reports, etc.).	Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (In collaboration with internal Climate Change Initiatives Steering Committee)	<b>ONGOING</b> Some basic metrics have already emerged by virtue of nature of actions in the CCIAP, and additional metrics will emerge as implementation efforts proceed.

<b>Resilient Theme #1: Built Environment</b>		
<b>HCAS Actions and Timelines</b>	<b>Lead Department/Division</b>	<b>Status Update</b>
<p><b>CCIAP Action 1.1:</b> Develop requirements for the incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) features and green infrastructure into new development and redevelopment projects and consider watershed and landscape scales in the development of plans and objectives.</p> <p>Long-term (&gt;5 years)</p>	<p>Planning &amp; Economic Development, Growth Management</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Draft Green Standards &amp; Guidelines for Low Impact Development (GSG) have now been drafted specifically to guide private development applications. Final version of the Guidelines expected by Q4 of 2023</p>
<p><b>CCIAP Action 1.2:</b> Develop guidelines and incentives for homeowners and landlords to improve the resilience of residential buildings to climate-related risks through upgrades and/or retrofits.</p> <p>Short-term (&lt;2 years)</p>	<p>Public Works, Hamilton Water (lead for stormwater fee development)</p> <p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives (lead for Better Homes Hamilton Pilot)</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Development of a municipal stormwater fee is well underway and includes exploration of incentives/ credits to support on-property stormwater management measures as an integral part of the fee framework.</p> <p>Better Homes Hamilton - the City's pilot home energy retrofit loan program has been designed and the intake of applications from residents is expected before the end of 2023. Potential expansion of eligible retrofits will be conducted through the 2-year pilot phase.</p>

<p><b>CCIAP Action 1.3:</b> Conduct more studies or reviews to determine flooding and other risks throughout the City &amp; develop plans (e.g. relocating sites where appropriate) to improve the resilience of infrastructure (i.e. buildings, roads, water/wastewater infrastructure, etc.) to climate-related risks from extreme weather and temperatures.</p> <p>Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	<p>Public Works, Hamilton Water</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Flooding and Drainage Improvement Framework – Environmental Assessments - first one to be initiated Q4 2023, with more EAs to be completed in future years in other parts of the combined sewer shed. Ultimately these EAs will likely point to infrastructure solutions such as green infrastructure and sewer separation.</p> <p>IDF (Intensity Duration Frequency) Curve Assessment - every 5 years – Last completed in 2022, this study assesses our local precipitation Intensity, Duration, and Frequency to ensure stormwater design standards aligns with the most current data on precipitation for 2 year storms, 5 year storms, etc.</p> <p>Beach Boulevard Flooding and Drainage EA – to be completed Q4 2023, the final recommendations will revolve around infrastructure solutions to mitigate flooding in the Beach Boulevard community (e.g. stormwater pumping station, ditch rehabilitation, etc.)</p> <p>Ainslie Wood Environmental Assessment – Nearing completion, Public Information Centre #2 is slated for Q4 2023. Again, this EA will evaluate various infrastructure solutions to mitigate neighbourhood flooding in the Ainslie Wood</p>
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		<p>neighbourhood.</p> <p>Combined Sewer Flow Monitoring Study – RFP issued.</p>
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<p><b>CCIAP Action 2.1:</b> Improve winter travel conditions through further expanding sidewalk clearing.</p> <p>Short-term (&lt;2 years)</p>	<p>Public Works, Roads Operation</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>In November 2022, Transportation increased kilometers of sidewalks maintained during the winter from 397km to 866km.</p> <p>Transportation now clears all sidewalks along all Priority 1 &amp; 2A roadways where transit operates.</p> <p>Recommendation Report coming to Public Works Committee October 2023 and will present additional enhancements to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sidewalk snow clearing</li> <li>-Snow clearing around schools</li> <li>-MLE enforcement</li> </ul>
<p><b>CCIAP Action 2.2:</b> Encourage and promote safer travel practices, choices, and alternatives through considering all users of Hamilton's transportation network and by working with local groups to create a communications campaign around the benefits of work-from-home</p> <p>Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	<p>Planning &amp; Economic Development, Sustainable Transportation Division</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>City of Hamilton work focused on applying an equity lens to travel practices/ choices/ alternatives includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Support for Bike Share ‘Everyone Rides’ subsidized bike share memberships</li> <li>-E-Scooter pilot offering of reduced fees for system in specified geographic areas of city.</li> <li>-Subsidized and/or free HSR fare programs for community members</li> </ul>

Resilient Theme #2: People and Health		
HCAS Actions and Timelines	Lead Department/Division	Status Update
<p><b>CCIAP Action 3.1:</b> Develop and implement a response program for vulnerable populations to protect residents from climate-related risks (i.e. extreme cold, extreme heat, etc.)</p> <p>Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	<p>Healthy and Safe Communities, Public Health Services</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>This action is addressed in the Heat Response Strategy going forward to Public Health Committee in Q1 of 2024.</p> <p>The City of Hamilton has a Heat Response Plan that is reviewed and updated annually. The Plan includes actions that the City currently takes during Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings and when the EOC will be activated.</p> <p>Public Health Services is engaging with Landlords to provide education about Heat Related Illness and measures they can take to protect tenants.</p>



<p><b>CCIAP Action 3.2:</b> Consolidate existing vulnerable persons' contact lists and update/expand them to guide emergency response and/or other assistance programs. Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	<p>Healthy and Safe Communities, Public Health Services</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> Public Health Services is working with Hamilton Paramedic Services to determine opportunities for expansion to existing programs to address heat related illness.</p> <p>Public Health Services is using heat mapping in conjunction with epidemiological data to target vulnerable areas within the City to target education to Landlords about Heat Related Illness of their tenants.</p>
<p><b>CCIAP Action 3.3:</b> Coordinate local efforts to address excessive indoor temperatures in rental housing Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	<p>Joint effort between Planning and Economic Development, Municipal Law Enforcement, and Healthy and Safe Communities, Public Health Services</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> Licensing and Bylaw Services along with Public Health will prepare an Adequate Heat Bylaw for City Council review and approval in Q1 2024.</p>
<p><b>CCIAP Action 3.4:</b> Align ongoing efforts within the City to continue expanding affordable housing to protect vulnerable populations to reduce climate-related impacts from extreme weather and temperatures Long-term (&gt;5 years)</p>	<p>Healthy &amp; Safe Communities, Housing Secretariat</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> CityHousing Hamilton has committed to both retrofitting existing units and building new social housing units that are constructed to climate resilient, passive house standards. CHH has been successful with securing 'green funding' from sources including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund to support this transition to greener building standards for social housing in Hamilton.</p>

<p><b>CCIAP Action 4.1:</b> Create educational campaigns on communicating the risks associated with climate change (i.e. health impacts, property damage, etc.) and what residents can do to prepare (GDS, LID, etc.)</p> <p>Short-term (&lt;2 years)</p>	<p>Planning and Economic Development, Office of Climate Change Initiatives</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>OCCI is creating a communications strategy and developing associated outreach tools to engage and inform the community. Other Departments and Divisions also engage in efforts to educate the broader public on these issues - for example - Public Health Services educates the public on the health impacts of issues associated with climate change including extreme heat and cold, vector borne disease, etc.</p>
<p><b>CCIAP Action 4.2:</b> Evaluate and select programs for making emergency preparedness kits accessible to anyone, regardless of income (e.g. subsidies or free distribution campaigns)</p> <p>Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	<p>Healthy and Safe Communities, Public Health Services, and Hamilton Fire, Office of Emergency Management</p>	<p><b>NOT STARTED</b></p> <p>Consultation to be initiated in Q1 2024 with Office of Emergency Management.</p>

<p><b>CCIAP Action 4.3:</b> Establish buddy systems/help-your-neighbour programs to implement during extreme weather events</p> <p>Short-term (&lt;2 years)</p>	<p>Healthy and Safe Communities, Public Health Services</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>This action is addressed in the Heat Response Strategy going forward to Public Health Committee in Q1 of 2024.</p> <p>Currently, Public Health Services encourages that citizens check on their neighbours and family during Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings. This is included in the messaging in the City’s Media Release during Heat Events, is referenced on the City’s website and is included on promotional hand-outs.</p> <p>Materials will be distributed with promotional items in 2024.</p>
<p><b>CCIAP Action 5.1:</b> Work with local partners to ensure vulnerable groups are informed about and have the means to be adequately protected from vector-borne diseases (e.g. West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease, etc.)</p> <p>Long-term (&gt;5 years)</p>	<p>Healthy and Safe Communities, Public Health Services</p>	<p><b>NOT STARTED</b></p> <p>Work to be initiated in Q1 2024.</p>

<p><b>CCIAP Action 5.2:</b> In conjunction with the Biodiversity Action Plan, develop an Open Space Management Plan to guide City of Hamilton Natural Open Space Stewardship, including maintenance schedules to minimize ideal conditions for vectors (e.g. plants and animals, such as mosquitos, that can bring diseases, such as rabies, Lyme disease, to human populations)</p> <p>Long-term (&gt;5 years)</p>	<p>Public Works, Environmental Services</p> <p>Healthy and Safe Communities, Public Health Services</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Balancing the protection and enhancement of naturalized areas, while also limiting exposure of vectors to humans continues to be an ongoing issue. However current signage exists related to ticks and where people may be at risk of higher exposure. Where possible parks staff mow one mower-width (2m or so) on either side of paths to keep a clear path for walking and to limit overhanging plants.</p> <p>At the same time, focusing on biodiversity (species, genetics) is a key strategy to increase ecosystem resilience against invasive pests and disease.</p> <p>City staff put out communication updates when new diseases and pests arrive in the Hamilton area. Updates include information about what residents can do if they find these pests/diseases. Enlisting the public to observe and report is an important way to track the status of these invaders.</p> <p>While these do not pose a risk to human health, public updates were recently released regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hemlock Woolly Adelgid &amp; Spotted Lanternfly</li> <li>-Oak wilt (which has appeared in Niagara area)</li> </ul>
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<p><b>CCIAP Action 6.1:</b> Continue to update existing municipal plans and policies to decrease health and safety risks associated with extreme weather and temperatures to outdoor workers</p> <p>Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	<p>Human Resources</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Current Hot Weather Safety guidelines remain in place and are reviewed and updated as needed.</p> <p>In 2023 Health, Safety &amp; Wellness Team began providing guidance to people leaders on how to protect outdoor workers during periods of poor air quality.</p> <p>New guideline - planned to provide guidance to reduce staff health risk by using the national Air Quality Health Index and corresponding health messages to provide recommendations for the workplace to follow.</p> <p>Monitoring - Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development's consultation on regulating Heat Stress and Poor Outdoor Air Quality under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to prepare for any new employer duties related to heat and poor air quality for our outdoor workers.</p>
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<p><b>CCIAP Action 6.2:</b> Explore opportunities to expand current cooling &amp; warming centre programming and interventions.</p> <p>Short-term (&lt;2 years)</p>	<p>Healthy and Safe Communities, Public Health Services</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>This action is addressed in the Heat Response Strategy going forward to Public Health Committee in Q1 of 2024.</p> <p>In 2023 Hamilton Public Library began opening the Hamilton Room at the Central Public Library on Statutory Holidays during Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings. This service is an enhancement from previous years.</p>
<p><b>CCIAP Action 6.3:</b> Improve monitoring, data collection, and notification surrounding flooding &amp; extreme weather/temperatures</p> <p>Long-term (&gt;5 years)</p>	<p>Healthy and Safe Communities, Public Health Services</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>This action is addressed in the Heat Response Strategy going forward to Public Health Committee in Q1 of 2024.</p> <p>Public Health Services uses epidemiological data along with heat mapping vulnerability data to determine highest risk areas to target for heat initiatives.</p>

<b>Resilient Theme #3: Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water</b>		
<b>HCAS Actions and Timelines</b>	<b>Lead Department/Division</b>	<b>Status Update</b>
<p><b>CCIAP Action 7.1:</b> Continue to enhance the management and restoration of existing natural areas and seek opportunities to dedicate land and natural areas for conservation.</p> <p>Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	Public Works, Environmental Services	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>On-going naturalization efforts are currently underway - all in partnership with Conservation Halton at: Joe Sam's Park, Courtcliffe Park, and at Flamborough Centre Park. Activities include natural habitat restoration, wetland creation, invasive species removal, creek restoration and realignment.</p> <p>Bioswale installed at Florence Parker Sports Park.</p> <p>Future projects anticipated at: William Connell Park (invasive species removal &amp; naturalization), Confederation Beach Park - natural shoreline erosion mitigation through native plantings.</p> <p>Land Acquisition Strategy - presented to GIC in September 2023.</p>

**CCIAP Action 8.1:** Work with local partners to continue tree planting and preservation, explore community partnerships and naturalization programs to reduce urban heat island and enhance ecosystem function.

Medium-term (2-5 years)

**IN PROGRESS**

Expansion of Community Tree Planting Program - has facilitated surpassing 2023 target to plant 1800 trees, with projected completion for the year at over 3600 trees. 2024 tree planting target will be over 5000 trees to continue to expand naturalized planting areas with the assistance of volunteer partnerships and build on this success.

Forestry staff have engaged CityLab to complete a literature review related to municipal woodlot management.

2023 Free Tree Giveaway provided over 3500 trees to residents, schools and not-for profit organizations to plant on their own private property. Target for 2024 is 5000 trees.

Forestry staff engaged in Air Quality Day with Green Venture & participated in National Indigenous Peoples Day Gathering event on June 21st.



<p><b>CCIAP Action 8.2:</b> Implement the Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) and consider additional measures to support it or expand its impact.</p> <p>Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	<p>Public Works, Environmental Services</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>The Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) was approved by Council on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The impact of the UFS and recommendations was expanded through a 40% urban forest canopy target for 2050. Implementation of itemized actions is underway.</p>
<p><b>CCIAP Action 9.1:</b> Educate and encourage community to participate in growing food locally (e.g. lot level or urban farms/gardens).</p> <p>Short-term (&lt;2 years)</p>	<p>Healthy and Safe Communities</p>	<p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>Support for community gardens is seen through a recommendation made in the Recreation Master Plan (2022) to increase the number of community gardens on municipal property. Currently there are 18 community gardens on City property, mainly in parks and there are community gardens on all City Housing Hamilton seniors' building sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm to school programming with schools near McQuesten Urban Farm. HWDSB Focus on Youth program partners with McQuesten Urban Farm for summer student placements.</li> </ul> <p>Since the pandemic, the number of community gardens has increased in</p>

		Hamilton overall. Many of these community gardens are coordinated by other organizations, off City property and supported by the Community Garden Network coordinated by Neighbour to Neighbour.
<p><b>CCIAP Action 9.2:</b> Expand rain water capture (i.e. rain barrels, cisterns, etc.) as an irrigation source for more localized food production (i.e. backyard farming, urban gardens, soft landscapes, etc.)</p> <p>Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	Public Works, Hamilton Water	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Currently stormwater funding fee review has been completed and Council approved the fee structure. Finance Staff, in consultation with internal Steering Committee and Working Groups, are expected to launch a communications and engagement plan across the City to consult on developing financial incentives for property owners to capture rainfall and use it on their property.</p>
<p><b>CCIAP Action 9.3:</b> Engage with local agricultural leaders to understand existing resources for farmers in addressing climate adaptation, and how the City can support or expand on those efforts.</p> <p>Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	Office of Climate Change Initiatives, Economic Development; and Healthy and Safe Communities	<p><b>NOT STARTED</b></p> <p>*Status update refers to City initiated efforts only</p>

<p><b>CCIAP Action 9.4:</b> Develop an educational campaign directed at restaurant and grocery industries, local farms and other possible food sources to better reduce and divert food waste and explore opportunities to reduce food waste.</p> <p>Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	<p>Public Works, Waste Management Healthy &amp; Safe Communities</p>	<p><b>NOT STARTED</b> Addressing food waste is highlighted as an action within the Food Strategy that may be incorporated into future work.</p>
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Resilient Theme #4 - Energy and Economy		
HCAS Actions and Timelines	Lead Department/Division	Status Update
<p><b>CCIAP Action 11.1:</b> Work with local partners to conduct vulnerability and risk assessments on local energy systems and identify opportunities to increase local energy generation (e.g. microgrids) to increase reliability (potentially as part of planned CEEP priority actions around identifying renewable energy generation sites within the City).</p> <p>Medium-term (2-5 years)</p>	<p>Public Works, Corporate Facilities &amp; Energy Management</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b> Energy Management Section - in discussion with HCE (District Energy) on greening their generation of District Energy, future addition of more loads in downtown core. It plans to conduct feasibility study around renewable energy generation opportunities and battery storage at various sites. Leaders from Energy Management Section also participates in various industry working groups that discuss provincial energy demand and supply and explore best practices and partnerships around this topic.</p>

<p><b>CCIAP Action 11.2:</b> Establish low-carbon back-up power systems in all City-owned facilities to serve as community hubs during emergencies and create a policy to support and promote the use of low- or no-carbon emergency energy supplies such as batteries or energy storage for residents and businesses.</p> <p>Long-term (&gt;5 years)</p>	<p>Public Works, Corporate Facilities &amp; Energy Management</p>	<p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>Corporate Facilities &amp; Energy Management (CFEM) has initiated a review of multiple generators within Corporate Facilities portfolio and is assessing opportunities to switch to low carbon fuel - including appropriate generator sizing for enhanced resiliency.</p> <p>CFEM is also exploring opportunities to increase biogas production at its two existing sites and potential market opportunity to convert into RNG to support conversion from natural gas to low carbon fuel. This also includes purchasing RNG from gas utilities.</p>
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# 2023 Annual Update

# The Office of Climate Change Initiatives (OCCI) Team

**Lynda Lukasik** – Director

**Trevor Imhoff** – Senior Project Manager

**Cathrin Winkelmann** – Senior Project Manager

**Beatrice Ekoko** – Project Manager



# Presentation Overview

- OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Areas Progress Update
- Hamilton GHG Inventory Update
- Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy (HCAS)  
Mitigation & Adaptation Actions Status Update
- Recommended 2023 Climate Change Reserve  
Investments



# OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Area

## Climate Change Governance & Innovation

- City of Hamilton internal **Climate Change Initiatives Steering Committee** established and now meeting
- City of Hamilton **Climate Change Initiatives Extended Leadership Group** being formed
- 2 new OCCI staff recruited and on-boarded
- **Community Climate Change Advisory Committee** establishment underway



# Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC)



Provide advice to Council and City Staff on the prioritization, implementation, and monitoring of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy



Advise to ensure equitable and inclusive implementation



Understand and respond to diverse perspectives across Hamilton

# Climate Change Advisory Committee Progress

January 2023: Committee Terms of Reference approved by Council



June – August 2023: Community Engagement. Stakeholders and residents invited to formally apply to serve on the Committee



Over 60 applications were received



Current Status: Application review underway through the Interview Sub-Committee of the GIC with support from OCCI staff



An Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled as soon as Committee membership is finalized

# OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Area

## Community Climate Outreach

- Development of a Climate Communications & Engagement Strategy is underway
- Agreement and partnership with the Bay Area Climate Change Council has been finalized
- OCCI annual reporting format and methodology were established and applied to 2023 report

# Climate Communications & Engagement Strategy

Raise awareness about the climate crisis in Hamilton to mobilize action

Inform about HCAS and its implementation progress

Highlight City of Hamilton climate leadership and collaborative efforts

Align with relevant City Communications & Engagement Strategies

Centre climate justice. Help ensure it is integrated throughout all municipal work

Provide key messaging around climate-related programs and opportunities


Promote key programs, opportunities, and resources and gain greater participation

Offer a platform for two-way communication on climate issues with the public

Celebrate stakeholder/community-led achievements

# Climate Justice

Recognizes the disproportionate impacts of climate change on low-income, under-served, marginalized, racialized communities, and people and places least responsible for causing the climate crisis



Addresses the root causes of climate change and in doing so, seeks solutions that simultaneously tackle the broad range of social, racial, and environmental injustices.

# OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Area

## Hamilton's Carbon Accounting and Budgeting Framework

Creating accountability and governance to operationalize GHG emission reductions and climate resiliency into the City of Hamilton

PILLAR 1: Net-zero Calculations

Calculating fair share finite carbon budget aligning with 1.5 C global warming target

PILLAR 2: Protocols and Processes

Create clear, transparent protocols/processes to align budget and planning processes

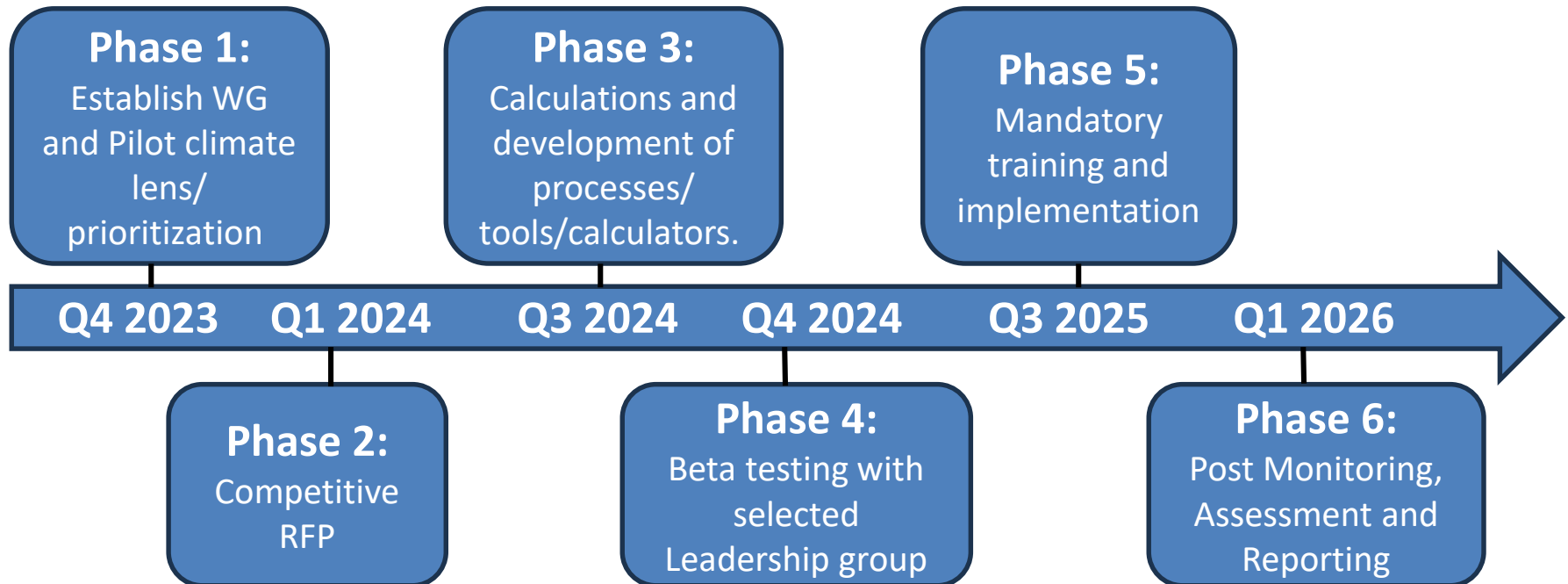
PILLAR 3: Tools and Resources

Tools/Resources/Calculators to support City Staff, and Leadership to implement.

# OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Area

## Hamilton's Carbon Accounting and Budgeting Framework Continued...

Multi-year systematic approach to embed climate change prioritization into annual budgeting and planning processes



# OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Area

## Green Buildings

- **Implement Better Homes Hamilton pilot residential energy efficiency retrofit program**
  - Guiding Principles of BHH
  - Program Eligibility
  - Eligible Retrofits
  - Program Administration
  - Current status





# OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Area

## Green Buildings

- **Develop an “Energy Performance/Net Zero” standard and strategy for implementation for all new municipal buildings by Q4 2024**
  - On-going collaboration initiated with Corporate Facilities and Energy Management and the Office of Energy Initiatives on development of the new standard



CityHousing Hamilton 257 King William Street

# OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Area

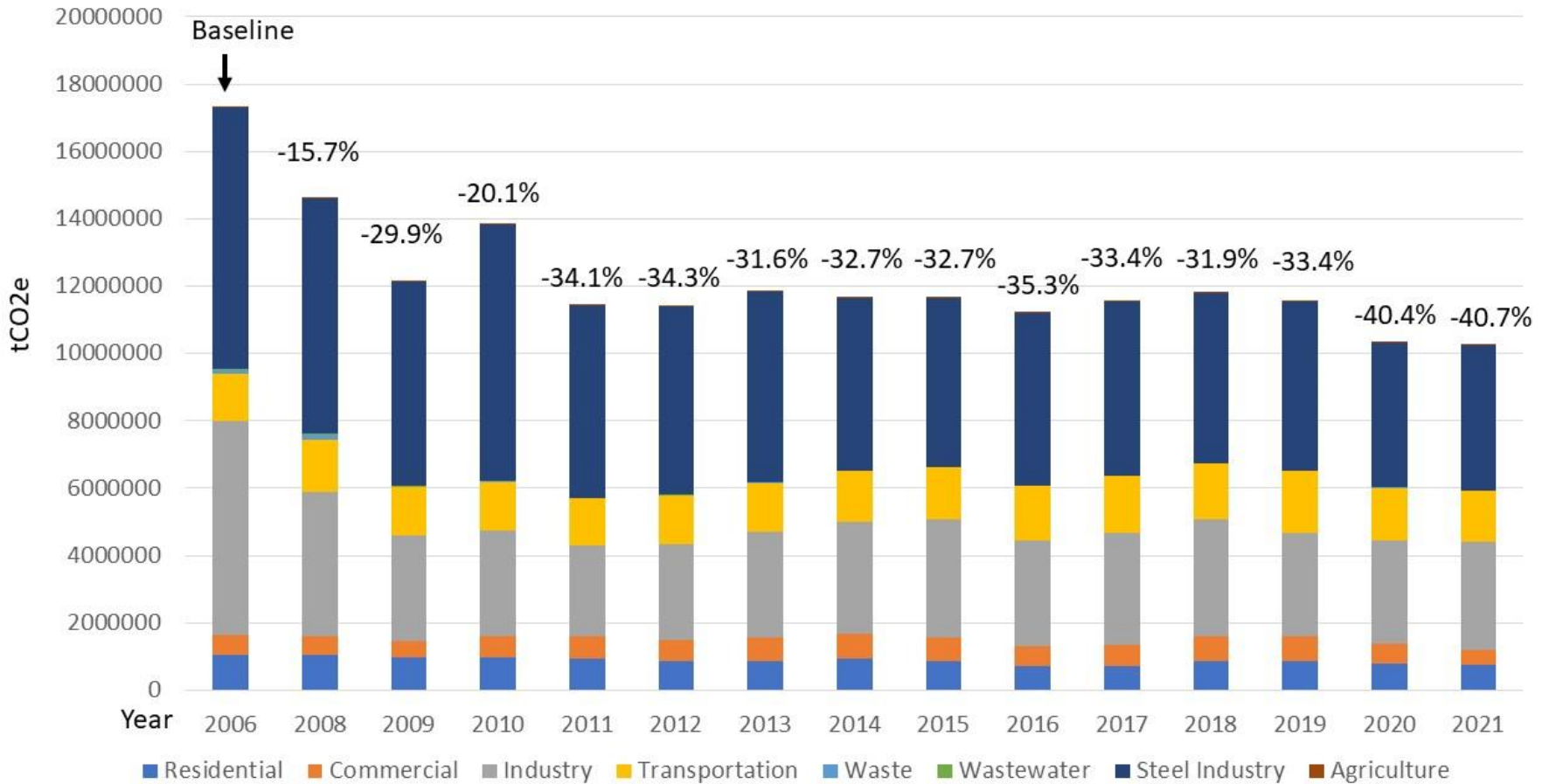
## Urban Greening

- Efforts are on-going to facilitate implementation of enhanced urban greening initiatives



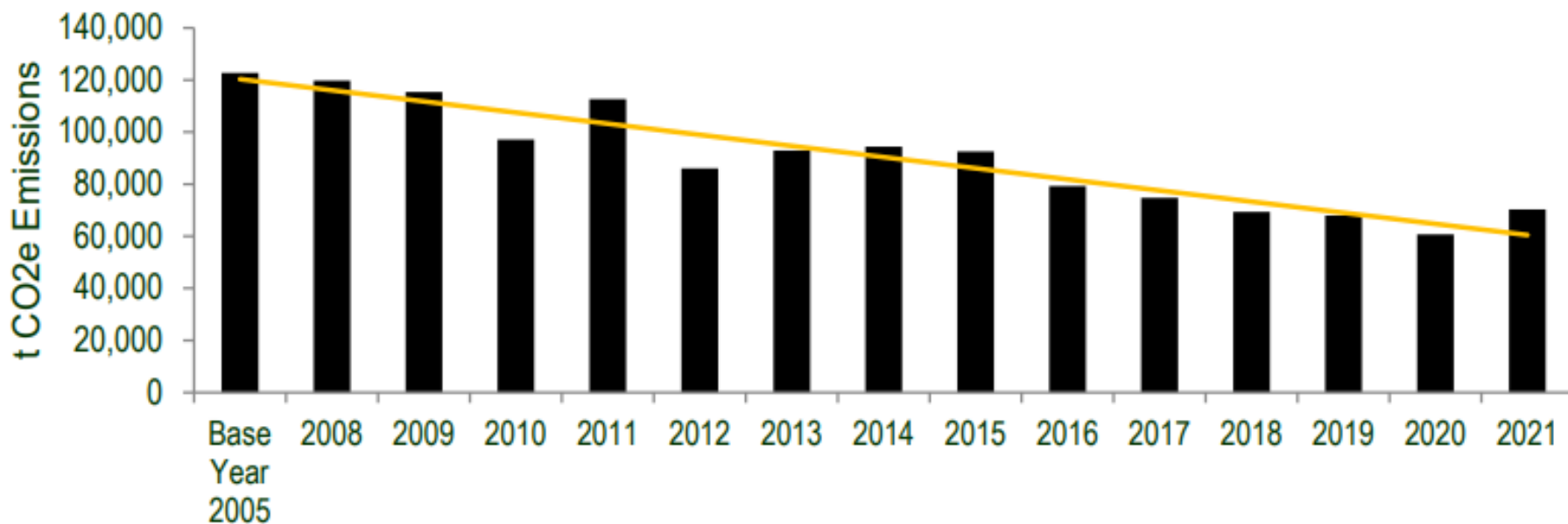
# Hamilton's GHG Emissions Inventory Update

## Community-Wide GHG Emissions 2006-2021



# Hamilton's GHG Emissions Inventory Update

## Corporate GHG Emissions 2005-2021



(Adapted from Appendix "A" to Report PW21049(b))

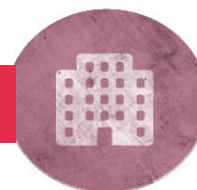
# Climate Mitigation Actions Status Updates

## TRANSFORMATION 1: Innovating Our Industry



- ArcelorMittal Dofasco 3.0 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e decarbonization plan
- City of Hamilton leading and supporting creation of Regional Decarbonization Hub

## TRANSFORMATION 2: Transforming Our Buildings



- Launching Better Homes Hamilton Pilot Program
- City developing 'Green Development Standards' to guide sustainable development
- CityHousing Hamilton leader in Passive House Construction

# Climate Mitigation Actions Status Updates

## TRANSFORMATION 3: Changing How We Move



- Bike Share and E-Scooter Programs as of August 2023 logged 557,353KM of travel
- City accelerating completion of Cycling Master Plan and set to fully decommission diesel buses by 2026

## TRANSFORMATION 4: Revolutionizing Renewables



- HCE Energy Harvesting Initiative
- City partnering with McMaster University – Thermal Energy Mapping for the Decarbonization of Building Systems

## TRANSFORMATION 5: Growing Green



- City of Hamilton Forestry and Horticulture doubles community tree plantings to 1,970 trees and surpasses Free Tree giveaway goal of 3,000 to 3,536

# Climate Adaptation Actions Status Update



## RESILIENT THEME 1: Built Environment/Systems

- In 2022, City winter sidewalk maintenance increased from 397km to 866km.
- Development of a municipal stormwater fee is well underway, including exploration of incentives/ credits to support on-property stormwater management measures.

## RESILIENT THEME 2: People and Health



- Licensing and Bylaw Services along with Public Health will prepare an Adequate Heat Bylaw for City Council review and approval in Q1 2024.
- A Heat Response Strategy is getting community input & going to Public Health Committee in Q1 2024. It will enhance City programming, including supporting community efforts like networks of neighbourhood caring.

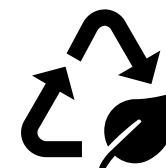
# Climate Adaptation Actions Status Updates



## RESILIENT THEME 3: Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water

- City Forestry's Community Tree Planting Program has harnessed volunteer power to plant over 3,600 trees on city property, 50% more than planned for 2023.
- On-going naturalization efforts are underway in a number of city parks and a Land Acquisition Plan was presented to GIC in September 2023.

## RESILIENT THEME 4: Energy and Economy



- Corporate Facilities & Energy Management is exploring opportunities to increase biogas production at its two existing sites and potential market opportunities to convert biogas into RNG to support conversion from natural gas to low carbon fuel.



# Status Update – Actions Not Yet Started

## TRANSFORMATION 2: Transforming Our Buildings



- Install solar PV on new and existing buildings

## TRANSFORMATION 4: Revolutionizing Renewables



- Encourage development of local renewable energy cooperatives.
- Implement strategic renewable solar energy installations



## RESILIENT THEME 3: Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water

- Engage with local agricultural leaders to understand existing resources for farmers in addressing climate adaptation, and how the City can support or expand on those efforts.

# Recognizing Community Climate Action



Community planting trees



Rose standing in her garden



Green Block Growing: Action 13

A “whole society” approach

## Previously Approved 2023 Climate Change Reserve Investments

Project	Details	Funding
<b>Natural Areas Inventory Update</b>	To update Hamilton's Natural Areas Inventory to set a baseline to measure changes – both positive and negative - over time.	\$200,000
<b>Natural Areas Acquisition Fund</b>	To provide funding to eligible Conservation Organizations for land acquisition up to 50% of the cost.	\$150,000
<b>Better Homes Hamilton Home Energy Retrofit Pilot</b>	To cover costs for program administration	\$275,000
<b>Hamilton Regional Decarbonization Hub</b>	To support the operation of this proposed multi-stakeholder process	\$80,000
<b>Community Climate Change Advisory Committee</b>	To support the functioning of the Committee, including provision of supports to participants	\$9,000
<b>EV Charging Electrical Upgrades at City Facilities</b>	To enable electrical capacity upgrades to support EV charging stations needed for City Fleet EVs.	\$535,000

## Recommended 2023 Climate Change Reserve Investments

Project	Details	Funding
<b>E-Bike Pilot for Hamilton Bike Share</b>	Purchase 100 e-bikes, associated equipment, & cover contractual costs to Bike Share to manage the e-bikes, to enable a 3-year 'Bike Share E-Bike Pilot Program' in Hamilton.	\$750,000
<b>Municipal Parking Lot Greening &amp; Climate Adaptation</b>	Pilot different porous asphalts, plant native trees & plants, & incorporate bike parking and street furniture at six city parking lots.	\$200,000
<b>Enhancement &amp; Expansion of Secure Bike Parking Facilities</b>	Enhance existing secure bike parking facilities and establish new secure bike parking facilities at transit hubs & major destinations.	\$350,000
<b>De-Paving Pilot Project</b>	Undertake targeted de-paving initiatives on City-owned lands to test strategies for enhanced stormwater retention, tree canopy coverage and urban greening.	\$350,000
<b>Fire Truck Anti-Idling Technology</b>	Retrofit 15 existing large diesel apparatus with battery-powered 'auxiliary power units' (APUs)	\$900,000

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That Appendix “A” to Report PED23222 “Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy Annual Climate Change Update 2023” be received.
- (b) That Appendix “B” to Report PED23222 “Status Update Regarding Climate Actions In Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy” be received.
- (c) That the following investments to be funded from the 2023 Budget allocation to the Climate Change Reserve (Account No 108062) be approved:
  - (i) E-Bike Pilot for Hamilton Bike Share to an upset limit of \$750k
  - (ii) Municipal Parking Lot Greening / Climate Adaptation pilot project to an upset limit of \$200k
  - (iii) Enhancement/Expansion of Secure Bike Parking Facilities to an upset limit of \$350k
  - (iv) De-paving pilot project to an upset limit of \$350k
  - (v) Fire Truck Anti-Idling Technology to an upset limit of \$900k



Hamilton

THANK YOU



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT**  
**Housing Services Division**  
**and**  
**CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**Financial Planning Administration and Policy Division**  
**and**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**General Manager's Office**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	October 18, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation Housing Accelerator Fund (HSC23017(a)/FCS23062(a)/PED23143(a))
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Al Fletcher (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4711 Kamba Ankunda (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4557
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Chris Herstek Acting General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Mike Zegarac General Manager, Corporate Services Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Steve Robichaud Acting General Manager, Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (a) That staff be directed to execute the Housing Action Plan initiatives as outlined in Report HSC23017(a)/FCS23062(a)/PED23143(a), and that staff be directed to bring forward for Council's consideration the necessary policy process, program and required authorities and proposed delegations and regulatory adjustments required to implement the Housing Action Plan initiatives including, as appropriate financial and staffing implications and affordability requirements;

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

- (b) That the General Manager of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department be authorized to make any necessary revisions or adjustments to the Housing Action Plan initiatives, and to provide any required reporting, as necessary, to deliver and administer the Housing Accelerator Fund in accordance with all Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation requirements; and;
- (c) That the General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities Department be authorized and directed to enter into and execute all ancillary agreements and documents as may be required to deliver and administer Housing Accelerator Fund initiatives four and six as outlined in this report with terms and content satisfactory to the General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities Department and in form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On June 7, 2023, through Report HSC23017/FCS23062/PED23143 Council authorised the City Manager to submit a Housing Accelerator Fund application to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The primary objective of the Housing Accelerator Fund is to create housing at an accelerated pace and enhance certainty in the approvals and building process.

The City of Hamilton submitted its Housing Accelerator Fund application on June 14, 2023, which included the required Housing Action Plan outlining seven initiatives that the City would undertake to accelerate housing development in the City. Through Report HSC23017/FCS23062/PED23143, Council also approved an investment strategy for the Housing Accelerator Fund funds.

On October 10, 2023, the Federal government announced a Housing Accelerator Fund Agreement with the City of Hamilton. The approval included some refinements and revisions to the City's submitted Housing Action Plan, as summarized in this report. Overall, the Federal government will provide \$93.5 million in funding to the City.

With the support of the Federal Government through the Housing Accelerator Fund investment, the City of Hamilton has set a target of increasing its historical average of newly constructed residential units by 2,675 net new units over the next three years.

## **FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation has allocated \$93.54 M to Hamilton to produce 2,675 net new residential units. Corporate Services staff will set up appropriate financial tracking within the City's financial systems including a new Dept ID for this funding. A Reserve Fund Account #112259 has also been set up for the Housing Accelerator Fund Surplus.



Funding will be provided to the City in four payments of 25% of the allocated funding over the term of the program subject to compliance with the terms and conditions of the Contribution Agreement. The Housing Accelerator Fund Funding will be disbursed in four separate advances as follows:

Advances	Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation Fiscal Year	Amount
First	2023/24 (Effective Date – March 31, 2024)	\$23,385,000
Second	2024/25 (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025)	\$23,385,000
Third	2025/26 (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)	\$23,385,000
Fourth	2026/27 (April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027)	\$23,385,000

The utilization of Housing Accelerator Fund program funds was approved by Council through Report HSC23017/FCS23062/PED23143. A portion of the Housing Accelerator Fund funds will be invested directly in the seven initiatives outlined in the Housing Action Plan. This includes staffing and administrative costs, as well as the funding of the various incentive and grant programs.

Report HSC23017/FCS23062/PED23143 also approved that any Housing Accelerator Fund surplus funding, beyond what is needed to create and deliver the various policy and incentive programs, be allocated as follows:

- (i) 15% contingency held to support Housing Accelerator Fund initiatives to extend beyond 2026 as required by Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- (ii) 45% to Affordable Housing Funding Program Dept ID to support capital investment in the development of new not-for-profit led affordable housing developments
- (iii) 40% to be allocated to eligible Growth-Related Infrastructure and Growth Planning projects to support new housing, with specific infrastructure projects to be determined through the annual Budget process

Staff have not yet confirmed the full costing of the various Housing Action Plan initiatives; however, as an initial estimate, staff anticipate the following utilization:

Advance	Program Costs	Contingency 15% of Housing Accelerator Fund Surplus	Affordable Housing Funding Program 45% of Housing Accelerator Fund Surplus	Growth and infrastructure 40% of Housing Accelerator Fund Surplus
First	\$8,227,500	\$2,273,625	\$6,820,875	\$6,063,300
Second	\$8,227,500	\$2,273,625	\$6,820,875	\$6,063,300
Third	\$8,227,500	\$2,273,625	\$6,820,875	\$6,063,300
Fourth	\$8,227,500	\$2,273,625	\$6,820,875	\$6,063,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,910,000</b>	<b>\$9,094,500</b>	<b>\$27,283,500</b>	<b>\$24,252,000</b>

The estimates above present a projected utilization of funding dependent upon the uptake of the Housing Accelerator Fund initiatives. As provided in Report HSC23017/FCS23062/PED23143, the calculation of the annual surplus will be done at the time of the receipt of the annual advance. This ensures that the incentives within the Housing Accelerator Fund and Housing Action Plan can be funded up to that date. Housing Accelerator Fund does not provide an opportunity to pre-spend the anticipated surplus at the expense of the building permit generating initiatives.

**Staffing:** Through Report HSC23017/FCS23062/PED23143, Council provided the City Manager with the delegated authority to hire staff as necessary to support and administer the Housing Accelerator Fund initiatives provided that the staff will be fully funded through the Housing Accelerator Fund revenues. The report estimated that approximately 14 staff would be required, at an annual expense of \$1.85 (approximately \$7.4 M for the program period), with no impact on the tax operating budget. The additional staff are needed in the Planning and Economic Development Department, Healthy and Safe Communities Department - Housing Services Division, Corporate Services - Finance Planning Administration and Policy Division, and Legal Services Division to implement the Housing Action Plan.

**Legal:** Legal Services staff reviewed the Contribution Agreement prior to execution by the City. Legal staff will be involved in the review of Housing Action Plan programs as well as the development of agreement with residents utilizing the Housing Accelerator Fund incentives.

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## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

On April 7, 2022, the Federal Government proposed a budget which included a plan to support municipalities nation-wide in creating 100,000 new residential units using an investment of \$4 billion. On March 20, 2023, Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation released the Pre-Application Reference Material outlining the Housing Accelerator Fund.

At the May 31, 2023, General Issues Committee meeting, City staff presented Report HSC23017/FCS23062/PED23143 to Council that included a recommended Housing Action Plan and Housing Accelerator Fund application. As required by Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the City's report was presented to Council in camera. The report was approved by Council on June 7, 2023.

On June 14, 2023, staff submitted a Housing Accelerator Fund application to Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

On October 5, 2023, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the City executed a Contribution Agreement in which the City will receive an allocation of \$93,450,000 to support the creation of 2,675 net new residential units.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

The City of Hamilton's population is projected to grow by approximately 40 percent to 820,000 by the year 2051. Through recent work completed by the City as part of the Growth-Related Integrated Development Strategy in accordance with *A Place to Grow – Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019* (as amended), approximately 35,000 new residential dwellings are required to meet Hamilton's growing population by the year 2031 and 77,500 new residential dwellings to 2051.

As part of a long-term strategy to facilitate the construction of 1.5 Million Homes over the next 10 years the Province developed the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* (Bill 23), which assigned the City a housing target of 47,000 additional dwellings which is also known as the Housing Pledge.

The Housing Accelerator Fund presents an opportunity to help meet the City's housing targets through the proposed Housing Action Plan initiatives including supporting Zoning By-Law reforms that provide additional as-of-right housing permissions, supporting rental housing development along rapid transit lines, and leveraging City-owned lands.

In August 2020 Council endorsed a 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan with the first outcome area to increase the supply of affordable housing with a stretch target of developing 350 new units per year. The Housing Sustainability Investment

Roadmap approved by Council further provides a path forward in addressing the housing crisis in Hamilton and addressing a healthy housing continuum. The City's Housing Accelerator Fund submission included specific programs and initiatives targeted at building affordable housing and incentivizing new affordable housing, as part of achieving the overall housing target.

The implementation of the initiatives outlined in the City's Housing Accelerator Fund application will require various changes in existing City polices and regulations, such as City zoning by-laws, as well as the creation of new funding and incentive programs. These initiatives will be the subject of future staff reports and subject to future Council approvals.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Staff in Planning and Economic Development Department, Healthy and Safe Communities Department, Housing Services Division, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy, Communications and Legal Services were involved in the development of Housing Accelerator Fund initiatives. Housing Services Division staff continue to meet with Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation on regular basis to review additional Housing Accelerator Fund requirements.

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

### **Housing Action Plan**

The Housing Action Plan approved by Council through Report HSC23017/FCS23062/PED23143 and submitted to Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation recommended applying for \$123 M with an objective of incenting a total 2,700 net new units (900 annually) above the City's historical average level of housing production. The Housing Action Plan included seven City initiatives to accelerate housing development. Through the review process, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation required some program changes to the City's submission. Ultimately Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation approved an allocation to the City of Hamilton of \$93.5 million with a commitment to creating 2,675 net new residential units, based on the seven Housing Action Plan initiatives outlined below.

### **Initiative #1: Acceleration Program for Accessory Dwelling Units and Multi-plex Conversions**

The City will create a new "Acceleration Team" to expedite the review and approval of applications for accessory dwelling units such as basement apartments and laneway homes, and for the conversion of existing dwellings into multi-unit dwellings. The City will also create new information materials, supports and financial incentives such as fee

waivers for homeowners who wish to create these units. An additional incentive program will be created for the building of new affordable accessory dwelling units.

- This initiative targets 350 net new residential units per year including a target of at least 50 affordable housing units

### **Initiative #2: Rapid Transit Multi-Residential Rental Housing Grant Program**

The City will create a new incentive program to support the creation of purpose-built market rental housing units and affordable housing units along the City's Rapid Transit Network including the City's proposed BLAST (City of Hamilton's Rapid Transit Lines) - E Re- envision Rapid Transit Network, specifically A-Line and B-Line higher order transit lines. This initiative presents the potential to increase transit ridership, grow communities with easy access across the City of Hamilton and encourage development near higher order transit.

- This initiative targets 325 net new residential units per year including a target of at least 50 affordable housing units

### **Initiative #3: Housing Acceleration Zoning Reform Program**

The City will continue its ongoing work to update the City's zoning and land use policies to provide as-of-right permissions for new housing development. This includes continuing to extend as-of-right zoning permissions for conversions and new construction of missing middle housing (e.g. duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes), reducing or eliminating minimum parking requirements, and pre-zoning transit corridors and urban nodes.

- This initiative targets 150 net new residential units per year including a target of at least 45 affordable housing units

### **Initiative #4: Land and Property Disposition Program for Housing**

The City will create a dedicated team within the City's Real Estate Section to identify and implement opportunities for disposition of City-owned lands for the purpose of developing affordable housing. The team will also identify opportunities for the integration of new housing as part of future municipal building projects.

- No specific number of targeted units attached to this initiative.

### **Initiative #5: New and Enhanced Incentive Programs for Housing Development**

This initiative will include a review and creation or expansion of programs and incentives that promote the development of housing across the City. This will include implementing

the necessary programs, changes to City policy frameworks, and enhancements to existing incentive programs with a view to meeting the current challenges facing proponents of market housing, rental housing and affordable housing.

- This initiative targets 50 net new residential units per year

### **Initiative #6: Planning Review and Studies for Rapid Transit Corridors**

The City will expedite the completion of planning studies and updated zoning standards along the City's rapid transit corridors to support higher density and mixed-use development, and to identify the infrastructure needed to support new residential development.

- No new units are attached to this initiative

### **Initiative #7: Support Housing Development on Remediated Brownfield Sites**

The City will expand its existing Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement (ERASE) program to provide enhanced financial assistance for the remediation of brownfield lands to support new housing development, with a particular focus on non-profit affordable housing developments.

- This initiative targets 50 units throughout the program period.

### **Reporting Requirements**

Staff will be required to maintain reporting to Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation at an interval of six months from first payment, then annually until program completion. The reporting must align with the Housing Action Plan and shall demonstrate ongoing commitment to attaining the approved unit target. To date, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation has not released reporting templates. However, it is understood by staff that the building permit numbers for units resulting from initiatives in the Housing Action Plan will be required as a key reporting requirement.

### **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

None

### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A



Hamilton

# HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND

**General Issues Committee**

**October 18, 2023**

# Background

- HAF is a \$4 billion investment resulting from the Federal Government's April 2022 budget, which will support municipalities nation-wide in creating 100,000 new residential units.
- The primary objective of the HAF is to create housing at an accelerated pace and enhance certainty in the approvals and building process.
- The CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) provides incentive funding to local governments to encourage local initiatives that remove barriers to housing supply and accelerate the growth of housing supply
- The overall goal of HAF is to increase residential building permits beyond what municipalities are currently experiencing.
- HAF is NOT a fund for municipalities to apply to make whole from DC Exemptions of Bill 23 BUT surplus can be used to fund some Growth-Related Infrastructure
- HAF is NOT an affordable housing creation program BUT can be used to create new affordable housing opportunities and Fund City-invested projects

2



# Timeline Since June 7<sup>th</sup> Council Approval

- May 31, 2023, General Issues Committee meeting, City staff presented a report to Council that included a recommended Housing Action Plan and HAF application. As required by CMHC, the City's report was presented to Council in camera.
- June 7, 2023, Council approves the May 31, 2023, GIC report requesting \$123 M to build 2,900 net new residential units per the Housing Action Plan attached as Appendix "A" to Confidential Report HSC23017/FCS23062/PED23143 subject to negotiation with CMHC
- On June 14, 2023, the City submits its HAF Application to CMHC
- On October 10, 2023, the Federal Government announces a Housing Accelerator Fund Agreement with City of Hamilton. The Approval included some refinements and revisions to the City's submitted Housing Action Plan.
- Overall, the federal government will provide \$93.5 million in funding to the City of Hamilton to incent 2,675 net new residential units.

# Housing Action Plan

Council recommended applying for \$123 M with an objective of incenting a total 2,700 net new units (900 annually) above the City’s historical average level of housing production. Through the review process, CMHC required some program changes to the City’s submission. Ultimately CMHC approved an allocation to the City of Hamilton of \$93.5 million with a commitment to creating 2,675 net new residential units, based on the seven Housing Action Plan initiatives outlined below.



# Initiative 1

## Acceleration Program for Accessory Dwelling Units and Multi-plex Conversions:

The City will create a new “Acceleration Team” to expedite the review and approval of applications for accessory dwelling units such as basement apartments and laneway homes, and for the conversion of existing dwellings into multi-unit dwellings. The City will also create new information materials, supports and financial incentives such as fee waivers for homeowners who wish to create these units. An additional incentive program will be created for the building of new affordable accessory dwelling units.

- This initiative targets 350 net new residential units per year including a target of at least 50 affordable housing units
- Includes 100% of building permit to max \$2,000 and
- \$25k per affordable units (minimum 15-year commitment)

# Initiative 2

## Rapid Transit Multi-Residential Rental Housing Grant Program:

The City will create a new incentive program to support the creation of purpose-built market rental housing units and affordable housing units along the City's Rapid Transit Network including the City's proposed BLAST-E Re-envision Rapid Transit Network, specifically the A-Line and B-Line higher order transit corridors. This initiative presents the potential to increase transit ridership, grow communities with easy access across the City of Hamilton and encourage development near higher order transit.

- This initiative targets 325 net new residential units per year including a target of at least 50 affordable housing units

# Initiative 3

## Housing Acceleration Zoning Reform Program:

The City will continue its ongoing work to update the City's zoning and land use policies to provide as-of-right permissions for new housing development. This includes continuing to extend as-of-right zoning permissions for conversions and new construction of missing middle housing (e.g. duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes), reducing or eliminating minimum parking requirements, and pre-zoning transit corridors and urban nodes.

- This initiative targets 150 net new residential units per year including a target of at least 45 affordable housing units
- \$25k for affordable unit (minimum 15-year commitment)

# Non-building Permit Related Initiatives

- **#4: Land and Property Disposition:**

The City will create a dedicated team within the City's Real Estate Section to identify and implement opportunities for disposition of City lands for the purpose of developing affordable housing. The team will also identify opportunities for the integration of new housing as part of future municipal building projects.

  - No specific number of targeted units attached to this initiative.
- **#5: New and Enhanced Incentive Programs for Housing Development:**

This initiative will include a review and creation or expansion of programs and incentives that promote the development of housing across the City. This will include implementing the necessary programs, changes to City policy frameworks, and enhancements to existing incentive programs with a view to meeting the current challenges facing proponents of market housing, rental housing and affordable housing.

  - This initiative targets 50 net new residential units per year

## #6: Planning Review and Studies for Rapid Transit Corridors beyond the LRT

The City will expedite the completion of planning studies and updated zoning standards along the City's rapid transit corridors to support higher density and mixed-use development, and to identify the infrastructure needed to support new residential development.

- No new units are attached to this initiative

## #7: Support the development of Units on Remediated Brownfield Sites

The City will expand its existing Environmental Remediation and Site Enhancement (ERASE) program to provide enhanced financial assistance for the remediation of brownfield lands to support new housing development, with a particular focus on non-profit affordable housing developments.

- This initiative targets 50 units throughout the program period.

# HAF Allocation per CA

- Allocation = \$93,450,000 for 2,675 net new residential units.

## HAF Advance Schedule:

HAF Funds will be advanced as follows;

Advances	CMHC Fiscal Year	Amount
First Advance	2023/24 (Effective Date – March 31, 2024)	\$23,385,000.00
Second Advance	2024/25 (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025)	\$23,385,000.00
Third Advance	2025/26 (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)	\$23,385,000.00
Fourth Advance	2026/27 (April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027)	\$23,385,000.00



# HAF Allocation Summary

Based on Approved Net new 2,675 residential units

Estimated Payment Date	Allocation	Program Costs	HAF Funding Surplus
October 2023	\$23.38 M	\$8.22 M	\$15.16 M
April 2024	\$23.38 M	\$8.22 M	\$15.16 M
April 2025	\$23.38 M	\$8.22 M	\$15.16 M
April 2026	\$23.38 M	\$8.22 M	\$15.16 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$93.45 M</b>	<b>\$32.91 M</b>	<b>\$60.6 M</b>

# Planned HAF Advance Utilization

Per Recommendation (e) of Report HSC23017/FCS23062/PED23143

Advance	Program Costs	Contingency 15% of HAF Surplus	AHFP 45% of HAF Surplus	Growth and infrastructure 40% of HAF Surplus
First Advance	\$8,227,500	\$2,273,625	\$6,820,875	\$6,063,300
Second Advance	\$8,227,500	\$2,273,625	\$6,820,875	\$6,063,300
Third Advance	\$8,227,500	\$2,273,625	\$6,820,875	\$6,063,300
Fourth Advance	\$8,227,500	\$2,273,625	\$6,820,875	\$6,063,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,910,000</b>	<b>\$9,094,500</b>	<b>\$27,283,500</b>	<b>\$24,252,000</b>

**Note:** HAF surplus allocation is dependent upon uptake of programs including covering costs for incentives

- Calculation of the annual surplus will be done at the time of the receipt of the annual funding allocation from CMHC which ensures the incentives within the HAF Housing Action Plan can be funded up to that date.
- There would not be an opportunity to “pre-spend” the HAF surplus
- HAF program requires that the City provide a current Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) for the entire City before the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the program. Per Recommendation (b) of Report HSC23017/FCS23062/PED23143
- Staff will be required to maintain reporting to CMHC at an interval of 6 (six) months from first payment, then annually until program completion.
- The reporting must align with the Housing Action Plan, provide records of building permits and demonstrate ongoing commitment to attaining the approved unit target. To date, CMHC has not released Reporting templates.

# Key Dates

- May 31, 2023: In-camera GIC - approval of Action Plan, staffing, delegate authority
- June 7, 2023: Council Ratification of May 31, 2023, GIC Report
- June 14, 2023: Deadline for submission of application by Growth Leaders
- October 5, 2023: Contribution Agreement Fully Executed
- October 10, 2023: Public Announcement of HAF Allocation in Hamilton
- **October 18, 2023: Council update Allocation and HAP**
- October 30, 2023: Expected receipt of 1<sup>st</sup> Advance
- **TDB, 2023: Council approval of CIPs**
- **March 31, 2024 First reporting**
- December 2024: Complete the Housing Needs Assessment
- December 2026: Program completion – expectation for initiatives to extend beyond 2026 as transformational change.



QUESTIONS?



**LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SUB-COMMITTEE  
REPORT 23-004**

10:30 a.m.

Monday, September 25, 2023

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

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**Present:** Mayor A. Horwath, Councillors M. Wilson (Chair), N. Nann (Vice-Chair) C. Cassar, J.P. Danko, M. Francis, T. Hwang and C. Kroetsch

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**THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SUB-COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 23-004 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

**1. Light Rail Transit Operations Models (PED23166(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)**

- (i) That Report PED23166(a), respecting Light Rail Transit Operations Models, be received.
- (ii) That staff be directed to extend an invitation to former Region of Waterloo Chief Administrative Officer, Mike Murray, to attend a meeting of the Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee, to share his insights and assessment of operations of the Region of Waterloo's Light Rail Transit System.

**2. Labour Relations Analysis of Light Rail Transit Model (HUR23014) (City Wide) (Item 15.1)**

That Report HUR23014, respecting Labour Relations Analysis of Light Rail Transit Model, be received and remain confidential.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)**

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

**6. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

**6.1 Delegation Requests Respecting Item 8.1 Light Rail Transit Operations Models (PED23166(a)) (for today's meeting) (Item 6.1)**

- (a) Paolo Testaguzza (Item 6.1(a))
- (b) Evan Ubene (Item 6.1(b))
- (c) Katie King, Keep Transit Public Coalition (Item 6.1(c))
- (d) Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton (Item 6.1(d))
- (e) Ritch Whyman, Hamilton and District Labour Council (Item 6.1(e))
- (f) Lucia Iannantuono, Hamilton 350 (Item 6.1(f))
- (g) Anthony J. Marco, Hamilton and District Labour Council (Item 6.1(g))

The agenda for the September 25, 2023 Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee meeting was approved, as amended.

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**

**(i) July 26, 2023 (Item 4.1)**

The Minutes of the July 26, 2023 meeting of the Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee were approved, as presented.

**(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)**

The following Delegation Requests were approved for today's meeting:

- (i) Delegation Requests Respecting Item 8.1 Light Rail Transit Operations Models (PED23166(a)) (Added Item 6.1)
  - (1) Paolo Testaguzza (Added Item 6.1(a))
  - (2) Evan Ubene (Added Item 6.1(b))
  - (3) Katie King, Keep Transit Public Coalition (Added Item 6.1(c))

- (4) Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton (Added Item 6.1(d))
- (5) Ritch Whyman, Hamilton and District Labour Council (Added Item 6.1(e))
- (6) Lucia Iannantuono, Hamilton 350 (Added Item 6.1(f))
- (7) Anthony Marco, Hamilton and District Labour Council (Added Item 6.1(g))

**(e) DELEGATIONS (Item 7)**

- (i) Katie King was approved to delegate on behalf of Anthony Marco, Hamilton and District Labour Council.
- (ii) The following Delegates addressed the Committee respecting Item 8.1 Light Rail Transit Operations Models (PED23166(a)) (Added Item 7.1):
  - (1) Paolo Testaguzza (Added Item 7.1(a))
  - (2) Evan Ubene (Added Item 7.1(b))
  - (3) Katie King, Keep Transit Public Coalition (Added Item 7.1(c))
  - (4) Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton (Added Item 7.1(d))
  - (5) Ritch Whyman, Hamilton and District Labour Council (Added Item 7.1(e))
  - (6) Lucia Iannantuono, Hamilton 350 (Added Item 7.1(f))
  - (7) Katie King on behalf of Anthony Marco, Hamilton and District Labour Council (Added Item 7.1(g))
- (iii) The following Delegations respecting Item 8.1 Light Rail Transit Operations Models (PED23166(a)), were received:
  - (a) Paolo Testaguzza (Added Item 7.1(a))
  - (b) Evan Ubene (Added Item 7.1(b))
  - (c) Katie King, Keep Transit Public Coalition (Added Item 7.1(c))
  - (d) Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton (Added Item 7.1(d))



- (e) Ritch Whyman, Hamilton and District Labour Council (Added Item 7.1(e))
- (f) Lucia Iannantuono, Hamilton 350 (Added Item 7.1(f))
- (g) Katie King on behalf of Anthony Marco, Hamilton and District Labour Council (Added Item 7.1(g))

**(f) PRESENTATIONS (Item 8)**

**(i) Light Rail Transit Operations Models (PED23166(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)**

Jason Thorne, General Manager of Planning and Economic Development, and Abdul Shaikh, Director of Hamilton Light Rail Transit, provided the Committee with a presentation respecting Report PED23166(a), Light Rail Transit Operations Models, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

The presentation by Jason Thorne, General Manager of Planning and Economic Development, and Abdul Shaikh, Director of Hamilton Light Rail Transit, respecting Report PED23166(a), Light Rail Transit Operations Models, was received.

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 1(i).

Councillor M. Wilson relinquished the Chair to Councillor Nann in order to introduce a Motion.

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 1(ii).

Councillor M. Wilson assumed the Chair.

**(g) PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

- (i) The Committee moved into Closed Session respecting Item 15.1, pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-section (d) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-section (d) of the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to labour relations or employee negotiations.

**(ii) Labour Relations Analysis of Light Rail Transit Model (HUR23014) (City Wide) (Item 15.1)**

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 2.

**(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 16)**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor M. Wilson, Chair,  
Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee

Carrie McIntosh  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk



## **COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROTOCOL SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT 23-001**

**9:00 a.m.**

**September 28, 2023**

Room 264, City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

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**Present:** K. Andrus, M. Ellerker, K. Haggar, Councillor T. Hwang,  
Councillor C. Kroetsch, Councillor N. Nann, V. Nikolskaya,  
Councillor M. Tadeson and Councillor M. Wilson

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### **THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROTOCOL SUB-COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 23-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

#### **1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair**

- (a) That Councillor C. Kroetsch be appointed as Chair of the Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee for 2023-2024.
- (b) That K. Andrus be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee for 2023-2024.

#### **2. Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee Terms of Reference (Item 9.1)**

That the Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee Terms of Reference, be received.

#### **3. Hamilton Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee Update (HSC23026) (City Wide) (Item 9.2)**

- (i) That Report HSC23026, respecting Hamilton Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee Update, be received.
- (ii)
  - (a) That staff be directed to report back on the Hamilton Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee respecting a summary of the pilots undertaken for social Request for Procurement (RFP); and
  - (b) That the report back include the 2019 Sandra Hamilton procurement report as an attachment.

**4. Realizing Community Benefits in the New HSR Transit Maintenance & Storage Facility (Added Item 11.1)**

WHEREAS, The City of Hamilton is undertaking a significant public Infrastructure project under Contract Number C13-02-23 – a requirement for a General Contractor to construct a new Hamilton Transit Maintenance and Storage Facility (MSF) in Ward Three.

WHEREAS the construction of the second Hamilton Transit Maintenance and Storage Facility is a project which will benefit Hamilton’s future transit initiatives for an overall benefit to the City.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to work collaboratively with the Contractor who, where practical and appropriate, will ensure that socially and environmentally responsible business practices are considered when employing workers and completing the work; and
- (b) That whatever measures are taken by the Contractor will result in zero cost overages to the approved project budget.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 2)**

The Committee Clerk advised the Committee of the following changes to the agenda:

**12. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**12.1 Realizing Community Benefits in the New HSR Transit Maintenance & Storage Facility**

The agenda for the September 28, 2023 Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee was approved, as amended.

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**(c) NOTICES OF MOTION (Item 12)**

**(i) Realizing Community Benefits in the New HSR Transit  
Maintenance & Storage Facility (Added Item 12.1)**

The Rules of Order were waived to allow for the introduction of a motion respecting Realizing Community Benefits in the New HSR Transit Maintenance & Storage Facility.

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 4.

**(d) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)**

There being no further business, the Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Cameron Kroetsch  
Chair, Community Benefits  
Protocol Sub-Committee

Matt Gauthier  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk



Hamilton

**INTERVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE TO THE  
GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE  
REPORT 23-002**

**3:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
City Hall**

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**Present:** Councillor N. Nann (Chair)  
Councillor T. Hwang (Vice-Chair)

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**THE INTERVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE  
PRESENTS REPORT 23-002 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

**1. Screening Tools to be Used During Deliberations of the Applications to the  
City of Hamilton's Advisory Committees (Item 4.2)**

(a) That the following screening tool be approved and remain confidential, for  
use during the Interviews for the Climate Change Advisory Committee:

(i) ***Amended*** Confidential Interview Questions – Climate Change  
Advisory Committee

**2. Deliberation of Applications to the Climate Change Advisory Committee  
(Item 4.3)**

That the direction provided to staff in closed session, be approved and remain  
confidential.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

The Committee Clerk advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

The agenda for the October 10, 2023 meeting of the Interview Sub-Committee to  
the General Issues Committee was approved, as presented.

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**(c) APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES (Item 3)****(i) September 25, 2023**

The minutes from the September 25, 2023 meeting of the Interview Sub-Committee to the General Issues Committee were approved, as presented.

**(d) PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL (Item 4)****(i) Closed Session Minutes - September 25, 2023**

The Closed Session minutes from the September 25, 2023 meeting of the Interview Sub-Committee to the General Issues Committee were approved and remain confidential.

Committee moved into Closed Session for Items 4.2 and 4.3 pursuant to Section 9.3 sub-sections (b) and (i) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (b) and (i) of the *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, as the subject matters pertain to personal matters about identifiable individuals, including municipal or local board employees; and a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the City or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons.

**(ii) Screening Tools to be Used During Deliberations of the Applications to the City of Hamilton's Advisory Committees (Item 4.2)**

For further disposition, refer to Item 1.

**(iii) Deliberation of Applications to the Climate Change Advisory Committee (Item 4.3)**

For further disposition, refer to Item 2.

**(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 5)**

There being no further business, the Interview Sub-Committee to the General Issues Committee adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

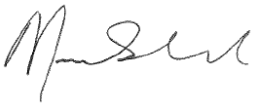
Councillor N. Nann, Chair  
Interview Sub-Committee to the  
General Issues Committee

Angela McRae  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk





**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Economic Development Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	October 18, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	King West Business Improvement Area Dormancy (PED23198) (Ward 2)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 2
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Cristina Geissler (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2632
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Norm Schleeahn Director, Economic Development Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Dormant Business Improvement Area Status Procedure, as attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED23198, be adopted;
- (b) That the King West Business Improvement Area become dormant (a non-active Business Improvement Area) for a three-year term and that the King West Business Improvement Area issue a cheque to the City of Hamilton for all monies that are currently in the King West Business Improvement Area bank account(s);
- (c) That Finance staff be directed to create an account to hold the funds of the King West Business Improvement Area;
- (d) That Finance staff be directed to oversee the account and fulfil any financial obligations of the dormant King West Business Improvement Area throughout the term;
- (e) That Public Works staff be directed to store any material assets of the Business Improvement Area and the cost for storage be invoiced to Finance for payment from the Business Improvement Area account;
- (f) That Commercial Districts and Small Business Section staff be directed to undertake the appropriate program modifications to identify that Financial

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**SUBJECT: King West Business Improvement Area Dormancy (PED23198) (Ward 2) - Page 2 of 5**

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Incentive Programs are available only to property owners/authorized tenants within the existing active city-wide Business Improvement Areas.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Report PED23198 recommends that the King West Business Improvement Area becomes dormant. Currently there appears to be no interest in running the Business Improvement Area. The three-year term as a dormant Business Improvement Area would provide an opportunity for the members to revive the Business Improvement Area if interest is generated. To address the possibility of a Business Improvement Area becoming dormant, a protocol has been drafted and is attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED23198, this Report.

**Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 5**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** There would be no financial implications as the King Business Improvement Area currently has funds that would be sufficient to cover costs during the three-year term, e.g., the cost for banner storage.

**Staffing:** Finance staff would be required to oversee the account holding the funds. Public Works staff would be required to oversee the removal and storage of the material assets, e.g., banners and ornamental decorations.

**Legal:** Subsection 216(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a municipality to dissolve or change a local board. As a Business Improvement Area is a local board for all purposes under subsection 204(2.1) of the *Act*, this is sufficient authority for Council to adopt the Report’s recommendations, making the King West Business Improvement Area dormant.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The City of Hamilton’s Dormant Business Improvement Area Status Procedure, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED23198 (Dormancy Procedure) requires that:

- (a) Upon failure of a Business Improvement Area to satisfy the legislated requirements of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the Downtown and Community Renewal Division will send a notice advising the members of the Business Improvement Area of this and inviting them to a meeting to determine the future of the Business Improvement Area; and,
- (b) A report be provided to City Council to apprise them of item (a).

**SUBJECT: King West Business Improvement Area Dormancy (PED23198) (Ward 2) - Page 3 of 5**

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Please note that staff have satisfied item (a) above, and this Report is to satisfy item (b). Of note, this King West Business Improvement Area is seeking dormancy status.

By-law 14-253, passed by Council on September 24, 2014, requires that all Business Improvement Areas shall prepare and submit to Council a proposed budget for each fiscal year on or before March 31 in each year and shall hold at least one meeting of the members of the Business Improvement Area for discussion of the proposed budget before its submission to Council. This requirement is also found in the Ontario *Municipal Act, 2001*. The Board of Management of the King West Business Improvement Area (map attached as Appendix “B” to Report PED23198, this Report) did not meet this requirement in 2023.

On March 7, 2023, the King West Business Improvement Area held its Annual General Meeting. As the Business Improvement Area is currently inactive in any activities to support its membership (no events, marketing, advertising, beautification, or an active update website or business directory) the recommendation was made to consider dormancy of this area. The Annual General Meeting Minutes reflect this discussion with no objections from the members in attendance.

On May 5, 2023, confirmation was received from the King West Business Improvement Area’s insurance provider on the cancellation of their liability policy due to numerous requests for payment going unanswered.

On August 3, 2023, a meeting between the Ward 2 Councillor and the King West Business Improvement Area Board of Management suggested the direction to move the Business Improvement Area into dormancy status.

On August 14, 2023, a formal letter was mailed to all property owners advising them of the dormancy status recommendation. An electronic email was sent to all small business tenants by the Board Secretary.

To date further *Municipal Act, 2001* requirements of an annual audit; the annual audits for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 remain incomplete. City Staff will continue to work to see what options are available to bring this Business Improvement Area into good financial standing.

King West Business Improvement Area budget was approved, and levy distributed in 2019 (\$5,220.18) and in 2021 (\$5,627.56). No budget was presented in 2020, 2022 or 2023 therefore no levy was distributed to the Business Improvement Area. Continued follow up from Economic Development, Financial Services and Taxation, and KPMG to work the Board of Management to ensure these audits are completed and have the

**SUBJECT: King West Business Improvement Area Dormancy (PED23198) (Ward 2) - Page 4 of 5**

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Business Improvement Area in good financial standing. Once dormancy status is approved all finances will be moved and held in trust with the city. Staff is recommending to Council that the King West Business Improvement Area move into dormancy status.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

Not Applicable

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Corporate Services Department – Financial Services Division, Legal Services, and Public Works Department

**ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Staff is recommending that, as requested, the King West Business Improvement Area become dormant. A dormant Business Improvement Area would be described as follows:

- (a) All activities of the Business Improvement Area cease;
- (b) The Business Improvement Area's material assets are held in storage by the city;
- (c) Funds that are currently in the Business Improvement Area's bank account are transferred to the City of Hamilton and would be held in an account and Finance staff would oversee the account; and,
- (d) The financial incentives that are available to an active Business Improvement Area are not available to the properties within the dormant Business Improvement Area.

The 2018 financial documents of the King West Business Improvement Area were submitted, as required for KPMG auditing purposes. They showed that funds are available to cover outstanding debt currently identified and projected for the term of the dormancy. The process that is required to revive a dormant Business Improvement Area would not be cumbersome. The three-year term would provide enough time for the members to determine if there is an interest to revive the Business Improvement Area. Reviving the Business Improvement Area would involve calling an Annual General Meeting, holding an election and preparing a proposed budget to be submitted for approval by City Council. The Coordinator of Business Improvement Areas for the City of Hamilton would facilitate this process.

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**SUBJECT: King West Business Improvement Area Dormancy (PED23198) (Ward 2) - Page 5 of 5**

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**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

The Business Improvement Area could be dissolved which requires the repeal of the by-law(s) that designated the area and established the Board of Management. Upon dissolution of the Business Improvement Area, the assets and liabilities of the Business Improvement Area become the assets and liabilities of the city. If there were interest in reviving the Business Improvement Area after dissolution, a new by-law would be required in accordance with sections 204 and 210 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*. The process is onerous (in comparison to reviving a dormant Business Improvement Area) and not recommended at this time.

The city could act as a caretaker. This requires that the city continue minimal Business Improvement Area activities such as installing and maintaining banners. Each year that the status remains, the city would impose a levy to cover the above costs. The balance of the Business Improvement Area funds would be used for these activities, with a levy imposed each year as required. The financial incentives that are available to an active Business Improvement Area would not be available in these circumstances. Acting as a caretaker would require city staff from various departments to undertake functions and responsibilities that are normally undertaken by the Business Improvement Area members, or staff that are hired by the Business Improvement Area and is not a recommended option.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report PED23198 – Dormant Business Improvement Area Status Procedure

Appendix "B" to Report PED23198 – King Street West Business Improvement Area Boundary Map

CG/rb

**Appendix “A” to Report PED23198****Page 1 of 2****Dormant Business Improvement Area Status (BIA) Procedure****Definition of a Dormant BIA**

All functions of the BIA cease to exist. The material assets would be held in storage as determined by the city. The funds in the BIA's bank account would be transferred to the City and held in an account. Financial incentives available to active BIAs would not be available to non-active BIAs.

**Procedure**

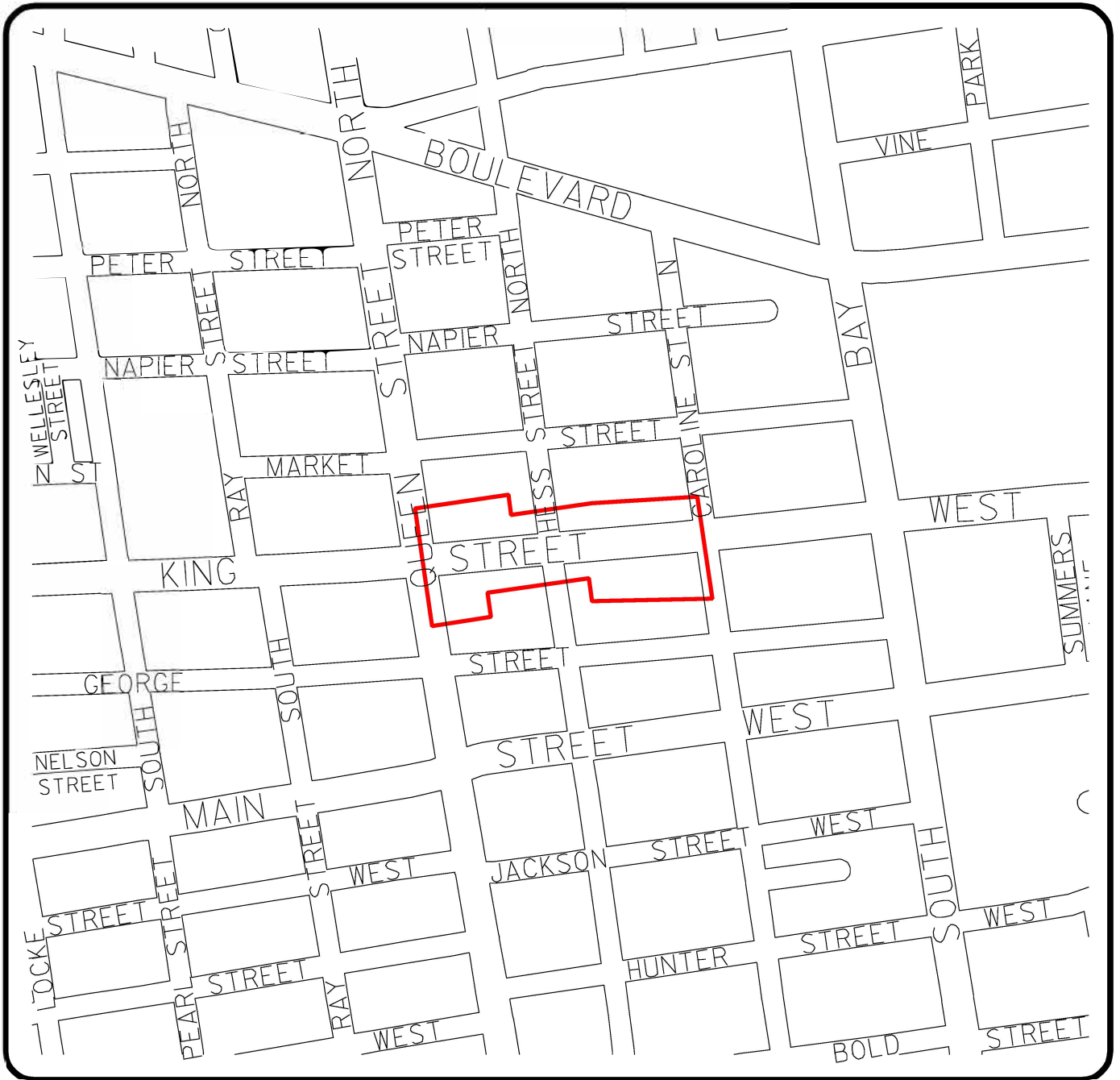
1. Upon failure of a BIA to satisfy the legislated requirements of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the Economic Development Division will send a notice advising the members of the BIA of this and inviting them to a meeting to determine the future of the BIA;
2. An information report will be provided for City Council to apprise them of item 1;
3. If the meeting demonstrates a lack of interest in an active BIA, staff will undertake an assessment of the BIA. An inventory list would be prepared identifying all the material assets of the BIA. The finances of the BIA would be reviewed to determine its ability to meet financial obligations;
4. Staff will determine if the dormant status could be supported, and if it can, will prepare a report recommending this for Council approval. The term for dormant status will be three years;
5. Once Council approves the dormant status, the members of the BIA will be advised of this by means of a notice sent by the Economic Development Division;
6. The BIA would provide a cheque to the City of Hamilton for any funds that the BIA holds and close its account(s);
7. The Finance Department would create an account to hold the funds. It will be responsible for any activity of the account, including meeting any the BIA's financial obligations;
8. The Public Works Department would be responsible for storage of any material assets and will submit invoices to the Finance Division for any costs associated with inspection, removal or storage which may be paid from the BIA account;
9. During the dormant term, the BIA may be revived by the membership. This would require a meeting of the members to elect a Board of

**Appendix "A" to Report PED23198****Page 2 of 2**

Management and to prepare a proposed budget. The BIA would be reinstated as an active BIA for the year in which the proposed budget is approved by Council, provided that the approval occurs on or before March 1. The Economic Development Division would assist with the facilitation of the process to revive the BIA;

10. A report would be submitted for Council appointment of the elected Board of Management and approval of the proposed budget;
11. Once item 10 is approved by Council, any remaining funds in the account will be transferred to the active BIA;
12. Throughout the term of the dormant BIA, the Economic Development Division would annually canvass the members of the BIA to gauge their interest in reviving the BIA. If there is an interest, the Economic Development Division would facilitate meeting(s) with respect to such a revival; and,
13. If the BIA is not reinstated prior to the expiration of the three-year term, a report will be prepared to advise City Council. Council may resolve to dissolve the BIA, which requires the repeal of the By-law(s) that designated the area and established the Board of Management. Upon dissolution of the BIA, the assets and liabilities of the BIA become the assets and liabilities of the City. The report will include recommendations with respect to the distribution of any remaining BIA assets.

### King Street West Business Improvement Area Boundary Map




## King Street West BIA

 King Street West BIA Boundary





**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Economic Development Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	October 18, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area Dormancy (PED23199) (Wards 1 and 2)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Wards 1 and 2
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Cristina Geissler (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2632
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Norm Schleeahn Director, Economic Development Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Dormant Business Improvement Area Status Procedure, attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED23199, be adopted;
- (b) That the Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area become dormant (a non-active Business Improvement Area) for a three-year term and that the Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area issue a cheque to the City of Hamilton for all monies that are currently in the Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area bank account(s);
- (c) That Finance staff be directed to create an account to hold the funds of the Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area;
- (d) That Finance staff be directed to oversee the account and fulfil any financial obligations of the dormant Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area throughout the term;
- (e) That Public Works staff be directed to store any material assets of the Business Improvement Area and the cost for storage be invoiced to Finance for payment from the Business Improvement Area account;

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**SUBJECT: Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area Dormancy  
(PED23199) (Wards 1 and 2) - Page 2 of 5**

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- (f) That Commercial Districts and Small Business Section staff be directed to undertake the appropriate program modifications to identify that Financial Incentive Programs are available only to property owners/authorized tenants within the existing active city-wide Business Improvement Areas.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Report PED23199 recommends that the Main Street West Business Improvement Area becomes dormant. Currently there appears to be no interest in running the Business Improvement Area. The three-year term as a dormant Business Improvement Area would provide an opportunity for the members to revive the Business Improvement Area if interest is generated. To address the possibility of a Business Improvement Area becoming dormant, a protocol has been drafted and is attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED23199.

**Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 5**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** There would be no financial implications as the Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area currently has funds that would be sufficient to cover costs during the three-year term, e.g., the cost for banner storage.

**Staffing:** Finance staff would be required to oversee the account holding the funds. Public Works staff would be required to oversee the removal and storage of the material assets, e.g., banners and ornamental decorations.

**Legal:** Subsection 216(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a municipality to dissolve or change a local board. As a business improvement area is a local board for all purposes under subsection 204(2.1) of the *Act*, this is sufficient authority for Council to adopt the Report’s recommendations, making the Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area dormant.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The City of Hamilton’s Dormant Business Improvement Area Status Procedure, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED23199 (Dormancy Procedure) requires that:

- (a) Upon failure of a Business Improvement Area to satisfy the legislated requirements of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the Downtown and Community Renewal Division will send a notice advising the members of the Business Improvement Area of this and inviting them to a meeting to determine the future of the Business Improvement Area; and,

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**SUBJECT: Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area Dormancy  
(PED23199) (Wards 1 and 2) - Page 3 of 5**

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- (b) A report be provided to City Council to apprise them of item (a).

Please note that staff have satisfied item (a) above, and this Report is to satisfy item (b). Of note, this Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area was dormant and then revived and declared active by Council in May 2012. Since January 2022 this Business Improvement Area has been inactive and is again seeking dormancy status.

By-law 14-253, passed by Council on September 24, 2014, requires that all Business Improvement Area's shall prepare and submit to Council a proposed budget for each fiscal year on or before March 31 in each year and shall hold at least one meeting of the members of the Business Improvement Area for discussion of the proposed budget before its submission to Council. This requirement is also found in the Ontario *Municipal Act, 2001*. The Board of Management of the Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area (map attached as Appendix "B" to Report PED23199) did not meet either requirement in either 2021 or 2022.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the city's Business Improvement Area Coordinator met with the Chair of the Board of Management. At that meeting, they were presented with two options, which were also confirmed in writing:

- (a) The remaining Board members would schedule an Annual General Meeting of the Business Improvement Area, at which time a new Board of Management would be elected. Subsequent to such a meeting and Council's appointment of the Board of Management, the Board would then carry on to adopt the new Business Improvement Area Procedure By-law and a Budget for 2023. The Business Improvement Area Coordinator indicated that this meeting must take place by October 31, 2022. The deadline for the Board members to inform the Business Improvement Area Coordinator that they would pursue this option was Thursday September 30, 2022, by 4:30 p.m.
- (b) Failure to fulfill the requirements outlined in (a) would result in a report to Council recommending that the Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area be put into dormancy status.

As per the Dormancy Procedure, further action by staff will be determined by the level of demonstrated interest in maintaining an active Business Improvement Area. On September 26, 2022, a follow up meeting with the Chair of the Business Improvement Area confirmed that there is a lack of interest and lack of the financial capability of the Main Street Esplanade Business Improvement Area to meet its financial obligations.

To date further *Municipal Act, 2001* requirements of an annual audit; the annual audits for 2019 and 2020 remain incomplete. Currently no available contacts of past Board members available to complete these audits for levy money received in 2019 and 2020.

**SUBJECT: Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area Dormancy  
(PED23199) (Wards 1 and 2) - Page 4 of 5**

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City Staff will continue to work to see what options are available to bring this Business Improvement Area into good financial standing.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

Not Applicable

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Corporate Services Department – Financial Services Division, Legal Services, and Public Works Department

**ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Staff is recommending that, as requested, the Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area become dormant. A dormant Business Improvement Area would be described as follows:

- (a) All activities of the Business Improvement Area cease;
- (b) The Business Improvement Area material assets are held in storage by the city;
- (c) Funds that are currently in the Business Improvement Area bank account are transferred to the City of Hamilton and would be held in an account and Finance staff would oversee the account; and,
- (d) The financial incentives that are available to an active Business Improvement Area are not available to the properties within the dormant Business Improvement Area.

The 2018 financial documents of the Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area were submitted, as required for auditing purposes. On Sept 25, 2023, a letter was issued to the Business Improvement Area's financial institution requesting access to their bank account to confirm that funds are still available to cover outstanding debt currently identified and projected for the term of the dormancy. The process that is required to revive a dormant Business Improvement Area would not be cumbersome. The three-year term would provide enough time for the members to determine if there is an interest to revive the Business Improvement Area. Reviving the Business Improvement Area would involve calling an Annual General Meeting, holding an election and preparing a proposed budget to be submitted for approval by City Council. The Coordinator of Business Improvement Areas for the City of Hamilton would facilitate this process.

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**SUBJECT: Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area Dormancy  
(PED23199) (Wards 1 and 2) - Page 5 of 5**

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**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

The Business Improvement Area could be dissolved which requires the repeal of the by-law(s) that designated the area and established the Board of Management. Upon dissolution of the Business Improvement Area, the assets and liabilities of the Business Improvement Area become the assets and liabilities of the city. If there were interest in reviving the Business Improvement Area after dissolution, a new by-law would be required in accordance with sections 204 and 210 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*. The process is onerous (in comparison to reviving a dormant Business Improvement Area) and not recommended at this time.

The city could act as a caretaker. This requires that the city continue minimal Business Improvement Area activities such as installing and maintaining banners. Each year that the status remains, the city would impose a levy to cover the above costs. The balance of the Business Improvement Area funds would be used for these activities, with a levy imposed each year as required. The financial incentives that are available to an active Business Improvement Area would not be available in these circumstances. Acting as a caretaker would require that city staff from various departments to undertake functions and responsibilities that are normally undertaken by the Business Improvement Area members or staff that are hired by the Business Improvement Area and is not a recommended option.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report PED23199 – Dormant Business Improvement Area Status Procedure

Appendix "B" to Report PED23199 – Main West Esplanade Business Improvement Area Boundary Map

CG/rb

**Appendix “A” to Report PED23199****Page 1 of 2****Dormant Business Improvement Area (BIA) Status Procedure****Definition of a Dormant BIA**

All functions of the BIA cease to exist. The material assets would be held in storage as determined by the City. The funds in the BIA's bank account would be transferred to the City and held in an account. Financial incentives available to active BIAs would not be available to non-active BIAs.

**Procedure**

1. Upon failure of a BIA to satisfy the legislated requirements of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the Economic Development Division will send a notice advising the members of the BIA of this and inviting them to a meeting to determine the future of the BIA;
2. An information report will be provided for City Council to apprise them of item 1;
3. If the meeting demonstrates a lack of interest in an active BIA, staff will undertake an assessment of the BIA. An inventory list would be prepared identifying all the material assets of the BIA. The finances of the BIA would be reviewed to determine its ability to meet financial obligations;
4. Staff will determine if the dormant status could be supported, and if it can, will prepare a report recommending this for Council approval. The term for dormant status will be three years;
5. Once Council approves the dormant status, the members of the BIA will be advised of this by means of a notice sent by the Economic Development Division;
6. The BIA would provide a cheque to the City of Hamilton for any funds that the BIA holds and close its account(s);
7. The Finance Department would create an account to hold the funds. It will be responsible for any activity of the account, including meeting any the BIA's financial obligations;
8. The Public Works Department would be responsible for storage of any material assets and will submit invoices to the Finance Division for any costs associated with inspection, removal or storage which may be paid from the BIA account;

**Appendix "A" to Report PED23199****Page 2 of 2**

9. During the dormant term, the BIA may be revived by the membership. This would require a meeting of the members to elect a Board of Management and to prepare a proposed budget. The BIA would be reinstated as an active BIA for the year in which the proposed budget is approved by Council, provided that the approval occurs on or before March 1. The Economic Development Division would assist with the facilitation of the process to revive the BIA;
10. A report would be submitted for Council appointment of the elected Board of Management and approval of the proposed budget;
11. Once item 10 is approved by Council, any remaining funds in the account will be transferred to the active BIA;
12. Throughout the term of the dormant BIA, the Economic Development Division would annually canvass the members of the BIA to gauge their interest in reviving the BIA. If there is an interest, the Economic Development Division would facilitate meeting(s) with respect to such a revival; and,
13. If the BIA is not reinstated prior to the expiration of the three year term, a report will be prepared to advise City Council. Council may resolve to dissolve the BIA, which requires the repeal of the By-law(s) that designated the area and established the Board of Management. Upon dissolution of the BIA, the assets and liabilities of the BIA become the assets and liabilities of the City. The report will include recommendations with respect to the distribution of any remaining BIA assets.



**Legend**  
BIA Boundary

Main West Esplanade BIA

Date:  
April 1, 2015



Not To Scale

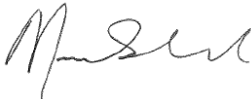


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**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Economic Development Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	October 18, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant - 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton (PED23200) (Ward 2)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 2
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Carlo Gorni (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2755
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Norm Schleeahn Director, Economic Development Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That a Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program Application submitted by WQ (Catharine St N) GP Inc. (Brendan Morley), for the property at 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton, estimated at \$258,079.15, over the maximum of a four year period, and based upon the incremental tax increase attributable to the redevelopment of 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton, be authorized and approved in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program;
- (b) That the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department be authorized and directed to execute a Grant Agreement together with any ancillary documentation required, to give effect to the Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program for WQ (Catharine St N) GP Inc. (Brendan Morley) for the property known as 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (c) That the General Manager of the Planning and Economic Development Department be authorized and directed to administer the Grant and Grant Agreement including, but not limited to, deciding on actions to take in respect of events of default and executing any Grant Amending Agreements, together with any ancillary amending documentation, if required, provided that the terms and

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**SUBJECT: Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant - 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton (PED23200) (Ward 2) - Page 2 of 9**

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conditions of the Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program, as approved by City Council, are maintained and that any applicable Grant Amending Agreements are undertaken in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program Application for the redevelopment of the property at 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton was submitted by WQ (Catharine St N) GP Inc. (Brendan Morley), owner of the property. At the time of Application, this address contained the following structures:

- (a) 181 Catharine Street North - Single family home which did contain a residential tenant;
- (b) 187 Catharine Street North - Semi-detached building (attached to 189 Catharine Street North) with separate occupied tenancies in both the upper and lower levels of the building;
- (c) 189 Catharine Street North - Semi-detached building (attached to 187 Catharine Street North) with tenant occupying entire unit; and,
- (d) Vacant commercial building.

As part of anti-tenant displacement policies introduced to this Program in 2021, staff engaged with the Applicant to advise of the requirement to ensure that existing tenants not be displaced. In addition, the City provided notices to existing tenants advising them of existing rental conditions in Hamilton, information respecting their rights under the *Residential Tenancies Act* and a list of available resources should they believe they would be the subject of potential displacement. Staff received signed confirmations from each of the tenants that they have secured new residential accommodations commencing April 1, 2023. As such, it is staff's opinion that no tenant displacement is arising as a result of the planned development and that the project meets exemption (a). noted in the "Analysis and Rationale for Recommendation Section" of this Report to allow for eligibility under this Program.

The proposed works will see the redevelopment of the property resulting in the construction of two 3.5 storey buildings containing forty dwelling units and the adaptive reuse and added rear addition to an existing non-designated heritage building (187-189 Catharine Street North) to contain five dwelling units for a total of 45 residential rental units.

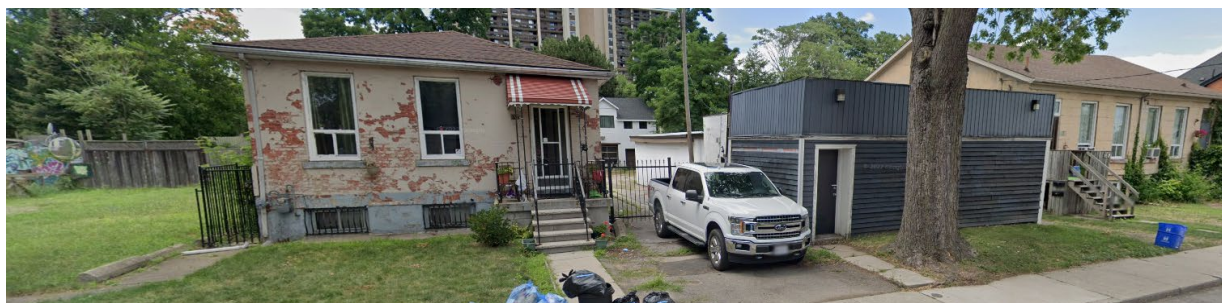
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**SUBJECT: Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant - 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton (PED23200) (Ward 2) - Page 3 of 9**

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Construction costs are estimated at \$12,474,450 and it is projected that the proposed works will increase the assessed value of the property from its current value of \$929,000 to approximately \$10,291,000.

This will increase total annual property taxes generated by the property. The municipal share of this property tax increase (municipal tax increment) will be approximately \$103,231.66 of which 100% would be granted to the owner during year one, 75% or approximately \$77,423.75 in year two, 50% or approximately \$51,615.83 in year three and 25% or approximately \$25,807.92 in year four. The estimated total value of the Grant is approximately \$258,079.15. Note that every year the tax increment is based on actual taxes for that year.



**179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton-Pre-Construction Photo**  
(Source: Google)



**179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton-Post-Construction Rendering**  
(Source: Applicant)

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**SUBJECT: Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant - 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton (PED23200) (Ward 2) - Page 4 of 9**

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Staff note that while the subject site is currently municipally known as 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton, the site has previously also been municipally known as 179, 181, 183, 185, 187 and 189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton prior to the various addresses becoming consolidated. Currently, the future address of the property upon completion of the planned development is unknown. Notwithstanding this status, and regardless of any future address assigned to the site, this Report and staff's Recommendations shall, for clarity, apply to the site area as defined in Appendix "A" to Report PED23200.

**Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 9**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** The City will collect full property taxes on the property and, in turn, provide a Grant for four years, declining each year after the first year by 25%, based on the increase in the municipal portion of the taxes, post-redevelopment completion of 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton. Following year one of the Grant Payment, the City will start to realize the positive results of the Program from a financial perspective. Based on the projected figures, the estimated tax increment over four years totals \$412,926.64, of which the Applicant would receive a Grant totalling approximately \$258,079.15 and the City retaining taxes totalling approximately \$154,847.49.

**Staffing:** Applicants and subsequent Grant Payments under the Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program are processed by the Commercial Districts and Small Business Section and Taxation Section, Corporate Services Department. There are no additional staffing requirements.

**Legal:** Section 28 of the *Planning Act* permits a municipality, in accordance with a Community Improvement Plan, to make loans and grants which would otherwise be prohibited under Section 106(2) of the *Municipal Act*, to registered/assessed owners and tenants of lands and buildings. A Community Improvement Plan can only be adopted and come into effect within a designated Community Improvement Project Area. Changes to a Community Improvement Plan or Community Improvement Project Area require formal amendments as dictated by the *Planning Act*.

The Applicant will be required to execute a Grant Agreement prior to the Grant being advanced. The Grant Agreement will be developed in consultation with the Legal Services Division.

As construction projects move forward, it is sometimes necessary to amend previously approved Grant Agreements and any ancillary documentation.

**SUBJECT: Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant - 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton (PED23200) (Ward 2) - Page 5 of 9**

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Therefore, staff recommends that the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development be authorized to amend Grant Agreements and any ancillary documentation, provided that the terms and conditions of the Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program are maintained.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

City Council, at its meeting held on August 22, 2001, approved an amendment to the Downtown and Community Renewal Community Improvement Plan which introduced the Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program. The Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program is currently established through the updated Revitalizing Hamilton's Commercial Districts Community Improvement Plan, which was approved by City Council on September 29, 2021, by way of By-law No. 21-164.

The Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant is intended to incentivize property owners located in Downtown Hamilton, Community Downtowns, Business Improvement Areas, the Mount Hope/Airport Gateway, the corridors of Barton Street and Kenilworth Avenue as identified in the Revitalizing Hamilton's Commercial Districts Community Improvement Project Area and to properties designated under Part IV or V of the *Ontario Heritage Act* to develop, redevelop or otherwise improve properties and/or buildings in a manner that will support the broader revitalization of these districts as well as generate new municipal property tax revenue through increased property assessments. The exact geographic boundaries within which the Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant Program is available are defined through the associated Revitalizing Hamilton Community Improvement Project Area By-law No. 21-163.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS****Urban Hamilton Official Plan**

The subject site is municipally known as 179, 181, 183, 187 and 189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton and is located within "Neighbourhoods" on Schedule "E" – Urban Structure and Schedule "E-1" – Urban Land Use Designations. The site is also located within the area subject to non-decision 113 respecting the West Harbour (Setting Sail) Secondary Plan. The current "Neighbourhoods" designation is intended to support complete communities that include a full range of residential dwelling types and densities as well as supporting uses intended to serve the local residents.

The planned use of the site conforms to the above designation.

**SUBJECT: Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant - 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton (PED23200) (Ward 2) - Page 6 of 9**

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**Former City of Hamilton Zoning By-law No. 6593**

The subject site is currently zoned “E-1/S-1809-H” (Multiple Dwellings, Lodges, Clubs, etc.) under former City of Hamilton Zoning By-law No. 6593. The “E-1” zone permits a range of residential uses and some limited commercial and accessory uses while the site specific “S-1809” Special Exception introduced via amending By-law 21-116 permits a maximum of 49 dwelling units on the site.

The planned use of the site is permitted.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Staff from the Taxation Section and the Finance and Administration Section, Corporate Services Department and the Legal Services Division, Corporate Services Department was consulted, and the advice received is incorporated into Report PED23200.

**ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Potential Tenant Displacement Mitigation:

On September 17, 2021, City Council approved the Recommendations of PED21159 to amend the eligibility of projects under this, and other financial incentive programs, to minimize the potential use of City Incentive Programs in circumstances where tenant displacement could occur.

Specifically, under the Council-approved Program terms, projects are not eligible for consideration under this Program except where at least one of the following exceptions are met to the satisfaction of the City:

- (a) There has been no residential rental tenant displacement. Applicants shall be required to submit supporting documentation that demonstrates residential rental tenants have not been displaced. Documentation required to be submitted, and the acceptance of such documentation in terms of satisfying this condition, shall be at the discretion of the City;
- (b) The project has been approved for financial assistance under a CMHC, Federal, Provincial or City program for the purposes of creating residential rental housing to address housing affordability in the City;
- (c) The existing building has been entirely vacant for at least two years prior to a program application being submitted to the City (not including periods of vacancy due to renovations); or,

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**SUBJECT: Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant - 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton (PED23200) (Ward 2) - Page 7 of 9**

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- (d) The property owner and program applicant are a registered not-for-profit organization.

As the existing buildings on the site contain a total of four units occupied by tenants, staff engaged with the applicant to advise of the applicable Program terms and the necessity of ensuring that existing tenants not be displaced. In addition, and in accordance with the applicable Program terms, the City provided notices to existing tenants advising them of existing rental conditions in Hamilton, information respecting their rights under the *Residential Tenancies Act* and a list of available resources should they believe they would be the subject of potential displacement.

Staff received signed confirmations from each of the tenants that they have secured new residential accommodations commencing April 1, 2023. As such, it is staff's opinion that no tenant displacement is arising as a result of the planned development and that the project meets exemption (a) noted above to allow for eligibility under this Program.

**Financials:**

Commercial Districts and Small Business staff, in co-operation with staff from the Taxation Section and Legal Services Division, developed an estimated Schedule of Grant Payments under the terms of the Program. The final Schedule of Grant Payments will be contingent upon a new assessment by Municipal Property Assessment Corporation following completion of the project. The Applicant will be required to sign a Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement contains provisions for varying the Grant payment in each, and every year based on Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's assessed value. By signing, the Applicant will accept the terms and conditions outlined therein prior to any Grant payments being made. The Agreement outlines the terms and conditions of the Grant payments over the four-year period.

The estimated Grant shall be calculated according to the following formulas:

<b>Grant Level:</b>		<b>100%</b>	
<b>Total Eligible Costs (Maximum)</b>	\$12,474,450		
<b>Total Pre-Project CVA:</b>			Year: 2023
<b>CVA RT Residential</b>	\$352,100		
<b>CVA CT Commercial</b>	<u>\$576,900</u>		
<b>Total</b>	\$929,000		

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**SUBJECT: Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant - 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton (PED23200) (Ward 2) - Page 8 of 9**

<b>Pre-Project Property Taxes</b>			
<b>Municipal Levy</b>	\$17,536.86		
<b>Education Levy</b>	<u>\$ 5,615.43</u>		
<b>Pre-Project Property Taxes</b>	\$23,152.29		
<b>*Post-Project CVA</b>			
<b>CVA NT- New Multi Residential</b>	\$10,291,000		
<b>Estimated Post-Project CVA</b>	\$10,291,000		Year: TBD
<b>**Estimated Municipal Levy</b>	\$120,768.52		
<b>**Estimated Education Levy</b>	<u>\$ 15,745.23</u>		
<b>**Estimated Post-Project Property Taxes</b>	\$136,513.75		

\*The actual roll number(s) assessed value(s), tax classification(s) and value partitioning (where applicable) are to be determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation).

\*\*2023 tax rates have been used for calculation of the estimated post-development property taxes.

Pre-project Municipal Taxes = Municipal Levy = \$17,536.86  
Municipal Tax Increment = \$120,768.52 - \$17,536.86 = \$103,231.66  
Payment in Year One = \$103,231.66 x 1.0 = \$103,231.66

### **ESTIMATED GRANT PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

Redevelopment of a property which at the time of Application contained a single-family dwelling, a semi-detached residential building and a commercial building. The proposed works will see the redevelopment of the property resulting in the construction of two 3.5 storey buildings containing 40 dwelling units and the adaptive reuse and added rear addition to an existing non-designated heritage building (187-189 Catharine Street North) to contain five dwelling units for a total of 45 residential rental units.



**SUBJECT: Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant - 179-189 Catharine Street North, Hamilton (PED23200) (Ward 2) - Page 9 of 9**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Factor</b>	<b>Tax Increment*</b>	<b>Grant</b>
<b>1</b>	100%	\$103,231.66	\$103,231.66
<b>2</b>	75%	\$103,231.66	\$ 77,423.75
<b>3</b>	50%	\$103,231.66	\$ 51,615.83
<b>4</b>	25%	\$103,231.66	\$ 25,807.92
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$412,926.64</b>	<b>\$258,079.15</b>

\*Note that the tax increment is based every year on actual taxes for that year. The figures above are estimates. In other words, for each year a Grant Payment is paid, the actual taxes for the year of the Grant Payment will be used in the calculation of the Grant Payment.

Details of the proposed redevelopment and its estimated assessment and municipal tax increments are based on the project as approved, or conditionally approved, at the time of writing this Report. Any minor changes to the planned redevelopment that occur prior to the final Municipal Property Assessment Corporation reassessment of the property may result in an increase/decrease in the actual municipal tax increment generated and will be reflected in the final Grant amount.

### **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Declining a grant and/or approving a reduced amount would undermine the principles of the Revitalizing Hamilton Tax Increment Grant and regeneration efforts in general. This alternative is not recommended.

Financial: Grants totalling \$258,079.75 over a four-year period would not be issued.

Staffing: Not applicable

Legal: Not applicable

### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report PED23200 – Location Map

CG/jrb



● Site Location



Key Map - Ward 2

# Location Map



Hamilton

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

File Name/Number:  
179 - 189 Catharine St N

Date:  
June 12, 2023

Appendix "A"

Scale:  
N.T.S

Planner/Technician:  
CG/AL

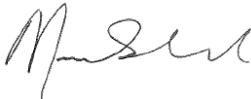
### Subject Property



179 - 189 Catharine Street North



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Economic Development Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	October 18, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Downtown Hamilton Office Report Update (PED23081(a)) (Ward 2)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 2
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Karol Murillo (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7859
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Norm Schleeahn Director, Economic Development Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the terms for the Commercial Vacancy Assistance Program, being Appendix "I" to the Revitalizing Hamilton's Commercial Districts Community Improvement Plan, be amended as contained in Appendix "A" to Report PED23081(a);
- (b) That the Commercial Vacancy Assistance Program otherwise scheduled to cease on October 22, 2023, be made permanently available;
- (c) That staff be directed to continue engagement with downtown office landlords and property owners to discuss the feasibility of expanding and introducing new office-related incentive programs in the Downtown Hamilton Community Improvement Project Area;

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report provides an overview of the seven actions from the Downtown Hamilton Office Report PED23081 presented at the General Issues Committee on June 14, 2023. Council approved seven actions to address and advance the recovery of Downtown Hamilton's office market.

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**SUBJECT: Downtown Hamilton Office Report Update (PED23081(a)) (Ward 2) -  
Page 2 of 7**

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Action 1 focused on launching the Downtown/West Harbour Coordinating Committee. This Committee was restarted with senior leadership in all departments and divisions who work to enhance the downtown business community. An early win from this group includes collaboration with staff from the Planning and Economic Development and Public Works Departments resulting in upgraded service level enhancements to improve the overall cleanliness and appearance of the Downtown.

Action 2 and Action 3 centred on reviewing existing municipal incentives to maintain a healthy office market. One opportunity did emerge within an existing program – Commercial Vacancy Assistance Program - that could be made permanent while continuing to support at-grade commercial occupancy with expanded uses. Due to the uncertainty in the office market, staff will directly engage with downtown office landlords to discuss and test the feasibility of new office-related incentive programs. Action 3 was achieved as Council approved a new program focused on vandalism and addressed through Report PED23140 at General Issues Committee meeting held on September 6, 2023.

Action 4 explored office-to-residential programs and found a significant amount of direct funding would be required to implement this Action. Staff is not planning on introducing a new office conversion program at this time. Secondly, there were recent modifications that support and enable conversion through existing loan programs specifically the expanded eligibility of units that would be created through the conversion of existing non-residential floor space. Staff launched an office-focused campaign in fall 2023 which addressed Action 5 to support office targeted efforts.

Action 6 which focused on placemaking has begun internal and external discussions to develop a formal placemaking program focused on 2024 activities with initial events commencing in late 2023.

Action 7 is in progress as supporting transportation planning and parking initiatives will be discussed at the Downtown/West Harbour Coordinating Committee in order to identify opportunities to enhance and align current transportation initiatives with the attraction and retention of office workers

**Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: Grants under this Program are funded from the existing Commercial District Revitalization Grant Program Project ID 8201703703 which itself is funded through block funding provided annually to the Commercial Districts and Small Business Section of the Economic Development Division for the provision of non-tax increment-based grant and loan

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**SUBJECT: Downtown Hamilton Office Report Update (PED23081(a)) (Ward 2) -  
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programs. All proposed modifications will not have an impact to existing funding.

**Staffing:** The Program is administered by staff from the Commercial Districts and Small Business Section of the Economic Development Division with support from staff in various divisions including Building, Legal Services, and Planning. There are no new staffing requirements required as a result of the recommendations of this Report.

**Legal:** N/A

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

This Report provides an overview of the status of recent actions by city staff to address and alleviate the challenging state of Hamilton's office market outlined in the Downtown Hamilton Office Report PED23081 presented to the General Issues Committee on June 14, 2023. Several actions have been implemented to date.

Action 1 to formalize a central staff liaison between downtown businesses and the delivery of city services in Downtown Hamilton was achieved. The Downtown/West Harbour Coordinating Committee meeting was held in September 2023. All key senior leadership representatives with a downtown focus are members of this group. An early win was new Downtown Hamilton Service Level Enhancements. These service level enhancements are being funded by the Economic Development Division through to July 2024 with a total funding commitment of \$817,206 from the Economic Development Initiatives Capital Project (3621708900). Beginning in July 2023, the Downtown saw an increase of litter collection and sidewalk sweeping with additional service level enhancements for roadway and cycle lane sweeping, weed trimming, debris pickup and graffiti removal beginning in October 2023.

Action 2 included a preliminary review of the city's existing incentive programs available Downtown. Staff identified further actions to support Downtown through recommended updates to the existing Commercial Vacancy Assistance Program contained in Appendix "A" to Report PED23081(a). Additional office-related amenity program areas were reviewed and will be tested in future roundtables with downtown office landlords. Action 3 sought to support businesses experiencing vandalism. Following the release of the June Report, staff continued engagement with major Hamilton landlords and businesses. These discussions highlighted the recurring themes and concerns related to safety and vandalism. Specifically, safety continues to be the top concern for employers who shared recent incidents where their employees felt unsafe. Hamilton Police Services have started a new "core patrol" in the downtown where they have seen an increase in reported crimes and complaints from various businesses. Hamilton Police Services is also aligned with Downtown/West Harbour Coordinating Committee.

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**SUBJECT: Downtown Hamilton Office Report Update (PED23081(a)) (Ward 2) -  
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On September 13, 2023, City Council approved the Recommendations of Report PED23140 to amend the Commercial District Revitalization Grant Program to provide improved access and new grants for commercial property owners and businesses to support the removal of graffiti or undertake building repairs resulting from acts of vandalism. These new grant opportunities came into effect on September 14, 2023, in Downtown Hamilton and in other strategic commercial districts and corridors throughout the city which are currently identified as a Community Improvement Project Area under By-law 21-163. Action 4 explored office-to-residential programs. As this Report highlights, staff will not be pursuing this focus area due to the significant amount of direct funding that would be required to launch this type of program.

Action 5 was completed as staff launched an office focused campaign in fall 2023. In addition, Action 6 which sought to further enhance Downtown Placemaking Initiatives was initiated as the Creative Placemaking team, Economic Development Division staff have been working towards formalizing the Placemaking Program. This Program will focus on animating public spaces, instilling community engagement and maximizing the potential of underutilized downtown spaces (i.e. developing a set list of criteria and characteristics). Currently, staff is defining project priorities for the development and implementation of placemaking and animation projects and programs in the Downtown Core (e.g. Commercial areas – Business Improvement Areas and non-Business Improvement Areas). 2024 Projects are being reviewed and finalized with initial events commencing in late 2023.

Lastly, Action 7 is in progress as supporting transportation planning and parking initiatives will be discussed at the Downtown/West Harbour Coordinating Committee in order to identify opportunities to enhance and align current transportation initiatives with the attraction and retention of office workers

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

Under Section 28 of the *Planning Act*, municipalities with enabling policies in their Official Plans may adopt Community Improvement Plans to provide financial assistance/incentive programs otherwise prohibited under Subsection 106(2) of the *Municipal Act*, if such programs will provide grants and/or loans to property owners or tenants that will support physical improvements to buildings and property within specific geographic areas (referred to as Community Improvement Project Areas).

Recommendation (b) consists of an update to the Program terms of the existing Commercial Vacancy Assistance Program (see Appendix “A” to Report PED23081(a)) which is implemented as Appendix “I” to the authorizing Revitalizing Hamilton’s Commercial Districts Community Improvement Plan. As this Program’s terms are implemented as an appendix not forming part of the authorizing Community Improvement Plan itself nor its implementing By-Law No. 21- 164, and as the

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recommended amendments do not alter the intent of the Program under its authorizing Plan, an amendment to the Revitalizing Hamilton's Commercial Districts Community Improvement Plan under Section 28 of the *Planning Act* is not required to implement staff's Recommendations

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

The following city divisions and external organizations were consulted in preparing this Report:

- (a) Tourism and Culture Division;
- (b) Geographical Information Systems – Planning and Analysis, Planning Division;
- (c) Waste Management Division, Public Works Department; and,
- (d) Major Downtown Hamilton office landlords, office tenants, major downtown employers, and Downtown Business Improvement Areas.

**ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The following highlights the analysis and rationale for Action 2 and Action 4:

**Action 2: Increased Municipal Incentives for Tenancing Vacant Office Space**

As part of a preliminary review of the city's existing incentive programs available Downtown, staff identified a further action to support Downtown through recommended updates to the existing Commercial Vacancy Assistance Program contained in Appendix "A" to Report PED23081(a).

This Commercial Vacancy Assistance Program was first introduced in October 2021 on a two-year pilot basis as part of the 2021 Revitalizing Hamilton's Commercial Districts Community Improvement Plan comprehensive review. The Program was intended to provide cost-sharing grants of up to \$10,000 to businesses for interior improvements when establishing a permanent or 'pop-up' business in a currently vacant at or below grade commercial space within Downtown and other strategic commercial districts and corridors in the city. The Program was a direct response to staff concerns about a potential rise in commercial storefront vacancies resulting in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although the Program was intended as a pilot program set to expire in October 2023, staff believe that the continued challenges facing the Downtown office market arising from current remote work trends, will continue to pose challenges to commercial

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storefront occupancies due to reduced office workers in the core. As such staff believe that the Commercial Vacancy Assistance Program continues to have the potential to play an important role in reducing storefront vacancies. As such staff are recommending that the Program be made permanent.

In addition, staff are recommending amendments to the Commercial Vacancy Assistance Program terms to expand the range of commercial uses which may utilize the Program. Currently the Program is available to a limited range of uses which support pedestrian activity and vibrancy such as retail and dine-in/take-out restaurants. Staff are recommending that the eligible uses be expanded to include personal service business, microbreweries and commercial entertainment and recreation uses. Staff believe these additional uses will further contribute to creating a vibrancy and activity by supporting uses that both provide commercial amenities to office workers during business hours as well as further support the Downtown night-time economy for visitors and residents downtown.

Staff recommend making the Commercial Vacancy Assistance Program permanent (Attached Appendix "A" to Report PED23081(a)) and with expanded eligible uses such as personal services, start-up office uses and increasing the grant amount.

**Action 4: Explore Strategies to Determine the Feasibility of Office-to-Residential Conversions**

Staff have completed an initial scan of potential comparator programs and referred to the Canadian Urban Institute recent report titled, The Case for Conversions focused on office conversions in six Canadian cities. The Report outlined and provided a toolkit with various tactics and tools centred on funding, policy and program options.

A key barrier is the funding required to implement these types of projects. As cited in the Canadian Urban Institute Report, municipalities are investing direct funding and incentives ranging from capital grants, tax exemptions, and various other fee waivers/funding. In addition, cities such as the City of Calgary have invested upwards of \$100M with conversion projects receiving up to \$10M per project. The cost to convert has been cited to approximately \$225 per sq ft. in Calgary and noted to further range between \$375 to \$450 per sq ft. in other cities. Another consideration is the potential loss of revenue from these office buildings who are currently taxed double the rate of residential uses. Many of Hamilton's municipal incentive programs are based on the net benefit of new taxes resulting from redevelopment projects. In this case, there would be no or minimal tax uplift from these conversion projects.

Although cost is often the major obstacle, other factors such as floor-plate size and building form weigh into these deliberations. Many examples cited in the Canadian Urban Institute Report identify buildings' floor plates that ideally require window to core distance of 40 ft (i.e. shallow floor plates). A full comprehensive inventory of downtown

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office buildings would be required. In addition, a complete evaluation of licensed brokerage data to access the viability of potential candidates to determine the market for these new incentives. Recent studies by Urban Land Institute found conversions feasible but highly individualized given so many factors at play. Furthermore, a recent study of 300 North American office properties determined only 30% of buildings were suitable (Retrieved September 1, 2023, from <https://www.altusgroup.com/insights/remaking-obsolete-office-space>).

Staff will not be introducing a new program focused on office to residential conversions at this time.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Not applicable.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report PED23081(a) - Commercial Vacancy Assistance (CVA)  
Program Terms Updated

KM/jrb

# COMMERCIAL VACANCY ASSISTANCE (CVA) PROGRAM



## A. PROGRAM

### DESCRIPTION

The Commercial Vacancy Assistance (CVA) Program (the Program) is intended as a temporary program that is a direct response to minimize potential commercial vacancies arising during, and/or in the immediate recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the local, provincial and national economy.

This Program will provide financial assistance in the form of a Grant to new permanent or 'pop-up' commercial tenants of a presently vacant at, or below grade, commercial space so as to make permanent interior improvements for the purposes of improving the attractiveness and usability of the space for the intended commercial use. To be eligible, the intended commercial use must be accessible to the public/customers and may include, but not be limited to, retail uses, artists studios/galleries containing a retail component, personal service businesses, microbreweries, commercial entertainment uses, commercial recreation uses and/or dine-in or take-out restaurants but shall not include uses identified as being ineligible in Section B, paragraph three herein.

This Program is not intended to provide support for temporary or non-permanently affixed improvements. Additional details regarding ineligible costs/improvements are provided in Section C herein.

This Program will apply to commercial units on properties zoned to permit commercial uses within the Ancaster, Barton Village, Binbrook, Concession Street, Downtown Hamilton, Dundas, Locke Street, Ottawa Street, Stoney Creek, Waterdown and Westdale Commercial District CIPAs, the Mount Hope/Airport Gateway CIPA and the Strategic Commercial Corridor CIPAs as collectively defined through the Revitalizing Hamilton's Commercial Districts Community Improvement Project Area (RHCD CIPA) By-law.

Grants provided under this Program shall be provided to an Applicant who is an authorized commercial tenant of a property that is the subject of the Program application.

The Economic Development Division will periodically review the terms and availability of this Program and undertake updates from time to time subject to City Council approval and/or direction.

**Appendix “A” to Report PED23081(a)**  
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All costs associated with the improvement/development and the requirements of this Program are to be borne by the Applicant including construction, design, development charges, administration fees, professional services, appraisals, inspections, legal and registration fees, where applicable, where applicable.

The City retains the right to assess the reasonableness of costs and which costs are eligible for funding under the terms of the Program.

## B. PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT CRITERIA

1. Applications to this Program must meet the goals of the Revitalizing Hamilton's Commercial Districts Community Improvement Plan (RHCD CIP).
2. This Program will apply to commercial units on properties zoned to permit commercial uses within the Ancaster, Barton Village, Binbrook, Concession Street, Downtown Hamilton, Dundas, Locke Street, Ottawa Street, Stoney Creek, Waterdown and Westdale Commercial District CIPAs, the Mount Hope/Airport Gateway CIPA and the Strategic Commercial Corridor CIPAs as collectively defined through the RHCD CIPA By-law.
3. Notwithstanding paragraph two, the intended commercial use shall only be eligible when located in a commercial space at or below grade and will be accessible to the public/customers and may include, but not be limited to, retail uses, artists studios/galleries containing a retail component, personal service businesses, microbreweries, commercial entertainment uses, commercial recreation uses and/or dine-in or take-out restaurants. Uses not eligible under this Program shall include currently operating or proposed adult entertainment parlour, body rub establishment, correctional facility, corrections residence, emergency shelter, financial institutions, lodging house, medical clinics, office uses, residential care facility, any residential use, any vehicle-oriented commercial service use or any property where a designated heritage building has been demolished. For additional clarity, the uses referenced in this paragraph three shall have the same meaning as defined in Hamilton Zoning By-law 05-200, as amended.
4. The maximum Grant amount under this Program is paid on a matching basis (50%-50%) for eligible work to a maximum of:
  - a. \$5,000 where the Applicant has entered into a lease term of no less than three months and no longer then six months less a day for the space where improvements will be undertaken, and which is the subject of a Program application; or
  - b. \$10,000 where the Applicant has entered into a lease term of six months or longer for the space where improvements will be undertaken, and which is the subject of a Program application.

**Appendix "A" to Report PED23081(a)**  
**Page 3 of 7**

5. A maximum Grant in accordance with paragraph four herein may be provided per vacant commercial unit with its own municipal address. The maximum grant may be achieved through more than one application and by subsequent tenants of the subject unit.
6. Tenants authorized in writing by the registered property owner are eligible to apply for a Grant under the Program and shall provide to the City a copy of the signed lease agreement for the commercial space/building that is the subject of a Program application.
7. Prior to any Grant being provided:
  - a. Any outstanding building code, fire code or property standards orders or any other order applicable to the property(s) or the project by any governmental authority shall be rectified; and
  - b. Any tax arrears on the subject property(s) as well as tax arrears on other properties owned by the Applicant within the City of Hamilton shall be paid.
8. Eligibility requirements for the Program relating to the work to be funded will be specifically identified. Two separate cost estimates for the work are to be provided. Please note a contractor licensed with the City of Hamilton may be required to undertake the work. For more information on work that requires a licensed contractor please refer to the Application Form or contact Building Division at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2720.

In the case where the Applicant is the owner of a contracting company and wishes to utilize their company to undertake the improvements, one cost estimate from an arms-length contractor will also be required. The owner may present an estimate based on material only.

Grants will be calculated based upon lowest cost estimate.

A Building Inspector will review all estimates provided for the purpose of ensuring competitiveness.

9. Relative to the proposed improvements, a Building Inspector will perform an initial and final inspection / investigation to confirm compliance with various Acts, Regulations and City By-laws, but not limited to including the Ontario Building Code, Property Standards By-Law, Trade Licensing By-Law and Sign By-law.
10. Approval and the receiving of financial assistance under this Program shall not preclude eligibility, approval and the receiving of financial assistance for the same subject property under any other available municipal program. However, where specific work is the subject of this Program and any other Program the total Grant for the work across all applicable programs shall not exceed 50% of the total cost of the specific work.
11. Proposed improvement/development are to be completed within one year from the date the Program application was approved by the General Manager of Planning and Economic

**Appendix “A” to Report PED23081(a)**  
**Page 4 of 7**

Development (GM) or before the conclusion of the applicable lease term for the commercial space subject to the Program application, whichever comes first, in order to be eligible for payment.

12. Work completed must be consistent with estimates, and work proposed and identified within the application unless previously discussed and approved by the Manager of Commercial Districts and Small Business.
13. The Applicant shall provide to the City’s Commercial Districts and Small Business Section copies of paid invoices and proof of payment to the satisfaction of the GM for all work undertaken for the commercial space/building for which the Grant is applicable. This documentation is to be provided prior to the final inspection.
14. A City Building Inspector’s final inspection report confirming all works have been carried out satisfactorily must be provided prior to release of any Grant monies.
15. A Grant under this Program will be provided to an approved Applicant if all terms and conditions of this Program have been satisfied including payment of all property taxes and all eligible works have been completed at the discretion of the GM.
16. At the sole discretion of the Manager of Commercial Districts and Small Business, partial payments for works completed can be processed consistent with the payment process described herein.
17. At the sole discretion of the Manager of Commercial Districts and Small Business, the Grant cheque can be made jointly payable to the Applicant and the contractor if such a request has been received from the Applicant.
18. A successful Applicant will enter into an agreement with the City containing (but not limited to) the terms and conditions set out in this program description.
19. Improvements/developments commenced prior to submitting an application are ineligible for funding under the Program. Works commenced after submitting an application but prior to approval of an application may be eligible for funding under the Program with eligibility determined by the GM in their sole, absolute and unfettered discretion. An Applicant shall assume the risk of any costs incurred after an application has been submitted but prior to approval under this Program having been received.
20. Approval of the Program application is at the absolute discretion of the GM and subject to the availability of funds.
21. Without limiting the discretion as set out in paragraph 20 herein, City Council or its delegate, whether or not an Applicant satisfies the requirements of the Program, may in its sole discretion, reject any application received from an Applicant where, in the opinion

**Appendix “A” to Report PED23081(a)**  
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of Council, the commercial relationship between the City and the Applicant has been impaired by, but not limited to, the Applicant being involved in litigation with the City. Applicants shall include but not be limited to the following: The Applicant identified on the application form and, if a corporation, any person or entity with an interest in the corporation or any officer or director of the corporation as determined by the City in its sole, absolute and unfettered discretion.

22. Without limiting the discretion as set out in paragraph 20 herein, City Council or its delegate, whether or not an Applicant satisfies the requirements of the Program, may in its sole discretion, reject any application without further consideration where due diligence undertaken by the City identifies property tax arrears owed on the subject property(s) or other properties owned by the Applicant within the City of Hamilton, non-compliance with respect to Zoning By-law regulations or there exist outstanding property standards, building code or fire code orders on the subject property(s).
23. Without limiting the discretion as set out in paragraph 20, herein, City Council or its delegate, whether or not an Applicant satisfies the requirements of the Program, may in its sole discretion, reject any application received from an Applicant where there is credible information that the Applicant has been involved recently or repeatedly in illegal activity supporting the conclusion that they will not conduct themselves with honesty and integrity in undertaking the activity, operation or business for which a Loan and Grant under this Program is being sought. For corporate Applicants, the Applicant, for the purposes of this paragraph 23, will be considered to be the corporation, the officers and directors of the corporation and the shareholders and this paragraph 23 shall apply jointly and severally to each of them.
24. Buildings, uses and improvements/developments shall conform to the City’s Official Plan(s), applicable Secondary Plan(s), Zoning By-Laws(s), Site Plan approval and any other applicable and approved municipal policies, by-laws or guidelines (e.g. urban design guidelines) and any other laws applicable to the improvement/development.

## C. ELIGIBLE/INELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS AND COSTS

Eligible improvements include:

- Interior drywall, painting and wallpaper;
- Interior permanent flooring replacement or refurbishment;
- Construction or alteration of stairs, guardrails, handrails;
- Improvements or installation to electrical, ventilation, heating, cooling and plumbing supply systems;
- Installation or alteration of required window openings;

**Appendix “A” to Report PED23081(a)**  
**Page 6 of 7**

- Fixed lighting;
- Installation or alteration of interior fire protection systems; fire separations; fire doors, fire shutters and other fire protection devices;
- Interior improvements for barrier-free accessibility including elevators; and
- Other improvements deemed health, safety and accessible issues eligible at the sole discretion of the GM.

Ineligible costs/improvements include:

- Any temporary or non-permanently affixed improvement such as, but not limited to, outdoor patio furniture, interior furniture, plexiglass partitions or display case equipment;
- Outdoor patios/decks;
- Non-permanent interior decoration;
- Professional fees;
- City permit and/or application fees;
- Business interruption expenses;
- Business equipment;
- Tools; and
- Any other cost/improvement deemed not to meet the intent of this Program at the sole discretion of the GM.

#### D. PROGRAM APPLICATION CRITERIA

A complete Program application shall be submitted to the Economic Development Division prior to the commencement of works that are the subject of a Program application. Required documents and information forming a complete application shall be identified within the Program’s application form.

An application fee is payable upon submission of application. The fee will be authorized through a user-fee by-law passed by City Council. The rate of the fee may be changed from time to time as approved by City Council and will be identified on the Program’s application form.

Applications to this program are subject to the approval of the GM in their sole discretion and subject to the availability of funding.

**Appendix “A” to Report PED23081(a)**  
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Applications shall include plans, estimates, contracts and other details as may be required to satisfy the City as to the cost of the improvement/development and conformity with the objectives of the Revitalizing Hamilton’s Commercial Districts Community Improvement Plan.

## E. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Economic Development Division staff will review applications for eligibility in collaboration with other City departments as required with approval of applications subject to a decision by the GM in their sole and unfettered discretion.

Applicants and properties will be the subject of due diligence undertaken by the City prior to any approval being provided or payment of a Grant under this Program. This will include, but may not be limited to, confirmation of the following: all property taxes are paid and current on the subject property(s) or other properties owned by the Applicant within the City of Hamilton, the property is in compliance with Zoning By-law regulations, that there are no outstanding property standards, building code or fire code orders on the subject property(s) and that the Applicant is not in litigation with the City. Failure to comply with any of the above will result in an application not being approved or, if the application is approved, non-payment of a Grant under this Program.

Approved Applicants shall be required to enter into a Grant Payment Agreement with the City.

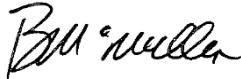
The City reserves the right to require the submission of any additional documentation or enter into any additional agreements as deemed necessary by the City to ensure the goals and purpose of this Program and the Revitalizing Hamilton’s Commercial Districts Community Improvement Plan are met.

Applications to this Program not yet approved by City Council (or its delegate) shall be subject to any changes to the terms of this Program which are approved by Council prior to the application being approved.





**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	October 18, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Conservation Authority Agreements for Non-Mandatory Programs and Services (FCS23081) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Kirk Weaver (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2878
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Brian McMullen Director, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Corporate Services Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute agreements for Non-Mandatory Programs and Services with the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, Halton Region Conservation Authority, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and Grand River Conservation Authority based substantially on the Term Sheet attached as Appendix "A" to Report FCS23081 and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2022, each Conservation Authority completed an inventory of all of their programs and services. These programs and services were categorized into three categories as follows:

- Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services
- Category 2: Municipally requested programs and services
- Category 3: Other programs and services deemed advisable

Category 2 and 3 programs and services require an agreement to be entered into between the Conservation Authority and the Municipality. Agreements need to be in place by January 1, 2024.

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**SUBJECT: Conservation Authority Agreements for Non Mandatory Programs and Services (FCS23081) (City Wide) – Page 2 of 6**

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Conservation Authorities are permitted to provide non-mandatory programs and services under a memorandum of understanding or such other agreement as may be entered into with a participating municipality.

The term of the Agreement for Services is proposed for a period of up to five years commencing on January 1, 2024 and running until December 31, 2028. The Agreement would be reviewed by the parties within six months of the end date of the Initial Term to determine whether or not it is to be renewed by the parties, including whether any changes will be made to the non-mandatory programs and services. Upon successfully completing this review, the agreement may be renewed for an additional five-year term.

The programs and services provided by each of the four Conservation Authorities within the City of Hamilton will vary somewhat between Conservation Authority. The specific services will be detailed within a schedule in each agreement. Generally, the types of programs and services provided will include service areas that are core components of integrated watershed management or are for cultural heritage or conservation lands and have been provided to the City for many years.

**Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** There are no direct financial implications from approval of Report FCS23081. The specific costs for the Category 2 and 3 services provided by each Conservation Authority will be outlined in annual budget submissions presented to Council for consideration.

**Staffing:** There are no staffing implications as a result of the recommendations in Report FCS23081.

**Legal:** Draft agreements with all four Conservation Authorities have been reviewed by the Legal Services Division and will be finalized upon the approval of Report FCS23081 by Council.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

On October 7, 2021, three (3) new regulations were instituted under the *Conservation Authorities Act*:

- Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services. This regulation prescribes the mandatory programs and services conservation authorities would be required to provide, including core watershed-based resource management strategies.

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**SUBJECT: Conservation Authority Agreements for Non Mandatory Programs and Services (FCS23081) (City Wide) – Page 3 of 6**

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- Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Act. This regulation requires each authority to have a ‘transition plan’ that would outline the steps to be taken to develop an inventory of programs and services and to enter into agreements with participating municipalities to fund non-mandatory programs and services through a municipal levy, among other things. It also establishes the transition period to enter into those agreements.
- Ontario Regulation 688/21: Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas. This regulation consolidates the current individual conservation authority ‘Conservation Area’ regulations made under Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* into one Minister’s regulation that regulates the public use of authority owned land.

In 2022, each Conservation Authority completed an inventory of all of their programs and services. These programs and services were categorized into three categories as follows:

- Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services
- Category 2: Municipally requested programs and services
- Category 3: Other programs and services deemed advisable

Category 2 and 3 programs and services require an agreement to be entered into between the Conservation Authority and the Municipality. Agreements need to be in place by January 1, 2024. Conservation Authorities had until October 1, 2023 to request an extension to this deadline. It is not anticipated that an extension would be needed with respect to the City of Hamilton agreements.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Act. This regulation requires each authority to have a ‘transition plan’ that would outline the steps to be taken to develop an inventory of programs and services and to enter into agreements with participating municipalities to fund non-mandatory programs and services through a municipal levy, among other things. It also establishes the transition period to enter into those agreements.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Senior staff of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, Grand River Conservation Authority, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton have been consulted throughout the development of the draft agreements.

Corporate Services staff in the Legal Services Division have reviewed draft agreements.

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**SUBJECT: Conservation Authority Agreements for Non Mandatory Programs and Services (FCS23081) (City Wide) – Page 4 of 6**

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Public Works staff in various divisions have been consulted in the development of Report FCS23081 and review of draft agreements.

**ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Conservation Authorities are permitted to provide non-mandatory programs and services under a memorandum of understanding or such other agreement as may be entered into with a participating municipality.

The term of the Agreement for Services is proposed for a period of up to five years commencing on January 1, 2024 and running until December 31, 2028. The Agreement would be reviewed by the parties within six months of the end date of the Initial Term to determine whether or not it is to be renewed by the parties, including whether any changes will be made to the non-mandatory programs and services. Upon successfully completing this review, the agreement may be renewed for an additional five-year term.

**Service Areas**

The programs and services provided by each of the four Conservation Authorities within the City of Hamilton will vary between Conservation Authority. The specific services will be detailed within a schedule in each agreement. Generally, the types of programs and services provided will include service areas that are core components of integrated watershed management or are for cultural heritage or conservation lands and have been provided to the City for many years.

- Management, operation and maintenance of Conservation Authority owned lands for active recreation in order to connect communities and residents with active outdoor recreation opportunities such as camp sites, marina, pavilions, boat rentals, concessions and other assets that can be provided with the direct support or supervision of staff employed by the authority or by another person or body.
- Cultural Heritage Education and Experiences (e.g., program development and delivery at Westfield Heritage Village).
- Sub-watershed planning such as a plan which identifies streams, wetlands, forests, groundwater recharge areas and other natural areas. It includes an inventory of plants, animals, birds and other species. Information on stream flows, water quality, groundwater movement and other natural features is also included.
- Watershed Monitoring Program which includes planning and undertaking an ecological monitoring program on a watershed basis. In addition, this could include the collection, storage, assessment and distribution of ecological data and information regarding watershed conditions and health and participation on any working group.

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**SUBJECT: Conservation Authority Agreements for Non Mandatory Programs and Services (FCS23081) (City Wide) – Page 5 of 6**

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- Watershed Stewardship and Restoration (urban, rural and agriculture) such as applying for and managing external funding, promoting private land stewardship, outreach and providing advice and design assistance to property owners. Implementation of watershed plan stewardship recommendations, climate change impact assessment, identification of vulnerability or risk and the development of mitigation and adaption policies and plans.
- Aquatic Monitoring Program – non-Conservation Authority lands.
- Water Quality Monitoring – Water quality and erosion site monitoring for the City of Hamilton. City of Hamilton groundwater monitoring well inspections, well water quality sampling, surface water monitoring and E. coli sampling. This would also include water quality monitoring associated with tributaries to Cootes Paradise as part of Conservation Authority Ontario and Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan monitoring.

#### Funding

The costs associated with non-mandatory programs and services falling within Category 2 and / or 3 under the Act and / or its regulations will be reviewed by the parties on an annual basis as part of the annual budget (operating / capital) approval process, in line with budget guidelines. The fees apportioned to the Participating Municipality shall be calculated annually using the Modified Current Value Apportionment method in the watershed, unless otherwise noted as being attributable directly to the Participating Municipality as a special benefiting levy.

Conservation Authorities may charge a user fee in the delivery of any programs and services listed, as appropriate, to assist with costs of Conservation Authority programs or services provided under the Agreement for Services. Such user fees shall only be imposed in accordance with Conservation Authorities Fee Policy and Fee Schedules adopted in accordance with the provisions of the Act, or otherwise in accordance with provisions set out in an agreement between Conservation Authority and the Participating Municipality.

An “Annual Notice to Pay”, including the Modified Current Value Apportionment fee calculations, will be sent to the Participating Municipality following annual Conservation Authority budget approval and payment for annual fees shall be made by the Participating Municipality in four, quarterly installments by the end of each fiscal quarter in each calendar year. This process is consistent with how the City currently pays the four Conservation Authorities.

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**SUBJECT: Conservation Authority Agreements for Non Mandatory Programs  
and Services (FCS23081) (City Wide) – Page 6 of 6**

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**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Not Applicable

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix “A” to Report FCS23081 – Conservation Authority Agreements For  
Category 2 and 3 Programs and Services – Term Sheet

KW/dt

**Appendix “A” to Report FCS23081**  
**Page 1 of 3**

**Conservation Authority Agreements**  
**For Category 2 and 3 Programs and Services**  
**Term Sheet**

Conservation Authorities: Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton, Grand River Conservation Authority and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

City: City of Hamilton ("City")

Type of Agreement: Provision of Non-Mandatory Programs and Services under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

**Conditions**

Term of Agreement

1. The term of this Agreement for Services shall be for a period of up to five years commencing on January 1, 2024 and running until December 31, 2028 (the “**Initial Term**”) with annual reviews of the services to be provided.
2. This Agreement for Services shall be reviewed by the parties within six months of the end date of the Initial Term for the purpose of determining whether or not this Agreement for Services is to be renewed by the parties and discussing the terms of any renewal, including, but not limited to, whether any changes will be made to the non-mandatory programs and services.
3. The Conservation Authority and the City may renew this Agreement for Services for an unlimited number of additional five-year terms (the “**Renewal Term(s)**”), provided that any renewed Agreement for Services must also be reviewed by the parties six months prior to the end date of any such Renewal Term(s), as set out in paragraph 2 above. In the event that a renewed agreement is not reached before the term end date listed in paragraph 1, then the terms of this Agreement for Services shall remain in place until terminated by either party, which termination can occur at any time upon six months’ notice.
4. This Agreement for Services may be terminated by either party prior to the end of the Initial Term or any Renewal Term(s), upon delivery of a written “Notice of Early Termination” at least six months before the early termination date, which date is to be specified in the written “Notice of Early Termination”.

**Appendix “A” to Report FCS23081**  
**Page 2 of 3**

5. The City and Conservation Authority will strive to facilitate open and timely communication at all levels. The resolution of disputes that may arise between the parties to this Agreement for Services during the Initial Term and / or any Renewal Term(s) shall be subject to alternative dispute resolution for the settling of disputes outside the Court system, which shall include, first, a mediation to be conducted by a mutually agreed-upon mediator at such time as may be mutually agreed upon by the Conservation Authority and the City and, second, should mediation be unsuccessful, an arbitration to be conducted by a mutually agreed-upon arbitrator at such time and pursuant to such procedural rules as may be mutually agreed upon by the Conservation Authority and the City. The cost of any mediation and / or arbitration shall be borne in equal shares by the Conservation Authority and City.
6. The Conservation Authority will not add to or delete from the services or programs funded from municipal contributions without first consulting with the City and entering into a written amendment to this Agreement for Services with the City.
7. The City acknowledges and agrees that by executing this Agreement for Services, it is confirmed that the terms of this Agreement for Services have been reviewed and approved by a resolution of the Council of the City through adoption of the Term Sheet.
8. This Agreement for Services does not preclude the parties identifying or entering into agreements with respect to opportunities for further collaboration to the benefit of both parties and is intended to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability in the use of resources, including in-kind services and assistance, coordination of complimentary policy and program initiatives and projects involving third parties.

#### Fees and Payment

9. The costs associated with non-mandatory programs and services falling within Category 2 and / or 3 under the Act and / or its regulations shall, subject to this Agreement for Services, be reviewed by the parties on an annual basis as part of the annual budget (operating / capital) approval process, in line with budget guidelines.
10. The fees apportioned to the City shall be calculated annually using the Modified Current Value Apportionment (MCVA) method in the watershed, unless otherwise noted, as being attributable directly to the City as a special benefiting levy.
11. Conservation Authorities may charge a user fee in the delivery of any programs and services listed, as appropriate, to assist with costs of Conservation Authority programs or services provided under this Agreement for Services. Such user fees shall only be imposed in accordance with Conservation Authorities Fee Policy and Fee Schedules adopted in accordance with the provisions of the Act, or otherwise in accordance with provisions set out in an agreement between Conservation Authority and the City.



**Appendix "A" to Report FCS23081**  
**Page 3 of 3**

12. An "Annual Notice to Pay", including the MCVA fee calculations, shall be sent to the City following annual Conservation Authority budget approval and payment for annual fees shall be made by the City in four, quarterly installments by the end of each fiscal quarter in each calendar year.

Amendments

13. This Agreement for Services cannot be altered, amended, changed, modified, or abandoned, in whole or in part, except by written agreement executed by the parties, and no subsequent oral agreement shall have any validity whatsoever.



## INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	October 18, 2023
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Encampment Response Update – September 2023 (HSC23066(a)) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Mike Jones (905) 546-2424 ext. 3824 Danielle Blake (905) 546-2424 ext. 3731
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Michelle Baird Director, Housing Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	<i>Michelle Baird</i>

### COUNCIL DIRECTION

On August 18, 2023, Council ratified an Encampment Protocol to be used by City staff to respond and manage encampments, tents, or temporary structures within public lands in the City of Hamilton.

To provide ongoing accountability and transparency to the City's encampment response program and the implementation of its encampment protocol, staff were directed to communicate with Council and Ward Councillors regarding the Encampment Protocol through monthly, ongoing Information Reports to General Issues Committee and include data and trends, operational updates, and any continuous improvement measures implemented to further efforts toward providing ongoing accountability and transparency to the City's encampment response program and the implementation of its encampment protocol.

### INFORMATION

#### Operational Updates

Site Tracking

## SUBJECT: Encampment Response Update – September 2023 (HSC23066(a)) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 9

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To support a housing-led approach, Housing Focused Street Outreach has reviewed its internal processes to identify all new sites via the unsheltered inbox and voicemail and has developed data infrastructure to facilitate an expedited response and to escalate all non-compliant sites to Municipal Law Enforcement within the three-day service period. Additionally, a shared database has been created to ensure all Coordinated Response Teams have access to up-to-date and relevant information daily.

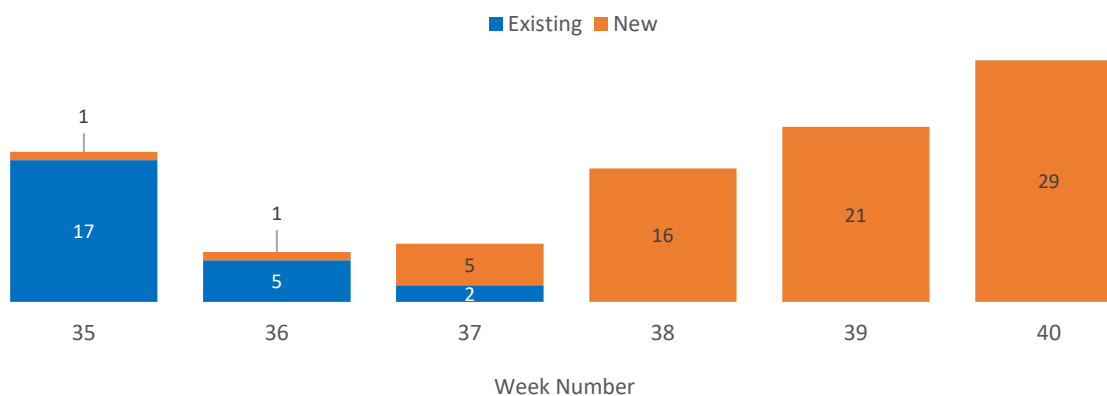
### Identifying Public vs Private Property

For sites where there is uncertainty around private or public ownership (i.e., leased land), Housing Focused Street Outreach works directly with Municipal Law Enforcement staff to determine land ownership associated with each site. As a result of the additional time required to clarify ownership, staff may exceed the required service levels to ensure the correct approach is being taken, involving the appropriate parties.

### Increase in New, Smaller Encampments

The following chart details the types of encampments that have received complaints and/or requests for service and have been visited by Housing Focused Street Outreach staff who engage onsite with individuals who are unsheltered and may escalate the site for enforcement to investigate if there are clear presenting concerns.

When the Encampment Protocol was ratified in August, the encampments that existed at that time were often larger and more entrenched. After enforcement was taken on the larger sites, it has likely led to an influx of new, smaller sites throughout the community. This is evidenced by the increase of new sites identified via complaints and/or service requests, as per the chart below.



**SUBJECT: Encampment Response Update – September 2023 (HSC23066(a)) (City Wide) - Page 3 of 9**

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**Compliance Decisions**

As part of a housing-led approach, Housing Focused Street Outreach staff are the first responders to all encampment-related complaints and requests for service. To ensure that resources are only deployed when necessary, Housing Focused Street Outreach will conduct an immediate assessment of any notable presenting concerns related to a site's compliance.

If a determination is made by Housing Focused Street Outreach that there may be issues concerning a site's compliance, staff will make all attempts to engage with the individual(s) at the site to provide appropriate referrals to services and supports in the community and will inform them that they may be in a location that is in contravention to the Encampment Protocol, and likely to result in Municipal Law Enforcement investigating in the near future.

As part of this conversation, Outreach staff will begin to assist the individual(s) at the site to identify new, compliant sites they may be able to move to. It is important to note that Housing Focused Street Outreach can only discuss and recommend compliant areas within the City; the final determination of where to go will be made by individual(s) who are unsheltered.

Once a site has been escalated to Municipal Law Enforcement for investigation, they assume responsibility of determining a site's compliance.

**New Encampments at Previously Cleared Sites or Areas**

As per the processes outlined in the Encampment Protocol, there is a clear approach to addressing new encampments. In the event an encampment is in a non-compliant location and an enforcement process has been initiated and finalized, the encampment is to be cleared by Parks Section staff.

Occasionally after a site is designated by staff as cleared, different individual(s) may move into the same location and erect a new tent. To maintain clarity and ensure individuals are given an opportunity to be informed of the Encampment Protocol, anytime new tents are discovered on a site or in an area that has been previously cleared, the entire process will restart with Housing Focused Street Outreach attending to engage. This will also be reflected in the reporting of sites.

## SUBJECT: Encampment Response Update – September 2023 (HSC23066(a)) (City Wide) - Page 4 of 9

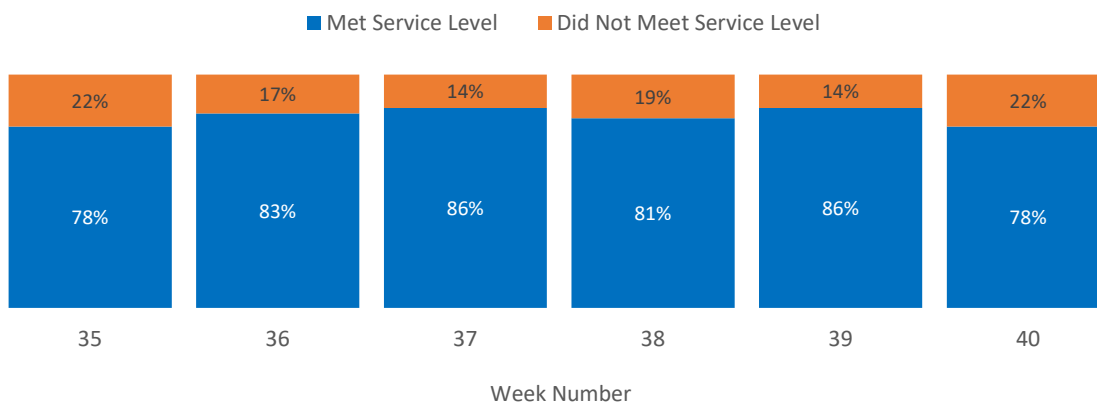
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### Service Levels

#### Housing Focused Street Outreach

The ratification of the Encampment Protocol established a three-day service level for response to complaints and/or service requests related to encampments. As such, Housing Focused Street Outreach has three days to visit the site and decide on whether the site should be escalated to Municipal Law Enforcement for further enforcement.

Including both existing and new encampments, the following chart reports on Housing Focused Street Outreach's ability to meet service levels by week (note, weeks are identified in the chart by the numbered week, i.e., , since the protocol has been ratified. On average to date, Housing Focused Street Outreach has met its service levels 81% of the time, responding to complaints and/or requests for service at 100 different new and existing sites since the Protocol was ratified on August 18, 2023.



### Access to Washrooms and Showers Update

Data on shower programs will be reported in the weekly report to Council beginning October 3, 2023.

### Encampment Compliance Update

In September, there were 68 different sites that were identified through various modalities to Housing Focused Street Outreach. As per the Encampment Protocol and a housing-led approach, Outreach staff attended each location to engage with individuals living at the site to provide education around the protocol, provide supports

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**SUBJECT: Encampment Response Update – September 2023 (HSC23066(a)) (City Wide) - Page 5 of 9**

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and resources and make a preliminary assessment on the site's compliance with the Encampment Protocol.

Of the 68 sites identified to Housing Focused Street Outreach, there were 35 (51%) locations that were compliant on first visit, of which 26 sites did not have a tent present upon first visit, and 9 were already in compliant areas.

As such, a total of 31 (46%) sites were escalated to Municipal Law Enforcement for investigation and the potential issuance of trespass orders requiring individuals to move to a compliant site or area. At the 31 escalated sites, trespass orders were issued at 18 sites, for a total of 75 trespass orders.

**Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters Update**

After doing their due diligence on the proposed Strachan site, Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters has decided not to proceed at this location.

Although no alternative sites are being proposed at this time, City staff will continue to work with Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters and will keep the public informed about progress with respect to the Tiny Homes initiative through the monthly General Issues Committee Encampment Response Updates.

**Additional Trends and Data****Volume of Complaints**

Housing Focused Street Outreach staff have created a tracker to log all complaints and follow-ups that are sent to the unsheltered mailbox. Currently, voicemails are not being logged as part of the monthly complaint or service request totals, but a process is being developed to do so.

In September, the number of complaints increased from 799 in August, to 897. This increase is likely related to the dispersion of larger encampments in the City that existed prior to the ratification of the Protocol. As a result, individuals who are unsheltered, with the support of Housing Focused Street Outreach, are seeking new compliant areas of the City to stay. The number of new sites that has been identified via complaints and requests for service has increased in September.

**Total Unique Individuals Living in Encampments**

In September, Housing Focused Street Outreach interacted with an approximate total of 280 individuals. This number is substantially higher than the totals recorded in past

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months. This is consistent with an equal increase in the number of interactions to provide supports to individuals living unsheltered.

The higher totals in September may also reflect a more refined, systematic process to identifying new sites for engagement by Housing Focused Street Outreach and prioritizing the recording of all interactions with individuals at encampments.

#### Supports for Individuals Living in Encampments

With the increased number of sites being identified in the community and in wanting to be a support for individuals who are moving to new sites, the total interactions by Housing Focused Street Outreach staff increased substantially compared to the total from last month.

As movement continues to occur throughout the community, and with greater interaction occurring at entrenched sites prior to the issuance of trespass notices, it is expected that these totals will continue to be high for the foreseeable future.

In addition, Housing Focused Street Outreach staff with the support of other units in the Housing Services Division, are reviewing the categories available to staff after an interaction to provide greater clarity and specificity in reporting. It is anticipated that changes to the current reporting structure as it relates to interactions will be updated prior to end of year.

#### Escalated Complaints

The total escalated complaints were higher in September than the year-to-date average. This is likely due to an increase of new, smaller encampments throughout the City that became visible after the larger, entrenched encampments were issued notice.

#### Cleaning and Maintenance

Parks Section staff continue to take direction from the Encampment Coordination team on sites where encampment-related garbage and/or debris require cleaning. This includes cleaning of abandoned sites, as well as proactively working with individuals at compliant and non-compliant sites to provide ongoing garbage pickup and ensure that sites are maintained on an ongoing basis. In September the number of sites cleaned by Parks Section staff is consistent with previous months.

#### Indicators

The following indicators have been established to assess the success of the program on an interim basis and will be reported on regularly to provide accountability to the public

**SUBJECT: Encampment Response Update – September 2023 (HSC23066(a)) (City Wide) - Page 7 of 9**

and people with lived experience, and transparency regarding the City's approach to encampment response.

Indicator	Category of Measurement	Sept 2023	Prev. Month	YTD Avg.	Sept 2022
Total complaints and/or requests for service requiring response or follow-up by Housing Focused Street Outreach (HFSO)	Volume of complaints and/or requests for service	897	799	713	N/A
Number of unique individuals/households reached who are unsheltered and/or regularly living in encampments throughout the City (defined by connection to HFSO), who have provided consent to have their personal information stored in the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS).	Total unique individuals living in encampments	77	69	84	55
Number of unique individuals/households reached who are unsheltered and/or regularly living in encampments throughout the City (defined by connection to HFSO), who have not yet provided consent to have their personal information stored in the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS).	Total unique individuals living in encampments	203	53	81	N/A
Number of interactions where individuals received support (from HFSO) with their basic needs per month	Support basic needs of individuals living in encampments	57	106	81	47

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Indicator	Category of Measurement	Sept 2023	Prev. Month	YTD Avg.	Sept 2022
Number of interactions where individuals received support (from HFSSO) with their housing needs per month	Support housing-related needs of individuals living in encampments	365	183	200	100
Escalated items actioned to Municipal Law Enforcement from HFSSO (i.e., Municipal Law Enforcement Officers (MLEOs) were involved in response) on public property	Volume of Escalated complaints	28	36	18	N/A
Escalated items actioned to Municipal Law Enforcement from HFSSO (i.e., Municipal Law Enforcement Officers (MLEOs) were involved in response) on private property	Volume of Escalated complaints	6	11	7	N/A
Total number of Trespass Notices issued on public property	Response type to escalated complaint	75	137	99	33
Total number of Trespass Notices issued on private property	Response type to escalated complaint	0	0	0	N/A
Number of instances where compliance was achieved immediately on public property, without issuing of Voluntary Compliance Notice	Response type to escalated complaint	4	4	3	N/A

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Indicator	Category of Measurement	Sept 2023	Prev. Month	YTD Avg.	Sept 2022
Number of instances where compliance was achieved immediately on private property, without issuing of Voluntary Compliance Notice	Response type to escalated complaint	0	0	0	N/A
Number of encampment sites cleaned and/or maintained by Parks Section staff or a designated contractor	Park cleaning and maintenance	87	94	74	81

All indicators meet the criteria of being valid and reliable and can be replicated by City staff and reported monthly.

Please direct any inquiries to Danielle Blake, Manager, Housing Focused Street Outreach, at (905) 546-2424 ext. 3731, or by email at [Danielle.Blake@hamilton.ca](mailto:Danielle.Blake@hamilton.ca).

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A



# CITY OF HAMILTON

## CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT Legal and Risk Management Services Division and City Manager's Office

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	October 18, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Red Hill Valley Parkway Inquiry Update (LS19036 (t)) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Patricia D'Souza, Solicitor, Legal & Risk Management Services (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4637
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Lisa Shields, City Solicitor Legal and Risk Management Services Corporate Services Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the revised estimated total cost of the Red Hill Valley Parkway Judicial Inquiry of up to \$28,000,000, to be funded through the Tax Stabilization Reserve (110046).

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 24, 2019 Council directed staff to provide regular updates on the costs to date of the Red Hill Valley Parkway Judicial Inquiry (the "Inquiry"), to be paid from the Tax Stabilization Reserve.

This report provides both an update on the status of the Inquiry and the costs to date.

To date, the City has incurred approximately \$25.5 million in costs associated with the Inquiry, inclusive of the non-recoverable portion of HST, and based on the estimate of costs provided by Emily Lawrence and Andrew Lewis of Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP, who were retained by the Commissioner as Counsel to the Commission ("Commission Counsel") and the City's external legal counsel ("Inquiry Counsel") at Lenczner Slaght LLP. The City may incur an additional \$1 million in costs between October 2023 and January 2024, resulting in a total estimated cost to the City for the Inquiry of between \$27 million and \$28 million (including taxes).

**SUBJECT: Red Hill Valley Parkway Inquiry Update (LS19036(t)) (City Wide)****Page 2 of 4**

This increase in costs is related to additional work that will be necessary following the release of the final report, including an analysis and presentation of the key findings of the report to Council by Inquiry Counsel. Given the delay in the release of the report, which was initially expected in early Fall 2023, Inquiry Counsel are unable to provide a complete breakdown of this additional work at this time. The report is now expected to be released by November 2023. Commission Counsel continues to assist in preparing the final report, and the bulk of the current fees relate to Commission Counsel's legal fees, as well as data storage, website maintenance and report publication.

**Alternatives for Consideration** – Not Applicable

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** The costs associated with the advancement of the Red Hill Valley Parkway Judicial Inquiry through the report completion and post-report stages are estimated to be in the range of \$27 million and \$28 million.

These costs are based upon the current status, anticipated effort required and the current forecasted schedule, which are subject to change based upon the requirements of the Commissioner and Commission Counsel, which may be outside the control of the City.

These costs will be recovered from the Tax Stabilization Fund.

**Staffing:** Not Applicable.

**Legal:** As outlined in this Report.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

As outlined in this Report.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

- Mike Zegarac – General Manager Corporate Services Department

**ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION****Status of the Inquiry**

The hearing stage of the Inquiry was completed in Spring 2023, with oral closing submissions delivered on March 22 and 24, 2023. The parties are now awaiting the release of the report by the Inquiry's Commissioner, the Honourable Mr. Justice Herman J. Wilton-Seigel, in which he will summarise the evidence, make findings of fact, and recommendations in response to the Terms of Reference, which were 24 questions

**SUBJECT: Red Hill Valley Parkway Inquiry Update (LS19036(t)) (City Wide)****Page 3 of 4**

provided by City Council at the Inquiry's outset. It is expected that the Commissioner's report will be released by November 2023.

Since the hearing stage was completed in March 2023, the bulk of the work on the Inquiry since that time has been by Commission Counsel, assisting the Commissioner with the preparation and publication of the report.

**Costs of the Inquiry**

The costs of the Inquiry to date are outlined in the following chart, representing external legal fees incurred by Commission Counsel and Inquiry Counsel, as well as fees related to services provided by Deloitte for data hosting, reviewing and producing documents and other associated expenses, including the digitizing of paper files, website hosting and consultants. The total below represents the actual expenses and the non-recoverable portion of HST. These expenses are being funded from the Tax Stabilization reserve.

<b>To September 18, 2023</b>	
City's Expenses (e.g. data collection, hosting)	\$798,188.87
City's External Legal Counsel Fees and Disbursements	\$10,689,371.14
Commission Counsel Fees and Disbursements	\$12,590,962.14
Other Expenses (e.g. consultants, website hosting)	\$1,587,429.05
<b>Total (inclusive of non-recoverable HST)</b>	<b>\$25,665,951.20</b>

The Inquiry was previously estimated to cost between \$18 million and \$20 million. On August 8, 2022, Council approved a revised estimated total cost of the Inquiry up to \$26 million, to be funded through the Tax Stabilization Reserve. The total costs were revised based on an updated estimate of Commission Counsel's legal fees from July 1, 2022 to the end of the Inquiry (excluding taxes). This estimate did not include the costs associated with all of Commission Counsel's disbursements, including the cost of expert witnesses.

The City receives detailed dockets from Inquiry Counsel which allows it to monitor and assess Counsel's fees. However, as Commission Counsel stands in a solicitor-client relationship with the Commissioner, the City has limited visibility into the breakdown of Commission Counsel's fees. Commission Counsel does provide a general breakdown of their fees into specific categories. These summaries provide some additional details to the City, while maintaining Commission Counsel's solicitor-client privilege with the Commissioner.

The bulk of the expenses following the conclusion of the hearing stage in late March 2023 arise from legal fees incurred by Commission Counsel as they assist the

**SUBJECT: Red Hill Valley Parkway Inquiry Update (LS19036(t)) (City Wide)****Page 4 of 4**

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Commissioner in preparing the final report. There have also been ongoing expenses relating to the hosting and maintenance of the Inquiry website and database and report publication.

Based on the revised estimate of Commission Counsel's legal fees, the costs of the Inquiry are expected to fall between \$27 million and \$28 million. This total also anticipates additional support Inquiry Counsel may provide to the City following the release of the Commissioner's Report, such as further reporting to staff and Council on the legal implications of the Report's conclusions and recommendations.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Not Applicable.

**ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN****Our People and Performance**

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None.



## **AIRPORT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT 23-004**

**9:30 a.m.**

**October 6, 2023**

Room 264, City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

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**Present:** Councillors M. Tadeson (Co-Chair) and M. Spadafora (Co-Chair)  
Councillors J. Beattie, C. Cassar, M. Francis, T. Hwang, T. McMeekin, and E. Pauls

**Absent with  
Regrets:** Councillor E. Pauls – City Business

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### **THE AIRPORT SUB-COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 23-004 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

- 1. Airport Masterplan (PED19084(i)) (City Wide) (Item 10.1)**
  - (a) That the Airport Master Plan, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED19084(i), prepared by TradePort International Corporation (TradePort), be approved;
  - (b) That TradePort be directed to complete, in cooperation with the city and its partners, the following studies necessary to implement the Airport Master Plan, that are required from time to time, and particularly in the immediate term:
    - (i) Ground Transportation Study;
    - (ii) Noise Exposure Forecasts and Airport Zone Regulations Assessment;
    - (iii) Functional Servicing Report / Master Servicing Plan;
    - (iv) Radar Tower Relocation Study;
    - (v) Stormwater Master Drainage Study;
    - (vi) Airport Environmental Strategy and Climate Resiliency Plan; and

- (vii) Long-term Land Needs Assessment, and Land Use and Development Optimization Strategy.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 2)**

The Committee Clerk advised the Committee of the following changes to the agenda:

**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 5.1 Nick Wood, Vice-President of Corbett Land Strategies Inc., respecting Airport Master Plan (PED19084(i)) (City wide)

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 10.1, respecting Airport Masterplan (PED19084(i))

**6. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

- 6.1 Don McLean with Hamilton 350 Committee, respecting Item 10.1 Airport Masterplan (for today's meeting)

The agenda for the October 6, 2023 Airport Sub-Committee was approved, as amended.

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**

**(i) September 11, 2023 (Item 4.1)**

The Minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting of the Airport Sub-Committee were approved, as presented.

**(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)**

- (i) Nick Wood, Vice-President of Corbett Land Strategies Inc., respecting Airport Master Plan (PED19084(i)) (City wide) (Added Item 5.1)**

The correspondence from Nick Wood, Vice-President of Corbett Land Strategies Inc., respecting Airport Master Plan (PED19084(i)) (City Wide), was received and referred to consideration of Item 10.1, respecting Airport Masterplan (PED19084(i)).



**(e) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)**

**(i) Don McLean, Hamilton 350 Committee, respecting Item 10.1 Airport Masterplan (PED19084(i)) (City Wide) (Added Item 6.1)**

The delegation request from Don McLean with Hamilton 350 Committee, respecting Item 10.1 Airport Masterplan (PED19084(i)), was approved for today's meeting.

**(f) DELEGATIONS (Item 7)**

**(i) Don McLean, Hamilton 350 Committee, respecting Item 10.1 Airport Masterplan (PED19084(i)) (City Wide) (Added Item 7.1)**

Don McLean, Hamilton 350 Committee addressed the Committee respecting the Airport Masterplan (PED19084(i)) (Item 10.1).

The delegate was provided with an additional 10 minutes to complete their delegation.

The delegation from Don McLean, respecting the Airport Masterplan (PED19084(i)) was received and referred to consideration of Item 10.1, Airport Masterplan.

**(d) PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL (Item 14)**

Committee determined that discussion of Item 14.1 was not required in Closed Session, therefore, the matter was addressed in Open Session, as follows:

**(i) Closed Session Minutes – September 11, 2023 (Item 14.1)**

The Airport Sub-Committee Closed Session Minutes of September 11, 2023, were approved and remain confidential.

**(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)**

There being no further business, the Airport Sub-Committee was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Michael  
Spadafora  
Co-Chair, Airport Sub-  
Committee

Aleah Whalen  
Legislative Coordinator

Office of the City Clerk