



CITY OF HAMILTON
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
Administration

and
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Public Health Services - Healthy Environments Division

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| TO: | Mayor and Members General Issues Committee |
| COMMITTEE DATE: | December 4, 2019 |
| SUBJECT/REPORT NO: | Corporate Goals and Areas of Focus for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (CMO19008/HSC19073) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item) |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | City Wide |
| PREPARED BY: | Trevor Imhoff (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1308 |
| SUBMITTED BY: SIGNATURE: | Janette Smith City Manager |
| SUBMITTED BY: SIGNATURE: | Paul Johnson General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department |

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That staff be directed to investigate the areas of focus as detailed in the Corporate Goals and Areas of Focus for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation attached as Appendix "A" to Report CMO19008/HSC19073 and report back to their respective committees on implementation and resources required;
- (b) That the City of Hamilton's annual contribution of \$160,000 towards the Bay Area Climate Change Office for the remainder of the 2018-2022 term of Council be referred to the 2020 operating budget for consideration; and,

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

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- (c) That the item identified as Development of Departmental Climate Change Workplans within the City of Hamilton be identified as complete and removed from the Outstanding Business Item List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On June 26, 2019, Council approved the motion directing staff to develop comprehensive, corporate-wide climate change adaptation and mitigation work plans under the direction of the City Manager within six months.

The Corporate Climate Change Task Force (Task Force), which included staff from every department across the corporation, has created new enhanced corporate-wide goals and areas of focus for both climate change adaptations and mitigation. The Task Force has also compiled a list of existing corporate climate change actions, attached as Appendix “B” to Report CMO19088/HSC19073.

This report lays the foundation for the first of many corporate-wide, centralized climate change reporting through the Task Force. The purpose of this report is to detail evidence informed goals and areas of focus that will drive work that will help to achieve Hamilton’s long-term Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction targets. Staff will then report back to their respective committees on resources required for implementation which will also be centralized and reported annually through the Task Force report.

Since 2017, the cities of Hamilton and Burlington have partnered with the Centre for Climate Change Management at Mohawk College and created the Bay Area Climate Change Office (BACCO) to continue to help foster the much-needed buy-in and culture shift across the cities of Hamilton and Burlington to accelerate climate change action to help achieve our community GHG reduction targets and climate resiliency goals. This will also include a regional wide education and awareness approach to further action across the Bay Area. This report recommends making a financial commitment to BACCO of \$160,000 per year for the remaining three years of this term of Council (2020, 2021, 2022). The City of Burlington and other funders also provide financial support for BACCO.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 5

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The City of Hamilton currently provides an in-kind contribution to the Mohawk College Centre for Climate Change Management for the support of the Bay Area Climate Change Office (BACCO). The current contribution is not annualized and therefore it is recommended that funding in the amount of \$160,000 per year for the remaining years of this term of Council (2020, 2021 and 2022) is being referred to the

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2020 budget process for a source of funding. The funds will be used by Mohawk College for staff and operating costs for BACCO. The City of Burlington also contributes to BACCO and the staff at BACCO continue to apply for funding from other government, private and philanthropic sources.

As workplans for the corporate goals and areas of focus are developed, any future financial considerations related to climate change mitigation and adaptation will be presented for consideration by Council through the appropriate standing committees or the annual budget process.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be required between the City of Hamilton and Mohawk College.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On March 27, 2019, Council approved the Accelerating and Prioritizing Climate Action in Response to the Climate Emergency motion which directed staff to create a Corporate Climate Change Task Force (Task Force) and report back in 120 days.

On June 17, 2019, the Board of Health received Report BOH19022, Corporate Climate Change Task Force Response to the Climate Change Emergency Declaration which outlined the reporting structure and overarching framework of the Task Force.

On June 26, 2019, Council approved the “Establishment of Departmental Climate Change Workplans within the City of Hamilton” motion. This motion directed staff to develop a comprehensive, corporate-wide climate change adaptation and mitigation workplan, incorporative of all City departments, under the direction of the City Manager within six months.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

None

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The development of the corporate goals and areas of focus for climate adaptation and mitigation were completed by the Corporate Climate Change Task Force. Membership of the Task Force included staff from the following departments:

- Corporate Services;
- Public Works;
- Planning and Economic Development; and,

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- Healthy and Safe Communities.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority and CityHousing Hamilton also participated in the Task Force and the development of the corporate goals and areas of focus. Additional staff beyond the core members were also consulted and given opportunities to provide feedback.

The final goals and areas of focus are a result of corporate-wide feedback, along with final consultation from the Senior Leadership Team.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

On March 27, 2019, Hamilton City Council declared a climate change emergency and directed staff to form a Corporate Climate Change Task Force under the direction of the City Manager. With the declaration of the climate change emergency, the City joined the group of approximately 435 municipalities world-wide. Since then, the total number of municipalities acknowledging the scale of the climate emergency has reached more than 800 cities around the world, including the Government of Canada.

Climate change is already impacting the City through shoreline and escarpment erosion, millions of dollars of infrastructure damages caused by extreme storm events and freeze/thaw cycles, increases in extreme heat events leading to drought, and increased precipitation leading to flooding.

A recent report by the Insurance Bureau of Canada and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) estimates that across Canada an average annual investment of \$5.3 B is needed for municipalities to adapt to climate change.¹

Council's approved climate emergency motion also directed the Task Force to investigate actions to be taken which could be incorporated into existing plans and policies to achieve net zero carbon emissions before 2050. This new target of carbon neutrality before 2050 aligns with the most recent United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.

The goals and areas of focus as described in detail in Appendix "A" to Report CMO19008/HSC19073 were developed by the Task Force. The Task Force followed the corporately endorsed Results Based Accountability (RBA) process which uses a

¹ Federation of Canada Municipalities (2019). Investing in Canada's Future: The Cost of Climate Adaptation. Retrieved from: <https://data.fcm.ca/documents/focus/investing-in-canadas-future-the-cost-of-climate-adaptation-summary.pdf>

data-driven, decision-making process to help community and organizations take actions to improve the lives of the community as a whole.²

Appendix “A” to Report CMO19008/HSC19073 establishes overarching goals, with high impact actions and detailed areas of focus to help achieve those goals, along with key indicators that will be tracked to inform how well we are achieving the established goals. Evidence informed decision making using information obtained from recent departmental discussions and current scientific evidence such as the following were used:

- Hamilton’s most recent corporate and community GHG inventories;
- Hamilton and Burlington Low-Carbon Scenario and Technical Report 2016-2050³;
- Taking Action on Climate Change in Hamilton – A Community Plan⁴; and,
- The Science of Climate Change: Climate Data for the City of Hamilton⁵

Hamilton’s City-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

The most recent city-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory for the 2017 reporting year is highlighted in Appendix “A” to Report CMO19008/HSC19073. Figure 1.0 is taken from the report and highlights Hamilton’s inventory between 2006-2017, along with Hamilton’s new established targets of 50% by 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2050.

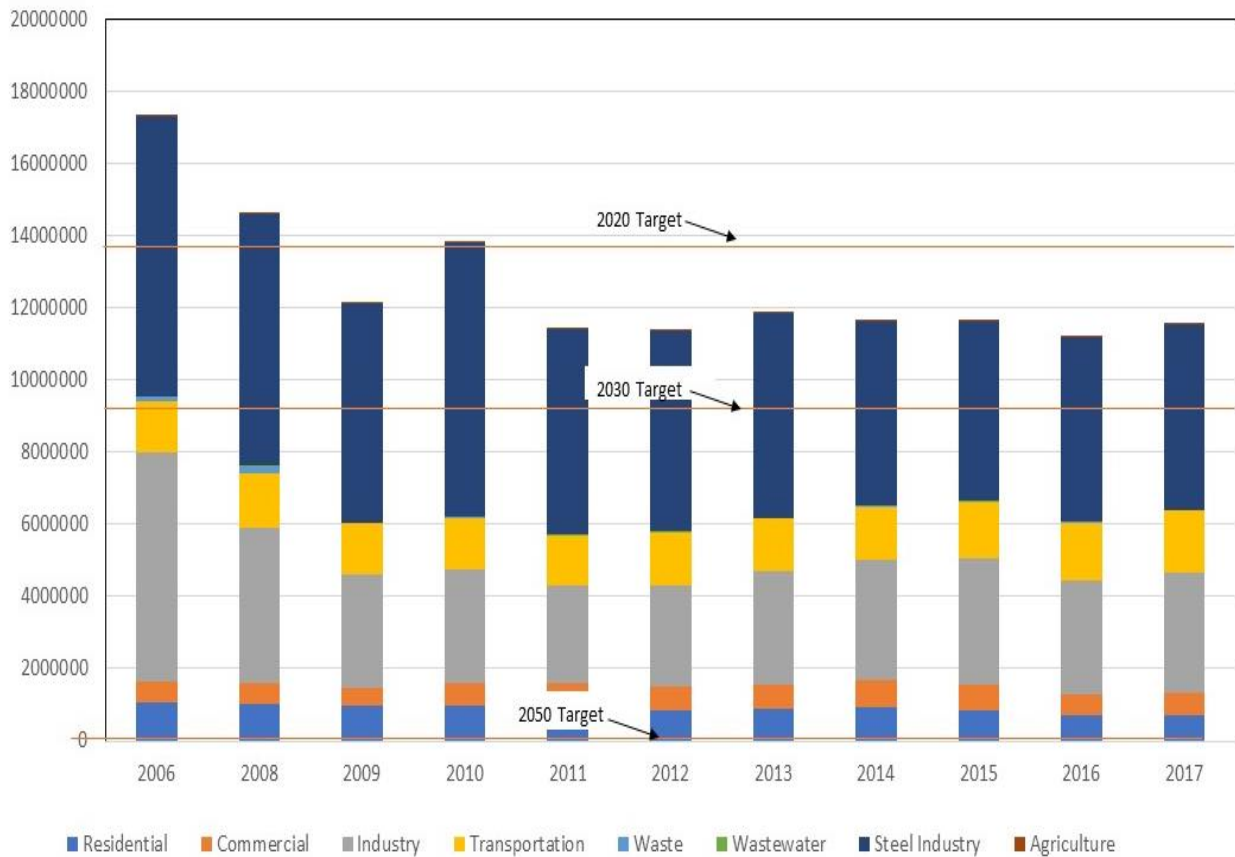
² Fiscal Policy Studies (2019). What is Results-Based Accountability. Retrieved from: <http://resultsaccountability.com/about/what-is-results-based-accountability/>

³ Sustainability Solutions Group (2018). Hamilton and Burlington Low-Carbon Scenario and Technical Report 2016 to 2050. Retrieved from: <https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=195803>

⁴ City of Hamilton (2015). Taking Action on Climate Change in Hamilton – A Community Plan. Retrieved from: <https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=117807>

⁵ ICLEI Canada (2016). The Science of Climate Change: Climate Data for the City of Hamilton, Ontario. Retrieved from: <https://climatechangehamilton.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/the-science-of-climate-change.pdf>

Figure 1.0 Hamilton City-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory



In 2017, Hamilton’s community GHG emissions were estimated at 11,569,045 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). This represents a reduction from the 2006 baseline of approximately 33%, or 5,780,768 tCO₂e. In order to meet our 2050 target, we will need to reduce community-wide GHG emissions approximately 2,894,138 tCO₂e from 2017 levels.

Bay Area Climate Change Office

Although the City of Hamilton can be a leader in facilitating the transition to a low carbon community, corporate emissions in 2017 were 79,028 tCO₂e. This represents 0.68% of total community-wide emissions. The funding amount for Mohawk College is to provide two full-time staff that will lead the Bay Area Climate Change Office (BACCO) and provide some operational funding. Currently, the BACCO is supported by in-kind part-time support from City of Hamilton staff representing approximately 1.0 Full Time Employment (FTE) from the City of Hamilton. This type of support is not sustainable and currently not enough to fully support the direction of BACCO and its members. Providing

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this support will also allow current staff to focus on other corporate climate change priorities such as climate adaptation.

The purpose of the BACCO is to:

- Engage Bay Area residents, students, businesses and communities in climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Assist the Cities of Hamilton and Burlington to meet the challenges of the Climate Emergency, declared by both the cities of Hamilton and Burlington in 2019;
- Reduce local barriers to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction; and,
- Establish and engage all sectors of the Bay Area community in the Bay Area Climate Change Council (BACCC) and Bay Area Climate Change Implementation Teams, the bodies which, together, will form the governance structure for the collaborative implementation of climate action.

Corporate Goals and Areas of Focus

The Corporate Climate Change Task Force Goals and Areas of Focus for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation lays the foundation and empowers staff to re-prioritize and go do the work and report back through their respective committees and the Task Force. These goals and areas of focus leverage existing work plans and staff expertise.

The Task Force report is the first of many corporate-wide and centralized climate change reporting and is meant to be dynamic as scientific evidence and technology quickly evolves and as priorities change. By working on these goals and areas of focus and taking climate action the City can also work towards achieving other corporate priorities including but not limited to:

- Improving air quality and decreasing chronic health diseases by getting people out of their cars and taking active and sustainable transportation;
- Construction of high-performing new and existing buildings with an equity lens is an opportunity to increase good quality and paying jobs, while also saving money on energy prices, especially for our most vulnerable; and,
- Improving business continuity and saving millions of dollars in infrastructure damages by undertaking climate vulnerability and risk assessment.

Climate change action is not just an environmental opportunity, but also a social and economic opportunity. Working on these areas of focus is the start of Hamilton taking accelerated climate change action to reduce GHG emissions and help improve Hamilton's resiliency to help Hamilton continue now, and in the future, to be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Approve the recommendations within this report and the appendices attached to this report with additional or amended conditions. Specifically, Council may remove or add additional goals and areas of focus to be incorporated into Appendix “A” of Report CMO19008/HSC190713. This is also not recommended given the extensive corporate-wide consultation and overall consensus reached by staff across every department.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement & Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

Economic Prosperity and Growth

Hamilton has a prosperous and diverse local economy where people have opportunities to grow and develop.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Clean and Green

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state of the art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

Our People and Performance

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report CMO19008/HSC19073: Corporate Goals and Areas of Focus for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

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Appendix "B" to Report CMO19008/HSC19073: Hamilton's Existing Corporate Climate Change Actions

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