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**Sent:** Thursday, August 4, 2022 8:07 PM  
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**Cc:** VanderBeek, Arlene <[Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca](mailto:Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca)>  
**Subject:** General Issues Committee

Dear General Issues Committee Members,

I've lived in Hamilton most of my life and agree strongly with the City's decision to declare a climate emergency. When I was a kid, the summer temperature seldom had days above 30 degrees Celsius. Now, when I look at the weather heat map, there are full weeks in the summer when the map is already yellow by sunrise and red for most of the day. I did not expect, when I became a parent, that I would worry about my daughter's ability to survive the heat, or that I would wonder how Hamiltonians will be able to feed themselves if climate disasters limit our ability to grow food.

Thank you for your work on a climate strategy. My primary hope is that the plan will prevent mistakes that cannot be undone: that the plan will codify current city boundaries in order to preserve our farmland, and our ability to feed ourselves, and that it will prevent development on sensitive lands such as wetlands. Affordable housing solutions are part of a climate strategy, and I would love to see the development of more multi-unit housing and zoning by-laws that permit single-unit housing to become multi-unit.

I'm hopeful that the strategy will build in multiple ways of addressing climate change, particularly through nature-based solutions. In addition to tree planting for cooling, biodiversity protection, and water management, it would be wonderful to see an ambitious tree-planting target and the inclusion of Miyawaki and food forests. This could be combined with other strategies: a City-led green tech buying consortium for local businesses, changing garden by-laws to maximize the carbon sequestration potential of gardens, encouraging sustainable agricultural practices, reviving the City's leadership in waste diversion through public education regarding reduction rather than recycling, and other strategies that could be adapted from successful models.

Thank you for your work to create a Hamilton that is liveable, safe, and a model for how an industrial town can re-envision itself. Thanks, to, for revisiting the draft with an eye to how we can maximize the protection of the next generation. The situation is, as you said, an emergency. We need to use everything available to us to make sure the Hamilton our children grow up in is the safe, vibrant, resilient city it can still be.

Liz Koblyk  
Greater Hamilton Area resident