

FINAL CONSULTATION REPORT

Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy

Community Energy & Emissions Plan
Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan

August 2022

City of Hamilton

Planning & Economic Development Department
Healthy & Safe Communities Department



Hamilton

1.0 Overview

On June 8th, Hamilton City Council approved Report PED22058/HSC22030 – Hamilton’s Climate Change Action Strategy. The report presented the draft *ReCharge Hamilton – Our Community Energy and Emissions Plan* (CEEP) and provided an update on *Hamilton’s Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan* (CCIAP). The development of the CEEP and CCIAP have been undertaken as distinct, yet related projects. Together, these Plans form the foundational components of “Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy”. Through the approval of the Report, Hamilton City Council directed staff to undertake final public and stakeholder consultation on these two initiatives and report back on the results of the public consultation.

This Consultation Summary presents the results of the final consultation phase on the CEEP and the CCIAP, adding to public and stakeholder engagement and input on both initiatives over their development. For a full review of consultation activities undertaken prior to this final consultation phase, please refer to project webpages www.engage.hamilton.ca/climate-change-adaptation and www.hamilton.ca/ceep.

2.0 Consultation Approaches

In this final phase, consultation on both the CEEP and the CCIAP proceeded in tandem, focusing on reviewing draft actions and potential administrative and governance frameworks for implementation. A variety of engagement and consultation approaches were used in this phase including general public engagement, targeted meetings with stakeholder groups, agencies, and City of Hamilton staff, including follow-up phone calls where needed.

General public engagement occurred on-line through the City of Hamilton’s EngageHamilton platforms www.engagehamilton.ca/ceep and www.engagehamilton.ca/climate-change-adaptation which had been used for previous engagement on both CEEP and CCIAP projects. The CEEP project website www.hamilton.ca/ceep was also updated and directed viewers to the EngageHamilton page. Materials were posted online for public review and comment and the June 1, 2022 Staff Report package was made available. This general engagement was open between June 6 and July 10, 2022. The city’s general climate change website www.hamilton.ca/climatechange was also updated to direct viewers to both the CEEP website and EngageHamilton pages for the final consultation phase. Registration for a virtual public information meeting occurred through the EngageHamilton pages. The virtual public information meeting was held on June 29, 2022.

General outreach on the final engagement occurred through broadcast of the EngageHamilton pages through various project mailing lists including the general

EngageHamilton mailing list. The on-line engagement and the virtual public information webinar were also advertised in the Hamilton Spectator on June 24 and June 27. An interview on CMHL 900 was given on June 27 where staff discussed the project and provided information on the upcoming virtual meeting and on-line engagement.

3.0 City of Hamilton Staff Consultation

Final Staff consultation for both the draft CEEP and CCIAP took place from late May to mid-July 2022 through Department, Division, and Section leadership meetings and one-on-one consultation with key project staff. These meetings covered both Plans where possible. Extensive staff consultation on draft CEEP actions had occurred during the development of the draft CEEP (Fall 2021 – Spring 2022). CCIAP actions were developed later than CEEP actions, so the meetings focused primarily on adaptive action implementation.

In late May 2022, four focus groups were held with staff to begin Implementation Planning for the CCIAP. Several follow-up meetings with individual staff and teams filled remaining gaps. In addition to implementation planning for the CCIAP, the draft actions of the CEEP were reviewed and implementation discussions took place, where relevant in June and July. Discussions on resourcing of actions also occurred

Tables 1 and 2 below identify the departments, divisions, sections and groups involved in developing the Implementation Plan for the CCIAP and reviewing actions of the CEEP.

Table 1: CCIAP Implementation Planning, Staff Focus Groups

Dates (2022)	Attendees
May 26	Public Works & Planning and Economic Development
May 26	Healthy and Safe Communities
May 26	Finance, Communications, City Housing
May 27	2 nd Public Works & Planning and Economic Development

Table 2: Internal Staff Implementation Planning Meetings (CCIAP and CEEP)

Dates (2022)	Attendees
June 2	Healthy and Safe Communities, Department Leadership Team– (CCIAP, CEEP)
June 7	Healthy and Safe Communities, Community Services Neighbourhood Development (CSND) (CCIAP, CEEP)
June 8	Healthy and Safe Communities, CSND follow-up (CCIAP)
June 9	Healthy and Safe Communities, Epidemiologist, Wellness and Communicable Disease Control (EWCDC) (CCIAP)
June 10	Healthy and Safe Communities, Food Security (CCIAP)

June 10	Planning and Economic Development, Transportation Planning & Parking (CEEP)
June 15	Healthy and Safe Communities, EWCDC follow-up (CCIAP)
June 17	Planning and Economic Development, Department Leadership Team (CCIAP, CEEP)
June 17	Healthy and Safe Communities, Food Strategy (CCIAP, CEEP)
June 23	Planning and Economic Development, Licencing & By-law (CEEP, CCIAP)
June 24	Healthy and Safe Communities, Housing Delivery (CCIAP)
June 27	Healthy and Safe Communities, Urban Indigenous Strategy (CCIAP, CEEP)
June 30	Planning and Economic Development, Heritage & Urban Design, Urban Forest Strategy (CCIAP, CEEP)
July 5	Corporate Services Department – Finance & Administration (CEEP, CCIAP)
July 11	Public Works, Energy, Fleet & Facilities Management (CEEP)
July 11	Planning and Economic Development, Building Division (CEEP)
July 13	Public Works, Transportations, Operations & Maintenance (CEEP)

3.1 What We Heard

Draft CEEP and Draft CCIAP Actions

- Many actions have crossover between departments so substantial coordination will be required.
- Where there is substantial multi-departmental crossover the proposed central Climate Change Office can play a pivotal role in coordination, education, and awareness.
- Some actions will need additional resources either in capital dollars to get initial work and studies started and/or additional staff resources to undertake the work.
- Additional studies and 'enabling actions' (e.g. feasibility, risk, modelling etc.) need to be completed to better inform scope and range of expected costs.
- Studies and 'enabling actions' should include targets and dates to better inform resource requirements to meet these targets and dates.
- City staff are excited about the opportunities the actions present

Proposed Climate Office

- City staff can do a better job profiling all the climate change work already being done in the City – a Central Climate Office can assist.
- The proposed Climate Change Office needs to play a large role in providing education, information on actions where City is the lead in addition to department project outreach activities.
- Relationship between departments and the proposed climate change office still needs to be clarified.

- Proposed Climate Change Office should coordinate the linking of community actions with City actions where the City plays a supporting role.

Indigenous Engagement

- Climate Change Office should work together with Indigenous Relations Office to provide on-going and meaningful engagement with Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and other Indigenous groups on the Climate Change Action Strategy.
 - Further advocacy should be explored on the potential to hire Indigenous peoples to work on climate change within the City and/or support Indigenous peoples to be involved in the strategic direction of climate action. As actions are advanced, there are opportunities to provide an Indigenous lens to implementation and some elements that respond to the interest and perspectives of the Indigenous groups.

4.0 Stakeholder Consultation

Staff engaged in extensive external consultations to develop the Implementation Plan for the CCIAP, consisting largely of individual or small-group consultation meetings based on Implementation Worksheets to gather information about the participation level and role of community organizations. The draft CEEP was also reviewed at some of these meetings with a focus on potential involvement in action implementation. Table 3, below, shows these meetings.

Table 3: CCIAP and CEEP Implementation Planning Meetings

Dates 2022	Organization
May 30	Environment Hamilton (CCIAP, CEEP)
June 13	Faith and the Common Good (CCIAP)
June 14	Hamilton Conservation Authority (CCIAP)
June 17	Association of Dundas Churches, Climate Team (CCIAP)
June 20	YWCA (CCIAP)
June 20	Seniors Advisory Committee (CCIAP, CEEP)
June 21	Community Response to Extreme Weather (CCIAP)
June 21	Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (CCIAP, CEEP)
June 21	LimeRidge Mall (CCIAP, CEEP)
June 22	Sustainability Leadership (CCIAP)
June 22	Welcome Inn (CCIAP)
June 22	Mohawk College (CCIAP)
June 23	Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority (CCIAP, CEEP)
June 23	Hamilton 350 (CCIAP)
June 24	Social Planning Research Council (CCIAP)
June 24	Hamilton Community Foundation (CCIAP)

June 27	Alectra (CCIP, CEEP)
June 27	McMaster University (CCIAP)
June 29	Hamilton Poverty Roundtable (CCIAP)
July 4	United Way Halton Hamilton (CCIAP)

4.1 What We Heard

Overall Climate Change Strategy

- Stakeholders were impressed with the depth of research, analysis and overall work completed.
- It is necessary and important to include actions for both climate mitigation (through CEEP) and adaptation (through CCIAP), while also identifying synergies between actions.
- Local academic institutions can play key roles in CEEP and CCIAP actions that require Research and Development (R&D).
- The Climate Action Strategy requires bold targets and bold actions that are properly communicated across the City.
- Several Stakeholders asked the question '*how can we help*' and expressed interest in receiving future proposals for review.

CCIAP Draft Actions

- Many stakeholders saw themselves and/or their organizations supporting many of the CCIAP actions.
- Some stakeholders saw the potential to take leading roles, based on expertise of the action, however additional resource requirements would need to be confirmed first.
- Stakeholders were impressed on how well the project lead consulted with so many organizations that directly worked with or represented equity seeking groups.
- There is a lot of existing work and ongoing actions across the community that can inform future program(s) development.
- Many stakeholders are concerned with climate change impacts expressed urgency in implementing all these actions.

Draft CEEP

- Some organizations stated their commitment to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Some stakeholders highlighted need for the City to publicly highlight and/or reaffirm its commitment to an interim target for GHG reduction.

- Several stakeholders highlighted the need to engage the public through an extensive education/engagement campaign.
- Expertise in high-performance building standards (e.g. Passive House) from social housing providers can be transferred to private developers.

Governance and Administration

- Limited feedback was provided on the proposed governance pieces of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy during one-on-one external stakeholder consultations.
- Some comments received highlighted the need for the lead of the proposed Climate Change Office be someone of authority and influence within the City's corporate structure.

4.2 Indigenous Consultation

Staff reached out to representatives of Indigenous nations and local urban Indigenous organizations at key stages to provide information on the CEEP project and offer further engagement opportunities. Two Indigenous nations expressed interest in discussing the climate action strategy and requested the draft documents once available. In early June, Staff provided draft CEEP and CCIAP documents, inviting further engagement. As of the date of this Report, no comments or requests have been received. Staff continue to follow-up.

In June, Staff met with the City's Indigenous Relations Office to review the draft CCIAP actions, and to a lesser extent CEEP actions, and seek feedback and collaboration to ensure an Indigenous voice and perspective remains part of the implementation of actions. Comments from the Indigenous Relations Office are summarized in Section 3.1 above.

4.3 CEEP Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee (CSAC)

A meeting of the Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the CEEP was held on June 10, 2022. The role of the CSAC is to provide feedback, guidance and advice to the CEEP project team at key intervals in the development of the Plan. The CSAC met four times prior to this meeting. At this meeting the CSAC reviewed the draft actions of the CEEP and provided comments on actions, implementation and governance elements. During the meeting, a presentation on the CCIAP was also given. A follow-up feedback survey was distributed after the meeting to seek any additional comments from members on the implementation and proposed governance framework for Hamilton's overall Climate Action Strategy.

4.3.1 What We Heard

- Climate Change Office needs to be properly funded and staffed.
- Equity seeking groups, industry, member(s) of council, community groups should be represented on the Community Advisory Committee
- The City should to be the innovator and early adopter which is not a typical role for municipalities.
- There is a lot of innovation in the private sector as well which should be leveraged.
- Life cycle assessments should be part of every building and infrastructure project, whether a city project or a project in the community.
- Potential for district energy expansion and use of residual waste heat is strong and could be more prominently expressed in the actions.
- Every decision the City takes needs to help address the city's carbon footprint.
- The City needs to make bold statements and lead on every City facility project.
- The City needs to be bold with the development community on addressing energy in buildings.
- Utilities are willing to assist with the implementation of the plan through their existing programs.

The full meeting summary can be found on the CEEP project webpage at www.hamilton.ca/CEEP.

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5.0 General Public Consultation

5.1 On-line Consultation

On-line Consultation was held through the EngageHamilton pages www.engage.hamilton.ca/ceep and www.engage.hamilton.ca/climate-impact-adaptation. These pages included links to draft document and project materials and a link to register for a Virtual Public Information Meeting. An open-ended comment form was available on the EngageHamilton pages. The EngageHamilton websites had 2,704 visitors during the final consultation period. Ten questions were submitted in advance of the virtual public meeting for staff response. Two emails were received following the public meeting. A Feedback Report on the June 29th meeting was prepared to document the questions and comments and submissions.

5.2 Virtual Public Information Meeting

On June 29th, a virtual public meeting information session was held. 78 participants registered for the meeting. 52 connections participated in the meeting. Registrants

were encouraged to submit questions to staff in advance of the meeting. Ten questions were submitted in advance of the virtual public meeting. The live meeting was facilitated by an independent facilitator. Staff presentations on the Climate Action Strategy, which included the draft CEEP and the actions for the CCIAP were given, and a facilitated questions and answer session occurred. Questions submitted in advance of the meeting were answered by staff during the virtual meeting. Two follow-up emails were received after the meeting. A video recording of the meeting was posted on the EngageHamilton pages and project websites along with a Feedback Report, including verbatim comments and staff responses from the meeting.

Following the virtual meeting, meeting registrants were sent a follow-up survey and invited to submit further feedback on:

- whether participants wanted to be kept informed on implementation and how they may want to participate;
- whether participants talk about climate change with friends and family;
- the type of sources participants use to get their news and information; and,
- if representing an organization, if participants think that the organization should be kept up-to-date on implementation.

To date, no follow-up surveys from meeting attendees have been received by Staff.

5.2.1 What We Heard

Overall Climate Action Strategy

- Addressing food security is important with a changing climate.
- Net Zero needs to be achieved quicker than by 2050.
- Prioritization of adaptation and mitigation is a difficult decision and not discussed.
- Important to continue to protect natural areas for adaptation and mitigation
- Actions in CEEP don't go far enough.
- Improved communications and charismatic leadership are needed on the Strategy.

Draft CEEP

Low-Carbon Transformation #1: Innovating Our Industry

- A climate change/green lens could be considered in recruitment of industry and businesses by Economic Development Division.
- Emphasis needs to be on industry for the greatest impact to overall well being.

Low-Carbon Transformation #2: Transforming Our Buildings

- Green development standards need to get in place.
- Stricter building codes needed for residential and commercial/industrial buildings.
- Heat pumps are the way to go.
- Climate change considerations need to be part of Planning recommendations.
- Group purchasing power for retrofit items can assist homeowners directly.

Low-Carbon Transformation #3: Changing How We Move

- Greening of fleets is important and city should continue to pursue improvement.
- Airport emissions need to be addressed.
- Active transportation networks and transit must improve
- Remote work can assist in reducing auto trips

Low-Carbon Transformation #4: Revolutionizing Renewables

- Support for co-op neighbourhood energy generation
- Phasing out natural gas needs to happen as soon as possible
- Need a plan for hydrogen use
- Electricity grid is not reliable

Low-Carbon Transformation #5: Growing Green

- Urban Forest Strategy approval is important and implementation of it needs to move in tandem with climate change work.
- Private tree protection is needed.
- The City needs to stop developers from cutting down large trees.

CCIAP Draft Actions

Theme #1: Built Environment

- Increased road salt for road safety in storm events has negative impact on natural areas

Theme #2: People and Health

- Cooling stations and capping temperatures in high rise buildings are needed to keep people safe in extreme heat.

Theme #3: Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water

- Urban Forest Strategy approval is important and implementation of it needs to move in tandem with climate change work.

- Tree planting and habitat restoration are two different actions and have different impacts and should go deeper into these actions.
- Local sustainable agriculture addresses food insecurity.

Theme #4: Energy and Economy

- *The City can play a role in helping owners through purchasing power to install heat pumps and other types of retrofits.*

Governance and Administration

Climate Change Office

- Should have a strong passionate Director and qualified staff
- Need sufficient budget to maintain the functions of the office
- Should establish a public education and outreach programs
- Should meet regularly with department heads, keep the public informed
- Should engage/liaise/work closely with community organizations, school boards grass roots groups, Indigenous groups, persons with disabilities, youth.
- Should play a role in ensuring climate lens is applied to corporate decisions
- Communication and reporting on actions as well as data collection and measurement is a critical role for the Office

Climate Advisory Committee

- *Membership should include representation from community members including, BIPOC, marginalized communities and have racial and economic diversity.*

The full Feedback Report on June 29th meeting can be found on the following project websites:

www.hamilton.ca/climatechange

www.hamilton.ca/ceep

www.engagehamilton.ca/ceep

www.engagehamilton.ca/climate-change-adaptation