

Mr. Mayor and Members of Hamilton City Council:

We understand the complexities of the climate change challenge that the City of Hamilton and all of us are facing. We commend you for making a Climate Emergency Declaration in 2019 that you are now unveiling in the Re Charge Hamilton, Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) for which you are asking input before voting on it on June 29th 2022.

Yes, the Association of Dundas Churches fully agrees that working with industry to decrease its emissions, retrofitting buildings, reducing personal vehicle use, electrifying the City transportation systems, replacing natural gas with green alternatives and lessening fugitive methane (natural gas) emissions while increasing the City's tree canopy, are all essential elements in reducing Hamilton's carbon footprint.

However, in spite of the challenges you are facing, it is vital that climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, as suggested in the report, are given the priority and resources they deserve, which include, "A centralized climate change office, supported by a multi-departmental Climate Change Office...supported by a multi-departmental Climate Change Working Group with staff resources and capacity available from each City department". Input from the Bay Area Climate Change Council, and a second advisory committee to guide the implementation of the Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan, is also critical.

Of concern are the consequences of climate change seen in other Canadian cities and around the world, which have experienced the devastation of extreme heat, massive forest fires and flooding. This causes us to strongly recommend that you bring forward the time line in your report to 2030 from 2050. The window to avoid the worst effects of climate change is closing quickly and rapid implementation is critical.

Climate extremes such as heat and humidity impact particularly the poor and elderly, hence we encourage you to provide a comprehensive climate change adaptability safety net for them to ensure that these people will have respite from these extremes.

The climate change measures in the report may come with significant cost, but the financial and human cost of not implementing them would be significantly higher.

We are relying on you to provide the bold and decisive action required to protect the citizens of Hamilton in a time of climate change.

Yours respectfully,

Association of Dundas Churches

Wayne Poole
EcoWHam