

Housing Working Group Meeting Notes

June 21st, 2022

Virtual WebEx Meeting

10:00AM – 12:00PM

Those in Attendance: Tom Manzuk, James Kemp, Paula Kilburn

Also in Attendance: Andrea McDowell, Christine Newbold

Those Absent: Jayne Cardno, Lance Dingman, Bob Semkow

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Andrea McDowell is from the department of Air Quality and Climate Change. Christine Newbold is from the Emissions Planning Department.

2. **Approval of June 21st Agenda:** Agenda was approved.

3. **Climate Change Emergency Declaration**

Background Information: As climate issues worsen globally, the City of Hamilton has been working on a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan. This has

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happened over several phases as it is a complex problem that needed a tiered approach, Phases one through four consisted of predictions and modelling of various climate issues. Phase five, which we are concluding now was to create the adaptation plan to look at: Ways the City of Hamilton can reduce its greenhouse gases to reduce damaging the environment further, Methods to improve environmental issues already being addressed, Methods of building the infrastructure in the future to handle the higher temperature extremes and severe weather shifts as well as finding ways to make the City more liveable for residents through this process. Hamilton is still a largely industrial City and most carbon is produced by them but transportation and buildings are also a major source of carbon.

Revolutionize Industry, Transform Buildings, Change How We Move, Revolutionize Renewables, Growing Green. Changing how buildings are designed is crucial. Retrofitting will be a lot of it, but buildings going forward need to take advantage of new designs for improved efficiencies and reducing carbon footprints. PowerPoint Slides will be added to this document for details on all of these action plans.

4. Heat Mitigation and Climate Adaptation: Preparing Communities for the impacts of climate change and mitigating the damaging effects on the population of the City of Hamilton. Major Concerns are as follows: Increased rainfall intensity causing flooding protections and storage capacities to fail, increased number of intense rain events causing more flooding on public and private properties. Extreme Heat, 60+ days of extreme heat expected annually by 2080. More heat related health issues during longer hotter summers. Drought conditions becoming more prevalent. Vulnerable populations and low income people will be more susceptible to continuous heat waves due to lack of air conditioning or cooling areas. Financial cost of air conditioning will continue to grow. Water quality will degrade due to increased runoff events releasing more pollutants into the water supply and drought conditions will also contribute to this. Health and safety is also affected as severe weather systems can lead to more frequent ice storms making travel more treacherous and removal more difficult. Vector borne diseases are also an issue with changes in extreme temperatures and intense storms like Lyme disease and West Nile virus. Erosion and infrastructure damage becomes more prevalent during severe storm cycles. Power outages will also become more frequent and last longer. Food

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shortages are also an issue with concerns about crop yields, not only locally, but in other parts of the world where we import our food from.

Action Plan contains 27 actions and was broken up into four themes. Built Environment/Systems, People and Health, Natural Environment Agriculture and Water, Energy and Economy. Please see the attached adaptation actions page for all 27 actions. There are limited programs to try and provide cooling relief to various types of housing like setting up cooling rooms, providing air conditioners to senior's buildings and covering their utilities through CityHousing. Some new builds are using passive climate control systems that require neither heating nor cooling. The City also provides advice to help cool oneself during severe heating events for instance: Putting a bowl of ice water in front of a fan, putting your feet in a bowl of cold water, placing a cold cloth on the back of the neck. The city is also pushing a buddy system approach to severe events, whether it be climate related or otherwise. There is a higher percentage of heat related fatalities from people that are in isolation. It is hoped that the buddy system can improve this in neighborhoods under strain.

5. Other Business: There was no other business

6. Adjournment

Priority	Adaptation Actions
1	Establish buddy systems/help-your-neighbour programs to implement during extreme weather events
2	Develop requirements homeowners and landlords to improve the resilience of residential buildings to climate-related risks through upgrades and/or retrofits
2	Improve winter travel conditions through further expanding sidewalk clearing
2	Create an educational campaign 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.)
2	Explore opportunities to expand current cooling & warming centre programming and interventions
2	Educate and encourage community to participate in growing food locally (e.g. lot level or urban farms/gardens).

Priority	Adaptation Actions
3	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.)
3	Encourage and promote safer travel practices, choices, and alternatives through considering all users of Hamilton's transportation network (e.g. motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, transit, etc.) and working with local groups to create a communications campaign around the benefits of work-from-home
3	Develop and implement a response program for vulnerable populations to protect residents from climate-related risks (i.e. extreme cold, extreme heat, etc.)
3	Establish vulnerable persons' contact lists to guide emergency response and/or other assistance programs
3	Continue/Expand work to provide affordable housing to reduce climate-related impacts from extreme weather and temperatures
3	Evaluate and select programs for making emergency preparedness kits accessible to

Priority	Adaptation Actions
	anyone, regardless of income (eg subsidies or free distribution campaigns)
3	Continue to update existing municipal plans and policies to decrease health and safety risks associated with extreme weather and temperatures
3	Continue to enhance the management and restoration of existing natural areas and seek opportunities to dedicate land and natural areas for conservation, potentially as part of the Open Space Master Plan
3	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
3	Implement the Urban Forest Strategy, and consider additional measures to support it or expand its impact
3	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.

Priority	Adaptation Actions
3	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
3	Work with local partners to conduct vulnerability and risk assessments on local energy systems and identify opportunities to reduce energy transmission loss and increase reliability (potentially as part of planned CEEP priority actions around identifying renewable energy generation sites within the City)
4	Conduct more studies or reviews to determine flooding and other risks throughout the City & 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.
4	Work with local partners to ensure vulnerable groups are informed about and have the means to be adequately protected from vector-borne

Priority	Adaptation Actions
	diseases
5	Coordinate local efforts to address excessive indoor temperatures in rental housing
5	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 (eg. plants and animals that can bring diseases to human communities, such as ticks)
5	Improve monitoring, data collection, and notification surrounding flooding & extreme weather/temperatures
5	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.
5	Develop requirements for the incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) features and green infrastructure into new development and

Priority	Adaptation Actions
	redevelopment projects, and consider watershed and landscape scales in the development of plans and objectives.
5	Provide guidance to local businesses on how to maintain business continuity (e.g. supply chain) during extreme weather (i.e. through business continuity planning green business practices, adaptation measures, etc.)