

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: June 5th, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR C. CASSAR.....

City of Hamilton’s Commitment to the Climate Change Emergency Respecting New Industrial Facilities

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton declared a climate change emergency on March 27, 2019, and subsequently committed to develop community-wide climate mitigation and climate adaptation plans that are now known as Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy;

WHEREAS annual greenhouse gas emission inventories continue to confirm that existing industries are the largest contributor, by far, to greenhouse gas emissions in Hamilton;

WHEREAS Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy recognizes the essential need for action to ensure existing local industries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in order for Hamilton to reach net zero emissions by or before 2050;

WHEREAS Priority 1 of City Council’s 2023-2026 priorities is Sustainable Economic & Ecological Development which includes a commitment to protect our unique natural landscape and waterways and accelerate efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy also recognizes the essential need for industrial operations to be low/no carbon in order to increase global competitiveness as climate pricing frameworks continue to impose greater costs over time;

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton’s Economic Development Action Plan includes a commitment to explore and implement decarbonization initiatives with local industry in order to position Hamilton for a sustainable economic future that achieves the City’s climate goals and contributes to climate resiliency;

WHEREAS Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy requires the development of a Carbon Accounting Framework, an effort that is currently underway and includes the establishment of a municipal carbon budget and associated green procurement strategy

that, combined, will enable the municipality to operate within a carbon budget that represents the City's fair share of global carbon emissions designed to limit global average temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius;

WHEREAS, despite all of the above, new industrial operations continue to be proposed/established within the City of Hamilton that are choosing to run their operations using fossil fuels even where low/no carbon fuel alternatives are a readily available and viable choice;

WHEREAS one such industry, GFL Environmental Inc., is currently seeking the necessary provincial approvals to establish a new operation at 227 Brant Street, and choosing to power this operation solely with natural/fossil gas when the proponent has confirmed that electricity is also a viable source of power to run the operation;

WHEREAS GFL Environmental Inc., by opting to power its facility with natural gas, has determined that its operation will emit 11.3KtCO₂e annually, an amount that is greater than agriculture and waste-related greenhouse gas emissions in Hamilton combined;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton urge GFL Environmental Inc. to recognize the City's declaration of the climate change emergency and to seek their support in working towards the utilization of low/no carbon fuels to operate its proposed new facility;
- (b) That the City of Hamilton continue to urge any other new industrial facilities choosing to locate within the municipality to be climate leaders by committing to utilize low/no carbon fuels for their new operations; and
- (c) That the City of Hamilton call on the Province of Ontario to mandate accelerated requirements for the decarbonization of all industrial operations in the City of Hamilton and across the Province of Ontario.