



HAMILTON'S  
**CLIMATE ACTION**  
**STRATEGY**

Re-Charge.  
Adapt.  
Engage.  
Act.

# 2024 Annual Update

# The Office of Climate Change Initiatives Team



*From left to right:*

**Trevor Imhoff** (Senior Project Manager), **Lynda Lukasik** (Director),  
**Beatrice Ekoko** (Project Manager), **Cathrin Winkelmann** (Senior Project  
Manager), **Adam Watson** (Project Manager)

# Presentation Overview

- OCCI 'Priority Focus Areas' Progress Update
- Hamilton Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update
- Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy (HCAS)  
Mitigation & Adaptation Actions Status Update
- Looking Ahead to 2025 and Beyond



# Office of Climate Change Initiatives

## Priority Focus Areas

**Priority Focus Areas** are organized under the following five themes:

- Climate Change Governance & Innovation
- Community Climate Outreach
- Carbon Budgeting
- Green Buildings
- Urban Greening



*\*NB - OCCI priorities are in addition to the various climate change related initiatives already contained within workplans of multiple divisions across the City of Hamilton.*

# OCCI Priority Focus Area

## Climate Change Governance & Innovation



- City of Hamilton Director-level **Climate Change Initiatives Steering Committee** has been meeting monthly since September 2023.
- City of Hamilton **Climate Change Initiatives Extended Leadership Group** being formed.
- **Community Climate Change Advisory Committee** – members appointed during 2023/24 and four meetings held to date.

# Climate Change Advisory Committee

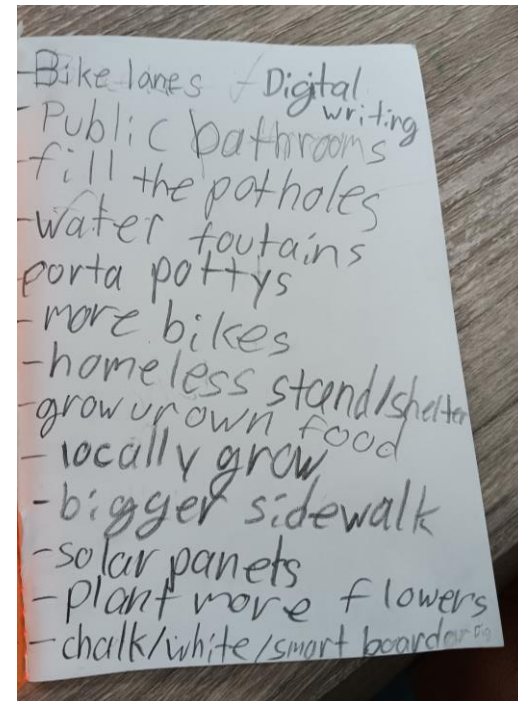
**Purpose** - Provide advice to Council and City staff on the prioritization, implementation and monitoring of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.

- 20 voting and 6 non-voting members from diverse backgrounds and representing both professional and lived experience with climate and social issues.
- Committee has created 6 working groups including: Transportation, Nature-Based Solutions, Buildings, Climate Governance & Technical, and Community Engagement.



# Climate Justice Framework

Planning is underway for the development of a co-designed Climate Justice Framework to inform the City's climate action work.



# OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Area

## Community Climate Outreach

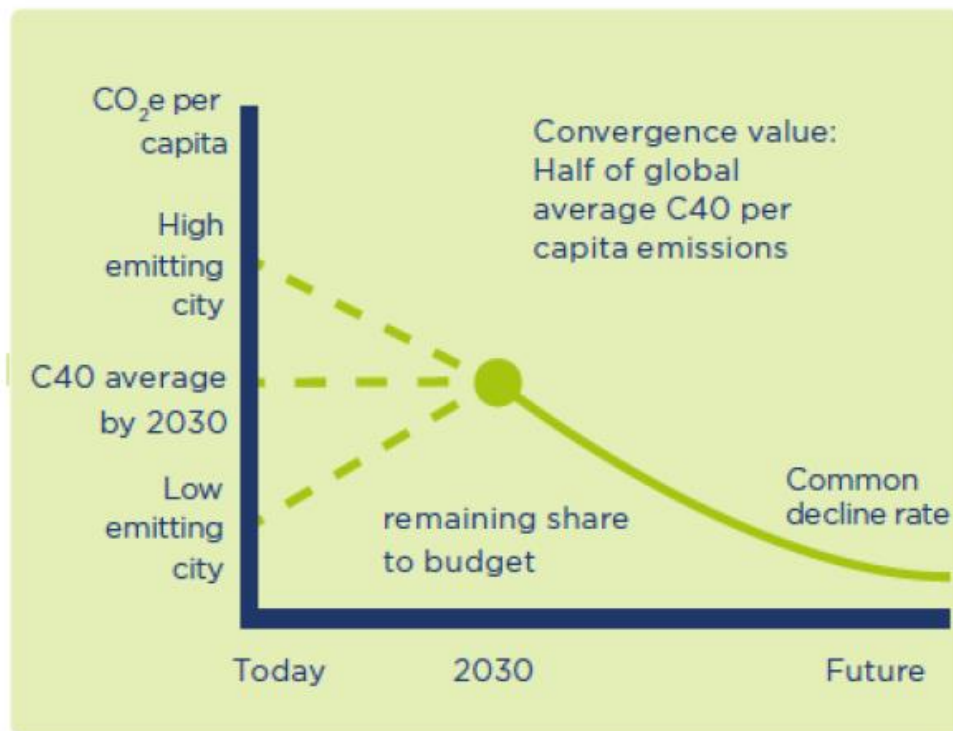
- Development of Climate Communications & Engagement Strategies, implementation underway.
- Climate Action Strategy webpage overhaul and enhancement underway.
- Community outreach efforts continue, including use of ‘pop-up’ events to raise public awareness about Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy.





# OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Area

## Hamilton's Carbon Budget and Accounting Framework



### What is a Carbon Budget?

A carbon budget is defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as the total net amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that can still be emitted by human activities while limiting global warming to a specified level.

C40 Convergence and Contraction Method  
 – A ‘fair share’ approach to decarbonization

Source: [https://www.c40.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Deadline\\_2020.pdf](https://www.c40.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Deadline_2020.pdf) <sup>9</sup>

# Hamilton's Carbon Budget & Accounting Framework – Goals Statement

- 1) Develop a **Corporate Carbon Budget** and Accounting Framework that systematically integrates climate action policies and develops the tools and resources necessary to implement robust greenhouse gas emission calculations into existing municipal budget reporting processes and templates.
- 2) Develop a **Community Carbon Budget** broken down by sectors, and sub-sectors where possible, with an annual reporting methodology and reporting plan that provides education and awareness enabling the community to make informed decisions about actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

# Carbon Budget & Accounting Framework - Timelines

Phase	Description of Work	Timeline
<b>Phase 1:</b> Project Initiation	Finalize Project Charter and Work Plan, Establish Technical Advisory Committee	July –Sept 2024 (Completed)
<b>Phase 2:</b> Project Planning	Data collection, Carbon Budget Calculations, Change Management & Engagement Plan	Sept – Nov 2024
<b>Phase 3:</b> Project Execution	Finalize Corporate/Community Carbon Budgets, GHG inventory audit, GHG calculators/databases and procedures, Carbon Credit Policy and Implementation Plan	Nov 2024 – Oct 2025
<b>Phase 4:</b> Project Control & Reporting	Develop Key Performance Indicators, Initial Report to Council, through GIC	Mar – Apr 2025
<b>Phase 5:</b> Project Closure	Final Report to Council (through GIC)	Oct 2025

# OCCI Priority Focus Area

## Green Buildings

### IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE: Better Homes Hamilton Pilot Residential Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program

- Application intake Dec 2023 – Feb 2024.
- 50 households selected utilizing host of criteria including energy poverty data.
- Successful applicants have been notified & are taking next steps with retrofit plans.
- Staff are providing on-going coaching.
- Next steps will include evaluating program impact, challenges, benefits & determining how best to scale up residential retrofits across Hamilton.



# OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Area

## Green Buildings

### **UPDATE: Development of a 'Net Zero Emissions & Zero Carbon Standard' for New Municipal Facilities**

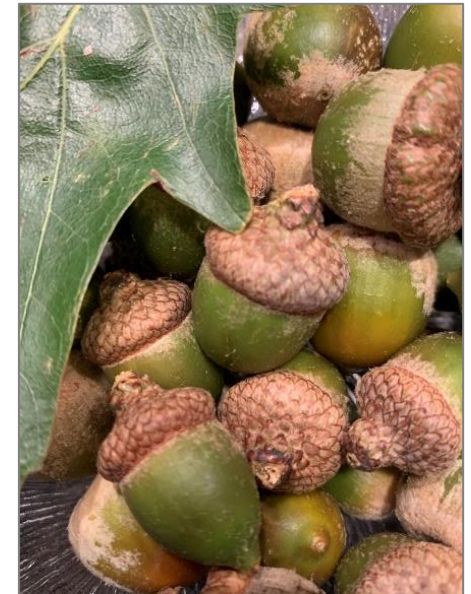
- Collaborating with Corporate Facilities and Energy Management/Office of Energy Initiatives to develop the new standard.
- Consultant has been retained and work is underway.
- Standard will enable City to demonstrate leadership in the building sector.
- Anticipate bringing proposed standard to Council for approval by Q3 2025.



# OCCI 2023 Priority Focus Area

## Urban Greening

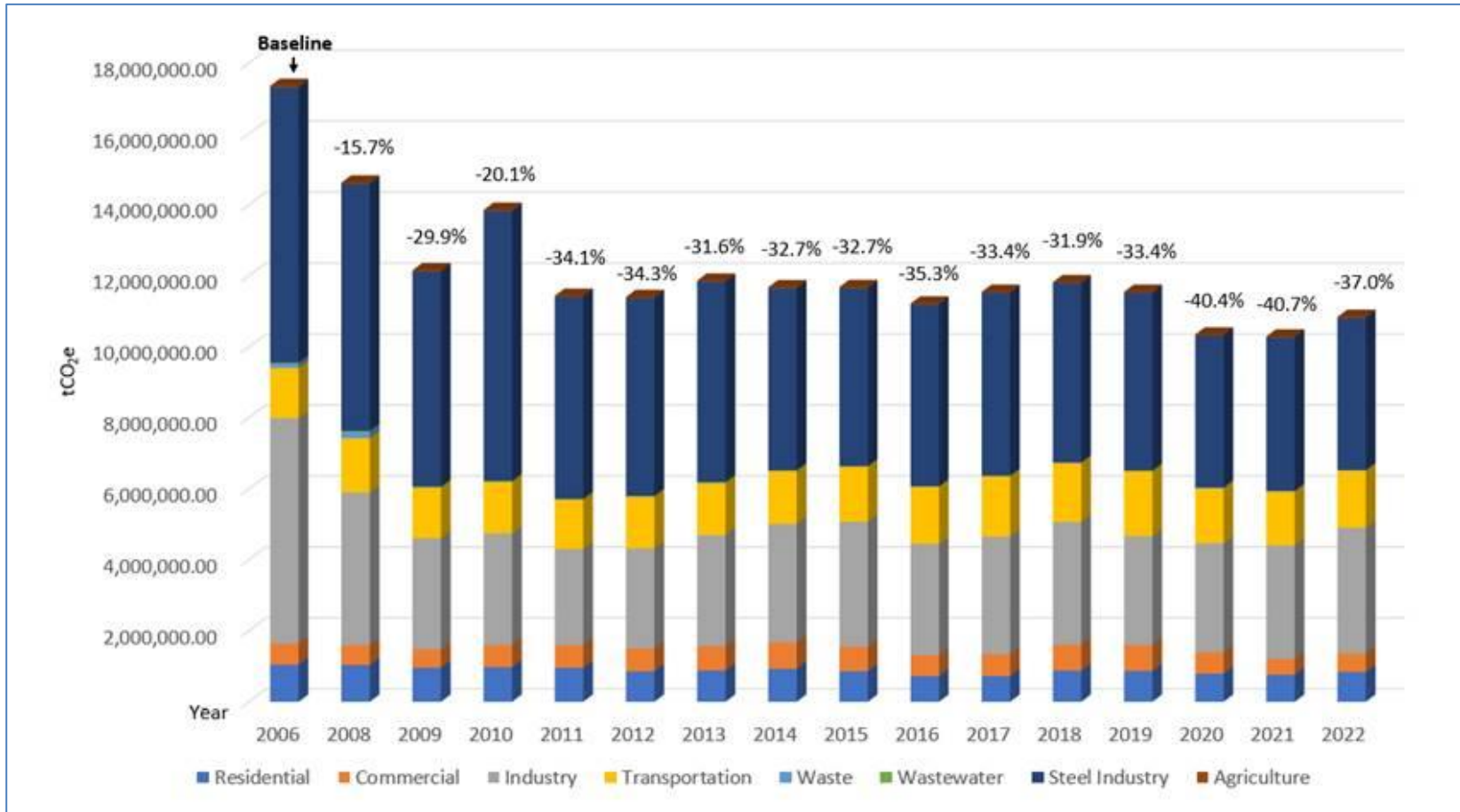
- Support for urban greening efforts including connecting City staff with community partners, administering funding for community depave projects, convening City staff to explore innovative green infrastructure projects.
- Development of a preliminary framework for tracking tree planting across Hamilton in 2023.
- Hand out native tree and plant seeds when participating in outreach/engagement events.



# Hamilton's GHG Emissions Inventory Update

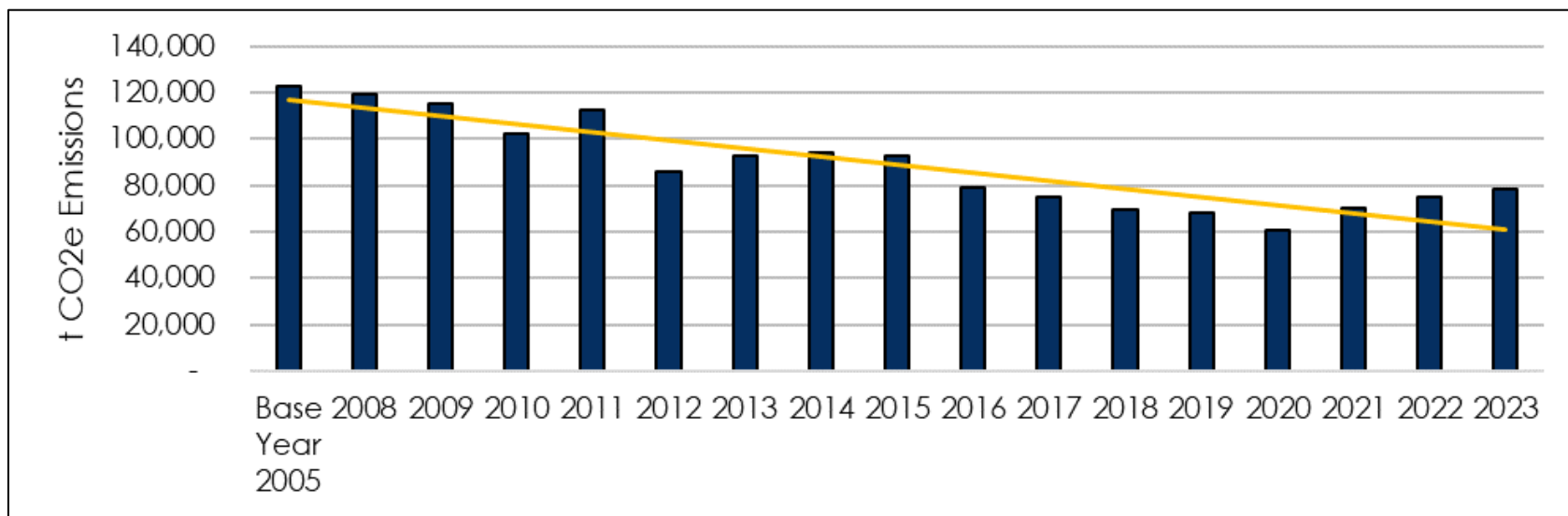
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## Community-Wide GHG Emissions 2006-2022



# Hamilton’s GHG Emissions Inventory Update

## Corporate GHG Emissions 2005-2023



*Source – City of Hamilton 2023 Annual Energy Report*

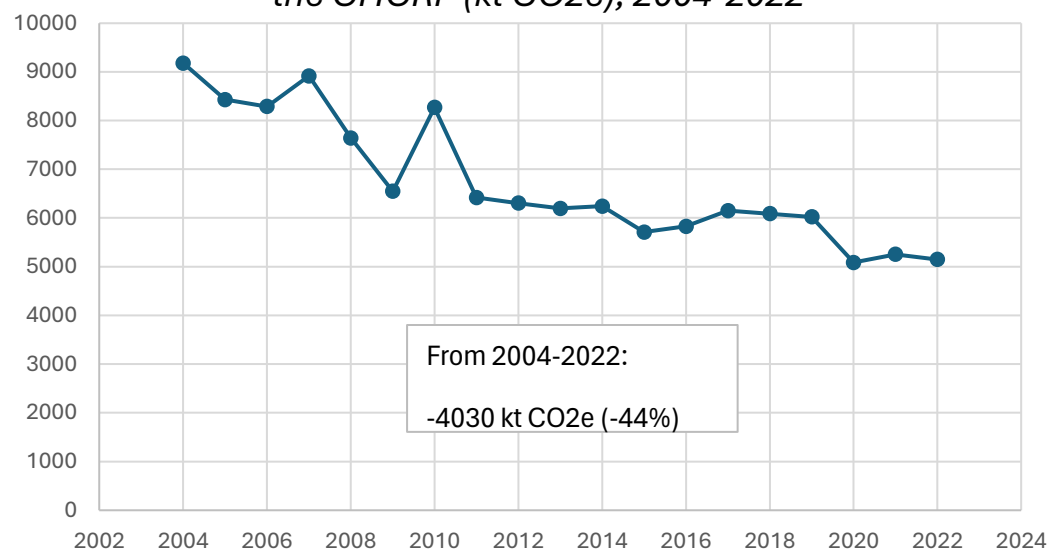
# Climate Mitigation Actions Status Updates

## TRANSFORMATION 1: Innovating Our Industry



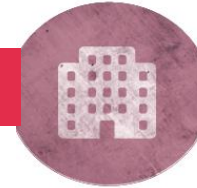
- 19 local industries report as large emitters under the federal Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program.
- Overall industrial greenhouse gas emissions for these large emitters are decreasing.
- OCCI is reaching out to large emitters to gather information on climate planning and any commitments to net zero.

*Trend of Hamilton industrial GHG emissions reported to the GHGRP (kt CO<sub>2</sub>e), 2004-2022*



# Climate Mitigation Actions Status Updates

## TRANSFORMATION 2: Transforming Our Buildings



- The Better Homes Hamilton home energy retrofit pilot project is now underway with 50 Hamilton households participating.
- Development of a Net Zero Emissions/ Zero Carbon Policy for all new municipal facilities is now underway.
- Draft 'Green Building Standards' were taken to the City's Planning Committee on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 for approval.

## GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS





# Climate Mitigation Actions Status Updates

## TRANSFORMATION 3: Changing How We Move



*Cyclist's view heading down the Keddy Trail*

- In 2023 a total of \$1.39 M was invested in cycling infrastructure resulting in 10.4 kms of new bike lanes.
- For 2024 the Public Works Transportation Division plans to complete a total of 23.6 km of active transportation infrastructure.
- Work continues with Hamilton's B-Line LRT System.

# Climate Mitigation Actions Status Updates

## TRANSFORMATION 4: Revolutionizing Renewables



- Corporate Facilities and Energy Management has a tender-ready 250 kW solar energy project for the Harry Howell Arena.
- The Office of Energy Initiatives is developing a business case for solar energy on the roof of the new transit storage facility, which would bring ~2 MW in power generation capacity.
- Hamilton Community Enterprises has built a positive business case for its proposed ‘Energy Harvesting Project’ which will use thermal infrastructure to extract waste heat from local industrial sources that could deliver low-carbon heating to more than 10 million square feet of building space via the City’s District Energy System.

# Climate Mitigation Actions Status Updates

## TRANSFORMATION 5: Growing Green



- The City of Hamilton, local Conservation Authorities, and other community institutions and organizations planted 46,540 trees in 2023.
- Contributions to 2023 tree planting efforts were as follows:
  - City of Hamilton Forestry – 30%
  - Conservation Authorities – 60%
  - Other Organizations - 10%



# Climate Adaptation Actions Status Update



## RESILIENT THEME 1: Built Environment/Systems

- Low Impact Development guidelines were developed in 2023 and taken to the City's Planning Committee for approval in October of 2024.
- A municipal stormwater fee has been developed, including incentive & credit programs to support on-property stormwater management measures, and will be implemented in 2026.

## RESILIENT THEME 2: People and Health



- An Extreme Heat Working Group was established in 2023 that provided input on the City's Heat Response Strategy which was approved and enhanced at Public Health Committee in Q2 2024.
- Hamilton Public Library began opening the Central Library's Hamilton Room on statutory holidays during heat and extended heat warnings, enhancing existing services.

# Climate Adaptation Actions Status Update



## RESILIENT THEME 3: Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water

- The Forestry Division harnessed volunteer power to plant a mini forest at Johnson Tew Park, the City's 6<sup>th</sup> mini forest.
- The Environmental Services Division has three multi-year naturalization projects underway in City parks, removing invasives and creating 2.53 hectares of natural habitat in 2023.

## RESILIENT THEME 4: Energy and Economy



- Economic Development updated its ERASE program to include climate resilience elements and is undertaking a comprehensive review of its 'LEEDing the Way' grant program to better support sustainable building and land development practices.



# Recognizing Community Climate Action



*LIUNA/ Fengate mixed use development at 500 Upper Wellington includes geothermal heating/cooling*



*Trees for Hamilton volunteer planting event at St. Joseph's Urgent Care*

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (a) That Appendix “A” to Report PED24166 “Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy Annual Climate Change Update 2024” be received.
- (b) That Appendix “B” to Report PED24166 “Status Update Regarding Climate Actions in Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy” be received.
- (c) That the proposal to shift the Annual Update on Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy to June of each year, starting in 2025, be approved.
- (d) That the Office of Climate Change Initiatives, in partnership with Corporate Facilities and Energy Management, be directed to explore an accelerated timeline for realizing the net zero goal of Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy, building on Council priorities already in place to accelerate corporate greenhouse gas emission reduction timelines, and report back to the General Issues Committee in June 2025.

# Hamilton Named National Winner of One Planet City Challenge 2024

- Hamilton was short-listed by World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) International Jury along with Vancouver, Peterborough and Calgary.
- **Hamilton has been announced as the National Winner for 2024!**
- Hamilton is now participating in the WWF's Global 'We Love Cities' Campaign with voting open until October 31, 2024.



**WE LOVE  
HAMILTON**

<https://welovecities.org/city/hamilton/>



# WE LOVE HAMILTON

**Show Hamilton some love!**

**VOTE here:**

**[welovecities.org/city/hamilton/](https://welovecities.org/city/hamilton/)**



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Hamilton

THANK YOU