




CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of Climate Change Initiatives

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 4, 2024
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2024 City-Led Projects Recommended for Climate Change Reserve Funding (PED24165) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Lynda Lukasik (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3169
SUBMITTED BY:	Lynda Lukasik Director, Office of Climate Change Initiatives Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the allocation of funds in the total amount of \$2,501,000 million dollars in 2024 from the City's Climate Change Reserve (Account No 108062) in order to support 13 City-led climate action initiatives, as identified in Appendix "A" to Report PED24165, be approved;
- (b) That the update regarding the 2024 Climate Change Reserve funding allocations for Office of Climate Change Initiatives priority projects, attached as Appendix "B" to Report PED24165, be received;
- (c) That the update regarding progress with City-led and community-led initiatives that received support from the City's Climate Change Reserve in 2023, attached as Appendix "C" to report PED24156, be received.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Hamilton's Climate Change Reserve provides full or partial funding for city-led and community partner initiatives that contribute to the implementation of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

SUBJECT: 2024 City-Led Projects Recommended for Climate Change Reserve Funding (PED24165) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 8

A list of 13 city-led projects, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED24165, is being recommended for approval to receive support from the Climate Change Reserve in 2024.

This report also includes information regarding 2024 Reserve allocations to support the Office of Climate Change Initiatives priority areas of focus, and the report includes brief updates regarding progress with implementation of initiatives that received Reserve funding in 2023 as identified in Appendix “C” to Report PED24165.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 14

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: This report includes a recommendation that approval be given to the allocation of \$2,501,000 to support 13 city-led climate action initiatives through the City’s Climate Change Reserve (108062).

Staffing: Not applicable.

Legal: Not applicable

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The City of Hamilton’s Climate Change Reserve (Policy No. FPAP-RE-015) was established in 2018 to fund initiatives that advance the City’s approved climate change goals. The fund is also intended to support the piloting of new and innovative climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. A preliminary allocation of \$1.5 M was placed into the Reserve when it was first established. As part of the 2023 Budget process, Council approved a sustainable source of funding for the Reserve through the general tax levy, resulting in an annual allocation of ~\$2.5 M to the Reserve moving forward. The Reserve is administered through the Office of Climate Change Initiatives.

In order to ensure continued progress with the implementation of Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy, an internal process was created by the Office of Climate Change Initiatives to enable a 2023 inaugural round of proposals for Climate Change Reserve funding. This internal process resulted in Council approval of \$3.08 M in Reserve funding to support six city-led initiatives in 2023 (Report PED23222 GIC23-027).

In 2023, \$284,000 in Reserve funding was also allocated to support Office of Climate Change Initiatives priority focus areas including: \$9,000 to support the operation of the Climate Change Advisory Committee through Report PED23028, and \$275,000 to implement the Better Homes Hamilton Home Energy Retrofit Pilot Project through Report PED23106. An allocation of \$80,000 was approved to support the emerging

Hamilton Decarbonization Hub through Report CM22013/ HSC22046/ PED22176, and \$100,000 for protection of woodlands in Hamilton through Report PED23115. Finally, an April 2023 Council motion aimed at boosting actions to support Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan (Report PED 21065(c)) directed \$200,000 in Reserve funding to enable community partners to lead an update to Hamilton's Natural Areas Inventory and \$150,000 to help community partners with land acquisition through the City's Natural Areas Acquisition Fund .

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

- Director-level Climate Change Initiatives Steering Committee;
- Senior Leadership Team; and,
- Climate Change Advisory Committee.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

In 2024, the application process for Climate Reserve funding for city-led initiatives was reviewed and refined by the Office of Climate Change Initiatives, with the support and input of the Director-level Climate Change Initiatives Steering Committee.

All 2024 applications were evaluated by a sub-group of Steering Committee members using a new scoring system focused on key considerations including:

- Compliance with the Climate Change Reserve Policy;
- Support for mitigation and/or adaptation actions found in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy;
- Estimated greenhouse gas emission reductions for climate mitigation projects.
- Qualitative and/or quantitative measure of enhanced climate resilience for climate adaptation projects; and
- For all projects, description of any co-benefits and consideration of how the project contributes to the realization of community climate justice.

The Steering Committee Sub-Group used the scoring exercise to generate the list of city-led projects recommended for Climate Change Reserve funding. The project list was presented to and supported by all members of the Director-level Climate Change Initiatives Steering Committee. The project list was also reviewed and endorsed by the City's Senior Leadership Team in early October 2024.

The project list was shared with the community Climate Change Advisory Committee at its October 29th, 2024 meeting. After extensive discussion, the Committee did not formally support or oppose the list of projects, but members pointed to the need for more community-focused climate adaptation projects – including funding for community efforts - and expressed interest in being engaged earlier and more fully in the project review process in the future. Some members wondered why consideration was being given to grants for private sector building retrofits when only loans have been offered for residential deep energy retrofits through the Better Homes Hamilton pilot project, and several members expressed concern about the need to prioritize projects focused on supporting residents most impacted by climate change but least able to respond. One concern was raised about purchasing low carbon fuel from a fossil fuel corporation.

Office of Climate Change Initiatives staff indicated that the application template for Climate Change Reserve funding for city-led projects will continue to be refined, acknowledging the need to become more strategic in directing funding to priority City climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Staff also indicated that the emerging Climate Justice Framework will be applied in the future as part of project application evaluation. Staff committed to seeking input from the Committee on the setting of strategic priorities for the 2025 round of Climate Change Reserve funding and agreed to explore the possibility of engaging the Committee earlier in the application review process. Committee members were also advised that staff are developing a neighbourhood-level climate action small grants initiative that will provide Climate Change Reserve funding for community climate action.

The Committee passed a motion directing one of the co-chairs of its Climate Justice Working Group to submit a delegation request to the November 20th General Issues Committee to ‘share concerns on the existing process and recommendations for improvements to incorporate a more community-focused, climate justice lens for next year’s funding allocation’.

Projects Recommended to Receive 2024 Climate Change Reserve Support

The list of staff recommended city-led projects, along with the recommended funding, is provided in the summary chart below. Key details for each project can be found in Appendix A to Report PED24165 including:

- Summary description of each project;
- Contribution to implementation of Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy;
- Estimated greenhouse gas emission reductions for mitigation projects; and
- Recommended Climate Change Reserve funding allocation.

The 2024 list of recommended projects includes mitigation-focused initiatives, projects that achieve a combination of mitigation and adaptation outcomes, and projects focused

SUBJECT: 2024 City-Led Projects Recommended for Climate Change Reserve Funding (PED24165) (City Wide) - Page 5 of 8

on undertaking feasibility assessments for both mitigation and adaptation efforts. The recommended mitigation initiatives would result in a reduction in corporate greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 6,864 tCO₂e/year or 8.7% of the 2023 corporate emissions inventory of 78,487 tCO₂e. This figure does not include the emissions avoided through the Macassa Lodge B Wing expansion – a new development.

CLIMATE MITIGATION INITIATIVES	
Project and Applicant	Funding
Macassa Lodge B Wing Expansion – Climate Resilience Measures (Office of Energy Initiatives, Public Works)	\$200,000
Recreation Centre Pool Heat Reclamation (Office of Energy Initiatives, Public Works)	\$225,000
EcoDiesel Fuel Replacement Program (Fleet Services, Public Works)	\$185,000
Solar Powered Ambulance Fleet (Hamilton Paramedic Services)	\$240,000
Electric Street Sweeper (Transportation Division, Public Works)	\$120,000
Electric Maintenance Vehicles (Transportation Division, Public Works)	\$403,000
CLIMATE MITIGATION/ADAPTATION INITIATIVES	
Project and Applicant	Funding
Making Not-For-Profit Housing Climate Resilient (Housing Secretariat, Healthy & Safe Communities)	\$250,000
Development Incentive Program for Bayfront Industrial Area (Economic Development Division, Planning & Economic Development)	\$250,000
Low Impact Development/ Green Standards Training & Implementation (Growth Management Division, Planning & Economic Development)	\$50,000
If Trees Could Talk Public Education Initiative (Forestry & Horticulture, Public Works)	\$28,500
FEASIBILITY STUDIES	
Air Conditioning in Hamilton Rental Housing – Feasibility Case Study (CityHousing Hamilton)	\$150,000
Fleet Services Electric Vehicle & GRID Feasibility Assessment (Office of Energy Initiatives, Public Works)	\$150,000
Organics Management – Phase 2 Feasibility Study (Waste Management Division, Public Works)	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$2,501,000

2024 Reserve Funding for Office of Climate Change Initiatives Priorities

Two Climate Change Reserve allocations have been made in 2024 to support initiatives related to identified priority focus areas of the Office of Climate Change Initiatives:

Project Title	Funding
Carbon Budget and Accounting Framework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 2025 – staff report with community and corporate carbon budgets, draft accounting framework and implementation plan to Council • Q3 – Q4 2025 – on-going staff training in lead up to full implementation of framework for 2026 Budget Cycle 	\$240,000
Net Zero Energy Performance Standard for New Municipal Buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q3 2025 – staff report to Council on feasibility of and approach to implementing standard by 2026 or sooner. 	\$125,000
TOTAL	\$365,000

These allocations have been approved utilizing the delegated authority of the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development to approve Reserve allocations less than \$250,000 that fund projects and initiatives that implement or advance the Office of Climate Change Initiatives Priority Focus Areas summarized in Report PED23064, or projects and initiatives that implement or advance the City of Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy adopted by Council on August 12, 2022 through GIC Report 22-016 (CM22016/PED22058(a)/HSC22030(a)). Appendix “B” to Report PED24165 provides summary descriptions of these two initiatives.

Implementation Update – 2023 Projects Funded By Climate Change Reserve

The following list of city-led initiatives received Climate Change Reserve funding through the 2023 internal application process. These initiatives are currently in varying stages of implementation. Brief updates on the status of implementation of each project are provided in Appendix “C” to Report PED24165.

Project & Status	Status	Funding
Electrical Upgrades to Accommodate Electric Vehicle Charging at City Facilities	Electrical capacity upgrades are anticipated to be completed before the end of Q4 2024.	\$535,000
E-Bike Pilot for Hamilton Bike Share	Delivery of e-bikes is expected in Q4 2024 with fleet launch in Spring 2025.	\$750,000

SUBJECT: 2024 City-Led Projects Recommended for Climate Change Reserve Funding (PED24165) (City Wide) - Page 7 of 8

Project & Status	Status	Funding
Municipal Parking Lot Greening/ Climate Adaptation	Proposed enhancements at 5 lots to be completed by Q4 2025 and the 6 th lot will be completed in 2026.	\$200,000
Enhancement & Expansion of Secure Bike Parking Facilities	Enhancements of existing facilities is underway and new facilities will be completed by Q4 2025.	\$350,000
De-paving Pilot Project	This effort is being re-envisioned with a focus on one innovative green infrastructure project. Reserve funding is being leveraged to access FCM Green Municipal Fund climate adaptation initiative support.	\$350,000
Fire Truck Anti-Idling Technology	Devices have been procured and installed on 1 truck, with plans to retrofit 5 existing trucks and install devices on 5 new trucks in 2025, and to retrofit 5 more trucks in 2026.	\$900,000

2023 Funding for Community-Led Efforts

Climate Change Reserve dollars were allocated via two motions put forward at the May 3rd, 2023 Planning Committee meeting and ultimately approved by Hamilton City Council. The intent was to provide immediate support for actions found in Hamilton’s Biodiversity Action Plan. This includes the contribution of \$200,000 to support an update to Hamilton’s Natural Areas Inventory (NAI). That work has started and is being overseen by a collective that includes Hamilton Conservation Authority, Hamilton Naturalists’ Club, and staff from the City’s Office of Climate Change Initiatives and the Planning Division’s Heritage and Urban Design team. An additional \$150,000 in Climate Change Reserve funding was approved for allocation to the City of Hamilton’s Natural Areas Acquisition Fund. The City of Hamilton’s Natural Areas Acquisition Fund provides support to conservation organizations to purchase and protect significant natural heritage properties within the municipality. To date, one application has been received from a community partner and staff are currently reviewing the request.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Council could choose not to approve funding for projects recommended to receive support in 2024 from the City’s Climate Change Reserve. This is not recommended as this would prevent the City from pursuing initiatives that will facilitate greenhouse gas emission reductions, and enable new methods for climate mitigation and adaptation to

be assessed and/or implemented.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

- Appendix “A” to Report PED 24165 - Projects Recommended to Receive 2024 Climate Change Reserve Support
- Appendix “B” to Report PED 24165 - 2024 Reserve Funding for Office of Climate Change Initiatives Priorities
- Appendix “C” to Report PED 24165 - Implementation Update – 2023 Projects Funded By Climate Change Reserve