



2025 Annual Progress 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

Not pictured:

Amy Angelo – Project Manager

Presentation Overview

- Report Back on the Feasibility of Accelerating Hamilton's Net Zero by 2050 Target
- OCCI 'Priority Focus Areas' Progress Update
- Hamilton Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update
- Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy (HCAS) Mitigation & Adaptation Action Highlights
- Report Recommendations



Feasibility of Accelerating Hamilton's Net Zero Target

- Acceleration is feasible and advisable given the growing scientific imperative for rapid climate action.
- Acceleration brings financial benefits sooner and avoids increased costs from climate impacts in the future.
- Since the 'Low Carbon Scenario' model was completed in 2019, technology costs have decreased & significant climate action commitments have emerged, including steel sector decarbonization.
- Key opportunities exist to realize acceleration through business & industry decarbonization, and through EV uptake and modal shifts to public transit and active transportation.
- Recommended next step is to undertake an in-depth analysis via 'Low Carbon Scenario' model update to inform pathway forward, including updating Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.

Office of Climate Change Initiatives

Priority Focus Areas

Organized under six themes:

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



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

Climate Change Advisory Committee

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

The Committee has established 5 working groups:

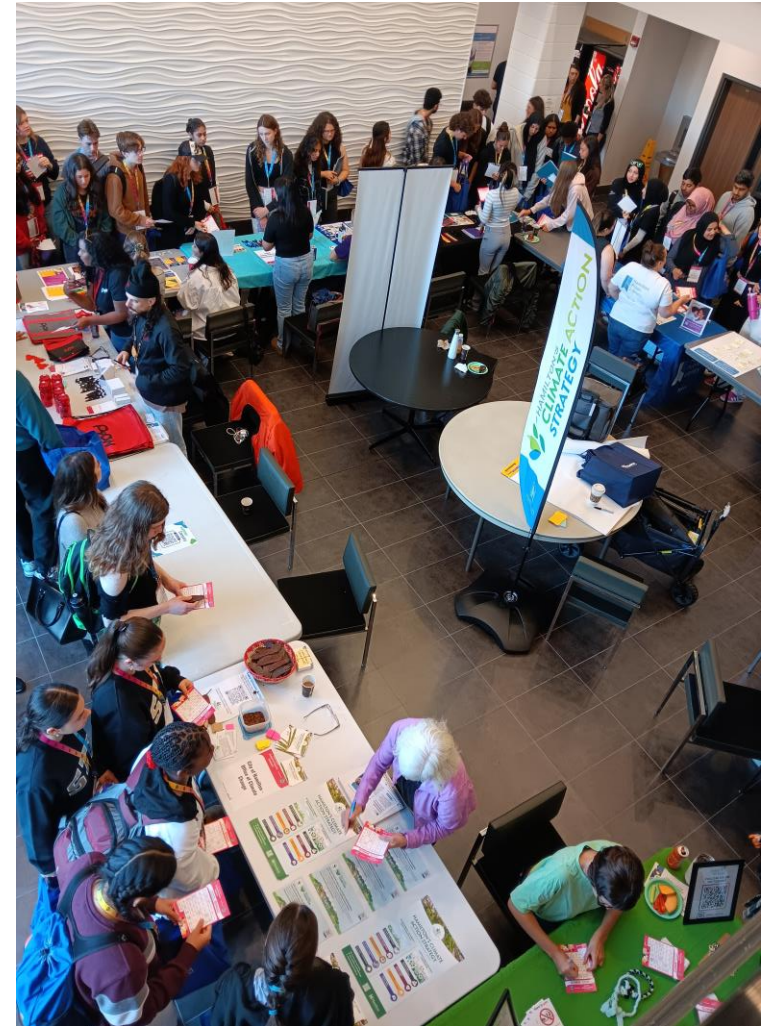
- Buildings
- Climate Justice & Community Engagemen⁺
- Governance & Technical
- Transportation
- Nature-Based Solutions



OCCI Priority Focus Area

Community Climate Outreach

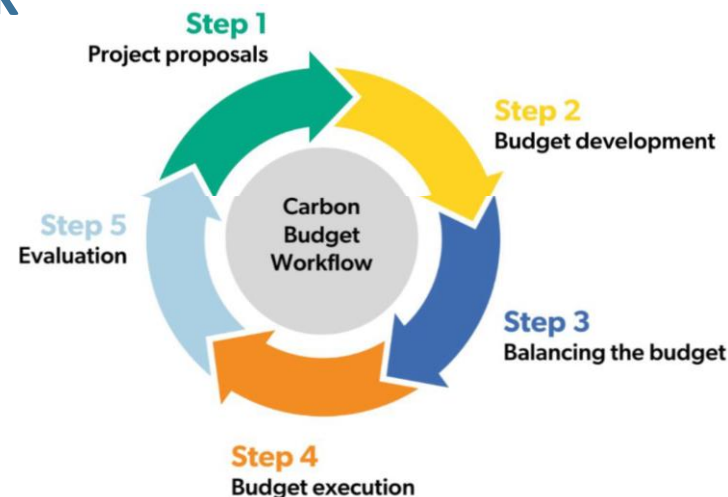
Staff provided community presentations, ran workshops, tabled at festivals, and held 'pop-up' events.



OCCI Priority Focus Area

Carbon Budget & Accounting Framework

A tool to align financial expenditures with greenhouse gas emission reduction targets



Updates: August 2024-May 2025

Corporate and Community Carbon Budget Calculations – Preliminary calculations completed informed by methodology and the Science-based Targets Network's Guide for Cities.

Carbon Offset Policy – Extensive research and municipal case studies examined.

Community GHG Inventory Audit – Third-party auditing and verification underway.

Awareness and Education – Completed several internal focus groups sessions, and targeted community pre-engagement activities.

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 a host of criteria, including energy poverty data.
- 22 applicants have implemented retrofits or are finalizing their funding requests through the Better Homes Hamilton portal. Remaining spots are being filled from waitlist.
- Staff are providing on-going coaching to homeowners.
- Initial program evaluation & research on funding and administrative models for scale-up underway. Staff to report back to GIC by Q1 2026 on results of pilot and future expansion.



OCCI 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 in the development of the new standard.
- Consultant has engaged with City staff in the first of three workshops and is working on technical and financial lifecycle analyses to inform policy.
- Standard will enable City to demonstrate leadership in the building sector.
- Proposed standard coming to Council for approval by Q1 2026.

OCCI Priority Focus Area

Urban Greening

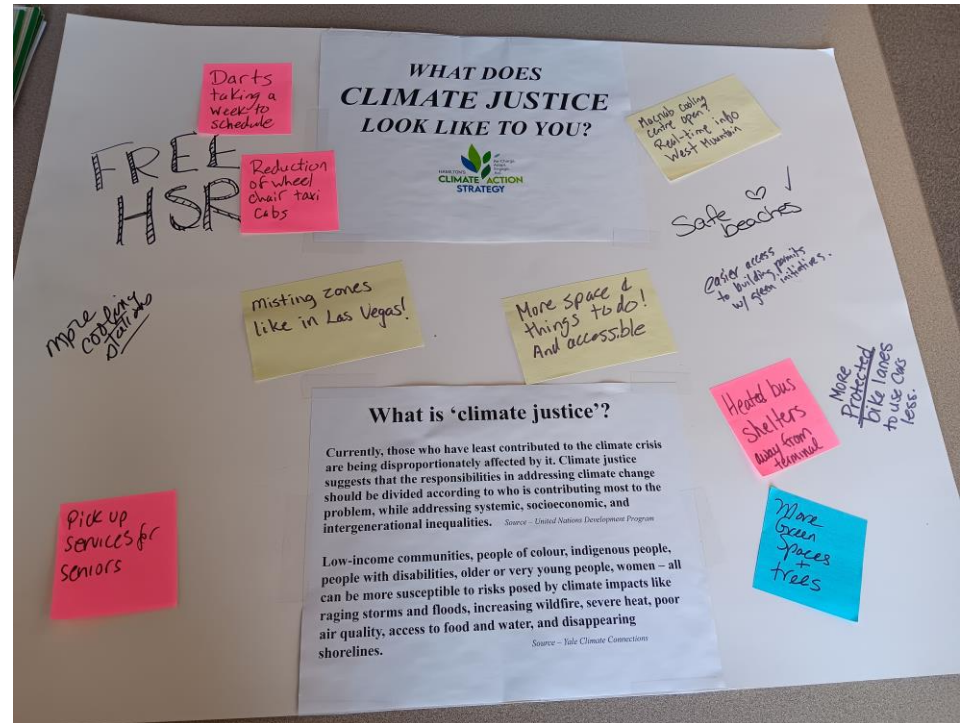
- Connecting City staff with community partners
- Administering funding for community depave projects
- Convening City staff to explore innovative green infrastructure projects
- Annual tracking of community tree planting across Hamilton
- Distribution of native tree and plant seeds during outreach/engagement events.



OCCI Priority Focus Area

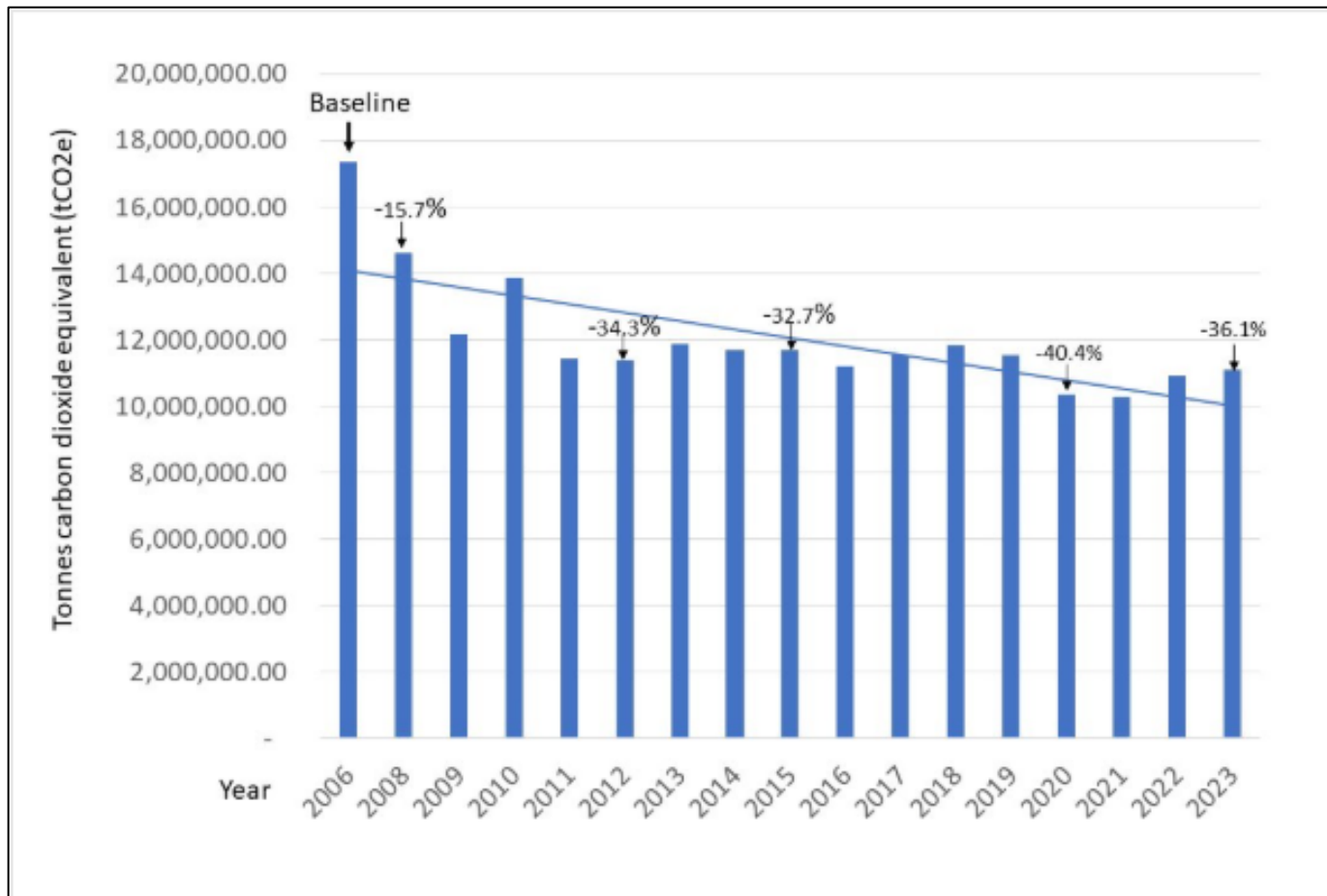
Climate Justice

- Development of a co-designed Climate Justice Framework to inform the City's climate action work is underway.
- Staff supporting LRT Sub-Committee to recruit additional non-voting advisors from frontline communities to bring climate justice considerations to the table.



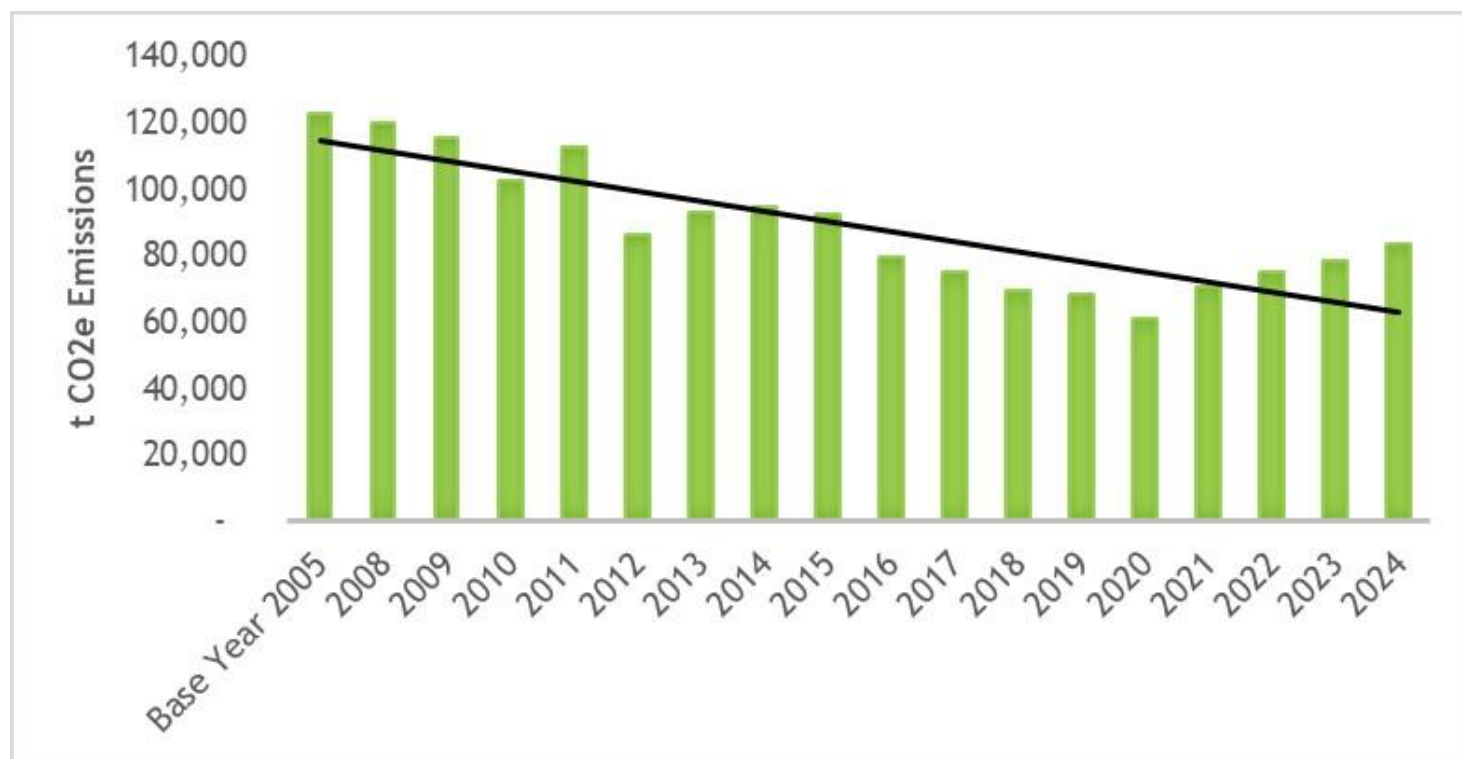
Hamilton's GHG Emissions Inventory Update

Community-Wide GHG Emissions 2006-2023



Hamilton's GHG Emissions Inventory Update

Corporate GHG Emissions 2005-2024



Source – City of Hamilton Office of Energy Initiatives

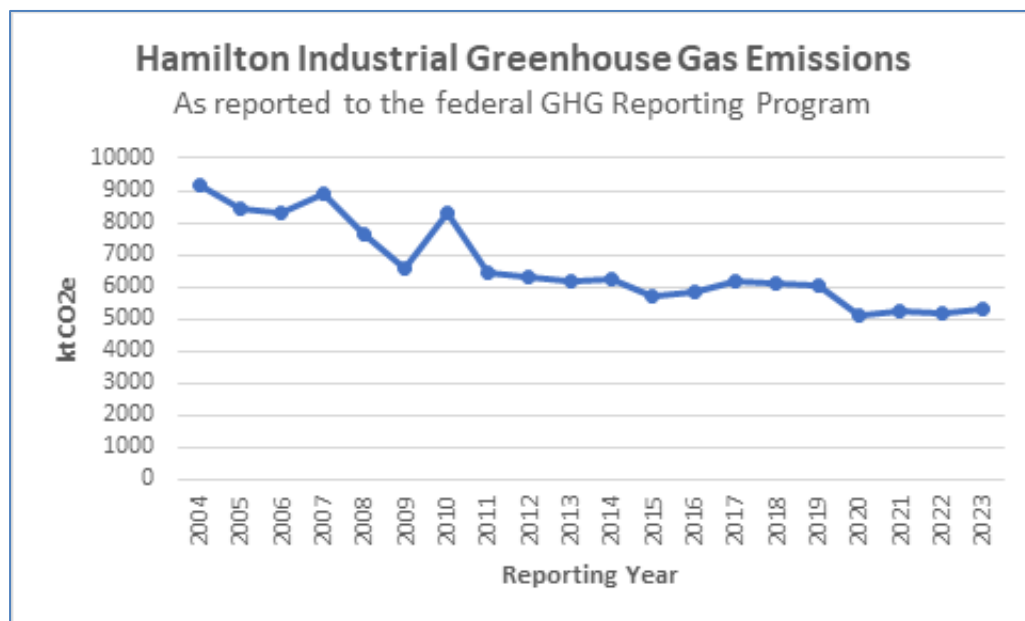
Climate Mitigation Actions Status Updates

TRANSFORMATION 1: Innovating Our Industry



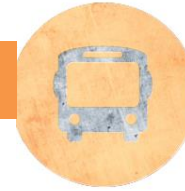
- 19 local industries report as large emitters under the federal Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program.
- Overall industrial emissions trends for these large emitters is decreasing.
- A new pathway forward to support the creation of a net-zero industrial working group or decarbonization hub is underway.

Trend of Hamilton industrial GHG emissions reported to the GHGRP (kt CO₂e), 2004-2022



Climate Mitigation Actions Status Updates

TRANSFORMATION 3: Changing How We Move



New Mountain Brow Multi-Use Trail

- During 2024, a total of 13.6 km of bike lanes were added to the network through 10 cycling infrastructure projects.
- Hamilton Bike Share's 32,000+ active members doubled the number of unique trips taken in 2024 vs 2023, with total kms travelled increasing by 42% from 668,000 in 2023 to 950,000 kms in 2024.
- Hamilton Street Railway ridership levels reached 21.84 million riders in 2024, representing a 14.5% increase over 2023 and surpassing pre-pandemic ridership levels.

Climate Mitigation Actions Status Updates

TRANSFORMATION 4: Revolutionizing Renewables



- The City's Waste Management Division is assessing the potential for organic waste to be utilized to generate renewable natural gas. This work will guide future solid waste management decisions designed to also help with climate mitigation.
- 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 **55,482** trees in 2024, surpassing the annual 50,000 tree target in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy by 11%.
- Contributions to 2024 tree planting efforts were as follows:
 - City of Hamilton Forestry – 35.4%
 - Conservation Authorities – 58.2%
 - Other Organizations - 6.4%



Climate Adaptation Actions Status Update



RESILIENT THEME 1: Built Environment/Systems

- During 2024 a residential incentive program was developed as part of the City's Stormwater Funding Review. The 'Rain Ready' program was launched in 2025 by local not-for-profit Green Venture on behalf of the City, providing homeowners with grants to undertake property improvements ranging from rain barrel installations to green roofs and rain gardens.

RESILIENT THEME 2: People and Health



- Office of Climate Change Initiatives & Hamilton Fire Emergency Management staff offered a session on Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy & why everyone needs an emergency preparedness kit and how to create one. Future co-hosted events are planned for residents who might otherwise face challenges putting together the essential elements of an emergency kit.

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Climate Adaptation Actions Status Update



RESILIENT THEME 3: Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water

- In 2024 the City's annual Tree Giveaway became a partnership between the City's Forestry Division and the Hamilton Naturalists' Club.
- The Naturalists' Club engages community using a pre-ordering system that ensures the tree species requested by a resident is waiting for them on pick-up day.
- Forestry staff support logistics around tree ordering, delivery and distribution at pick-up locations.



2025 Tree Giveaway Pick-Up 20

Challenges with ‘Enabling Actions’

- Enabling actions focused on expanding the City’s Corporate Energy Reserve (which functions as a revolving fund) and pursuing innovative financing options like municipal green bonds and community bonds to finance corporate climate actions are delayed. These efforts are essential for realizing progress on corporate climate action.
- Internal efforts also need to continue to coordinate and properly resource the City’s ability to routinely tap into relevant external funding opportunities like Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Green Municipal Fund grants.

Recognizing Community Climate Action



342 Barton - Depave Project



New Horizon Developments

See Appendix A to Report PED24129 for ‘Community Climate Good News Stories’.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) That Appendix “A” to Report PED25129 “Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy Annual Climate Change Update 2025” **BE RECEIVED**.
- 2) That Appendix “B” to Report PED25129 “Status Update Regarding Climate Actions in Hamilton’s Climate Action Strategy” **BE RECEIVED**.
- 3) That Appendix “C” to Report PED25129 “City of Hamilton – Assessment of Accelerated Emission Reduction Targets” **BE RECEIVED**.
- 4) That Appendix “D” to Report PED25129 “Hamilton Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector” **BE RECEIVED**.
- 5) That funding from the City’s Climate Change Reserve (Account No 108062), in an amount up to \$100,000, **BE APPROVED** to support an in-depth exploration of the potential to accelerate Hamilton’s Net Zero by 2050 target, including updating the ‘Low Carbon Scenario’ modelling for Hamilton, and utilizing the insights provided through this process to update both the Community Energy and Emissions Plan and the Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS (continued):

- 6) That staff also **BE DIRECTED** to submit funding applications to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities through its Green Municipal Fund to support this work.
- 7) That the Office of Climate Change Initiatives **BE DIRECTED** to initiate the development of consultation plans with City staff, community partners and residents to update Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy, including updating the Community Energy and Emissions Plan and the Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan, to ensure Hamilton is responding to the most recent scientific projections to help reduce climate impacts and costs.
- 8) That the Office of Climate Change Initiatives **BE DIRECTED** to provide an information report to General Issues Committee in Q4 of 2025 outlining progress to date and proposed timelines for updating Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy..



Hamilton

THANK YOU