



City of Hamilton Report for Consideration

To: Mayor and Members
General Issues Committee

Date: July 30, 2025

Report No: PED 25129

Subject/Title: Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy Annual Update

Ward(s) Affected: City Wide

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.
- 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.

Key Facts

- This third annual report from the Office of Climate Change Initiatives includes a report back and recommendations regarding the preliminary assessment of the feasibility of accelerating Hamilton's Net Zero by 2050 target to an earlier date. The preliminary assessment confirms that acceleration is feasible and advisable based on the most current climate science projections and given the climate mitigation, adaptation, and financial benefits acceleration would bring to Hamilton.
- Based on the outcome of the preliminary feasibility assessment, the report is seeking Council approval of an allocation of up to \$100,000 in Climate Change Reserve funding to update Hamilton's modelled 'Low Carbon Scenario' and to use updated model outcomes to inform a review and update to the actions found in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.
- This report also provides progress updates on implementation of Hamilton's community-wide Climate Action Strategy, including the core work of the Office of Climate Change Initiatives and status updates on the implementation of both corporate and community-led actions.

Financial Considerations

The recommendation to approve up to \$100,000 from the City's Climate Change Reserve (Account No 108062) to support next steps to enable updating Low Carbon Scenario modelling and actions in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy would utilize funds currently available in the Reserve.

Background

The Office of Climate Change Initiatives provides an annual update of Hamilton's community-wide progress in moving toward Net Zero Carbon by 2050, by reporting on progress with implementation of the actions found in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy. On October 16, 2024, the Office of Climate Change Initiatives presented Report PED24166, its second annual update to the General Issues Committee. At that meeting, a recommendation was approved directing staff to assess the feasibility of accelerating Hamilton's Net Zero by 2050 target date. Council also approved the shifting of the annual reporting cycle to June of each year, beginning in 2025.

Analysis

Assessing the Feasibility of Accelerating Hamilton's Net Zero By 2050 Target

A preliminary assessment of the feasibility of accelerating Hamilton's Net Zero target

was completed by Sustainability Solutions Group Consulting and included revisiting the 'Low Carbon Scenario' that the Group modelled back in 2019 to inform the development of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.

The assessment confirms that it is feasible to accelerate the community-wide target to 2040 and, further, that acceleration is advisable given the growing scientific imperative for rapid climate action, the decreasing costs associated with decarbonization technologies since 2019 modelling was completed, and because the many co-benefits that come with greenhouse gas emission reductions would be realized sooner.

Previous detailed modelling confirmed that Net Zero by 2050 brings financial savings over the long term, and this recent assessment provides preliminary confirmation that Net Zero by 2040 brings these financial benefits sooner while helping to avoid increased costs from climate impacts into the future.

A Net Zero by 2040 target would require accelerating the implementation of community-wide actions in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy. Preliminary consideration has been given to identifying opportunities for realizing greenhouse gas emission reductions via acceleration. These include:

- Accelerating the adoption of Electric Vehicles;
- Accelerating modal shifts away from vehicles in favour of active transportation for shorter trips, e-mobility (e-bikes and e-scooters) for moderate length trips, and public transit for longer journeys;
- Continuing to build on the foundational investment in the decarbonization of the local steel industry by phasing out natural gas use in steel production and facilitating the industry's increased access to scrap steel for electric arc furnaces;
- Securing access to green hydrogen for steel production by 2035; and
- Securing access to 100% green electricity for industry, buildings and transportation between 2030-2035.

It is important to note that, just as is the case with actions included in the existing community-wide Climate Action Strategy, the City cannot mandate that community partners like private businesses and industry accelerate their climate efforts. However, steps could be taken to eliminate municipal-level barriers to action, to facilitate expedited approvals for climate-related actions, and to explore the potential for municipal policy enhancements to support climate action. Achieving our community-wide net zero target requires a collaborative partnership with business, industry, local institutions and residents of Hamilton.

The preliminary assessment provides some initial recommendations regarding policy measures that the City should consider, and initiatives that the City and relevant community partners might take to facilitate the accelerated implementation of key actions listed above. These ideas need to be explored further to assess viability, along with opportunities to explore other ways to make acceleration happen.

Based on the information provided through this preliminary assessment it is recommended that staff be directed to initiate the process to update Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy accordingly. This should include updating the community's 'Low Carbon Scenario' model and consultation with City staff, community partners and residents to further inform the updating of the community-wide Climate Action Strategy. This process will generate information and outcomes that will be utilized to update the detailed mitigation and adaptation plans that constitute Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.

It should also be noted that when Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy was approved in August of 2022, the original intention was that the Strategy be updated every 3 to 5 years. Initiating this process now will enable this update to occur within the recommended timeframe.

It is also recommended that up to \$100,000 be allocated from the City's Climate Change Reserve to cover the costs associated with updating Hamilton's 'Low Carbon Scenario' model and to enable effective community consultation in order to update Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy and the mitigation and adaptation plans that constitute the Strategy. It is further recommended that staff pursue relevant funding opportunities through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' 'Green Municipal Fund' in order to secure external support for this effort.

Overview of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy & Associated Plans

Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy consists of two integrated and complementary plans for climate mitigation and adaptation that provide detailed analysis and actions to address the climate emergency by setting out a pathway to realizing Net Zero carbon by 2050, while also building up resilience against the emerging impacts of climate change.

ReCharge Hamilton – Our Community Energy & Emissions Plan

The Community Energy and Emissions Plan addresses climate change mitigation through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The actions in this plan focus on five low-carbon transformations that are pivotal in achieving Hamilton's low-carbon future: Innovating our Industry; Transforming our Buildings; Changing How We Move; Revolutionizing Renewables; and Growing Green.

Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan

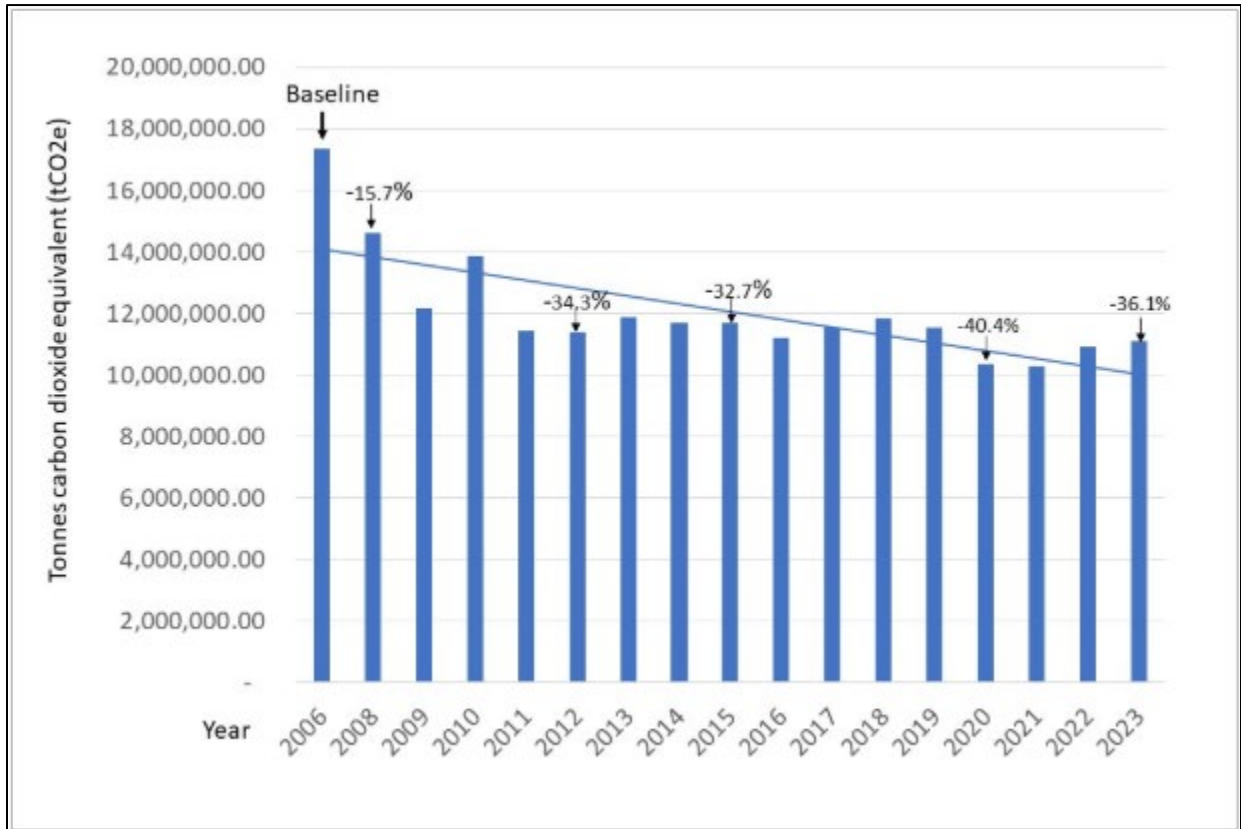
The Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan addresses climate change adaptation by building up the City's resiliency to the impacts of a changing climate. Objectives and actions in this plan are organized around four resilient theme areas: Built Environment; People and Health; Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water; and Energy and Economy.

Hamilton's Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The City of Hamilton follows the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories and has been tracking and annually reporting community-wide greenhouse

gas emissions since 2008 from major sectors across the community and reflected in Figure 1.0 below.

Figure 1.0 Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2006-2023



The City's community-wide greenhouse gas emissions have continued to increase since 2020 but remain below the levels reported prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of 2023 community-wide emissions are estimated at 11,086,995 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). There were modest increases estimated for the local agricultural sector, however the largest sources of emission increases between 2022 and 2023 were:

- Steel Sector at 186,273 tCO₂e (4.3%) increase.
- Transportation Sector at 115,165 tCO₂e (7.8%) increase.
- Commercial Sector at 108,242 tCO₂e (17.1%) increase.

The sectors that showed reductions in emissions were:

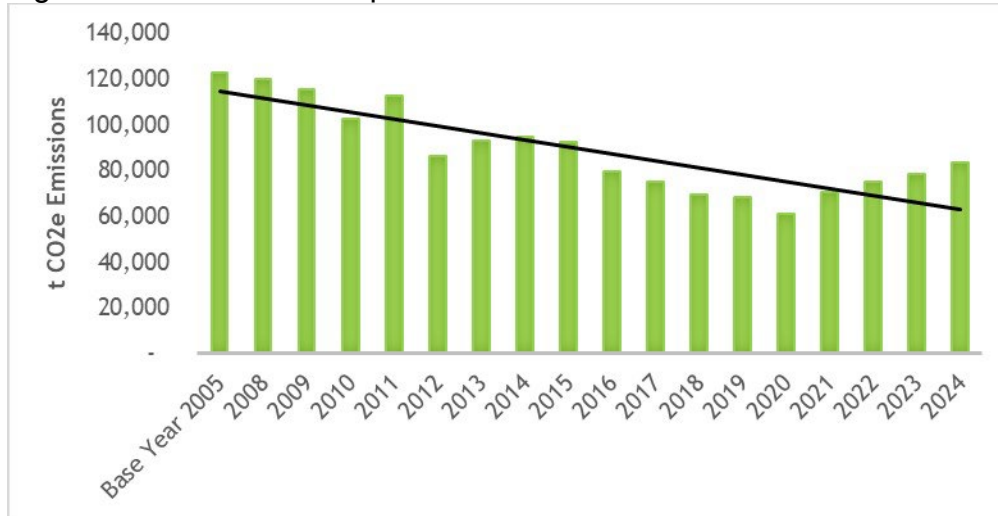
- Industrial Building Sector at 187,614 tCO₂e (-5.2%) decrease.
- Residential Building Sector at 65,329 tCO₂e (-7.8%) decrease.
- Solid Waste Sector at 1,479 tCO₂e (-9.1%) decrease.

For further sector-based analysis of Hamilton's community-wide greenhouse gas emissions see Appendix "D" to Report PED25129.

Hamilton's Corporate Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The City of Hamilton's Office of Energy Initiatives is responsible for annual reporting regarding corporate greenhouse gas emission trends. The next report will be presented to GIC in Q3 of 2025 however, 2024 inventory results were provided, and are highlighted in Figure 2.0 below.

Figure 2.0 Hamilton's Corporate GHG Emissions 2005 – 2024



The 2024 corporate greenhouse gas inventory results show a 7% increase in emissions compared to 2023 and this comes following an increase of 4.9% in 2023 compared to 2022. As previously reported by the City's Office of Energy Initiatives in 2024, the main causes of increased greenhouse gas emissions between 2022 and 2024 are increased carbon emission factors from the provincial electricity grid, and greenhouse gas emissions from the HSR's expanded bus fleet and transit services.

Progress with Office of Climate Change Initiatives Priority Focus Areas

The Office of Climate Change Initiatives set out Priority Focus Areas that were presented to the General Issues Committee in April of 2023 (Report PED23064). Below is a progress update for the on-going implementation of these Priority Focus Areas.

(i) Climate Change Governance & Innovation

In 2024, the following was achieved with respect to Climate Change Governance & Innovation:

- The community Climate Change Advisory Committee, which advises Council and staff on the implementation of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy, held seven meetings in 2024. The Committee established six working groups, each of which developed terms of reference and a work plan. The Committee and its working groups have provided feedback on issues ranging from the City's Green Building

Standards to climate justice considerations for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project, and Climate Change Reserve funding criteria.

- Monthly meetings of the internal Climate Change Initiatives Steering Committee continued in 2024, with directors from across the corporation guided by a central mandate to support corporate-wide monitoring and centralized reporting on progress with city-led actions in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy. The Steering Committee also reviewed and recommended City-led projects to receive 2024 Climate Change Reserve funding and are now helping to further refine and implement the internal application process for 2025.
- Establishment of an internal Extended Leadership Group, made up of managers and other staff responsible for the implementation of city-led actions within the Climate Action Strategy, is still to be completed.

(ii) Community Climate Outreach

In 2024, the following was achieved with respect to Community Climate Change Outreach:

- The Office of Climate Change Initiatives continued to benefit from the Bay Area Climate Change Council's collaborative support in implementing the City's climate action priorities, including the launch of a project focused on municipal green development standards.
- Climate communications and engagement work included a community awareness campaign about Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy, and work to revamp, update, and expand content on the City's webpage for the Strategy. Engagement tactics included social media, in-person presentations, participation in community events, and pop-up sessions in locations like the Hamilton Farmers' Market.
- Community engagement began related to the development of a Climate Justice Framework for the City of Hamilton. This included outreach to build relationships and establish trust with community partners serving climate-vulnerable populations; over twenty local organizations were engaged. The goal during 2025 is to partner with select groups in the co-design of the Climate Justice Framework. An internal Technical Advisory Committee was created to support development of the Climate Justice Framework and related community engagement.
- Annual updates on use of the City's Climate Change Reserve are now shared in a separate report. The 2024 update recommended 13 city-led projects for funding and updated on the progress of previously funded projects. See Report PED24165, presented to General Issues Committee on December 4, 2024.

(iii) Carbon Budget and Accounting Framework

The Office of Climate Change Initiatives continues to lead the development of the Carbon Budget and Accounting Framework with support from an internal Technical

Advisory Committee that includes:

- Finance and Administration, Corporate Services
- Procurement, Corporate Services
- Information Technology, Corporate Services
- Corporate Facilities and Energy Management, Public Works
- Corporate Asset Management, Public Works

Key work completed to date in the development of the Framework includes:

- Preliminary calculations of corporate and community-wide carbon budgets informed by the C40 Cities 'Convergence and Contraction' methodology and the 'Science-Based Targets Network's Guide for Cities'.
- Extensive research to inform the development of a Carbon Offset Policy to guide the City's commitment to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions using best practices and procedures for carbon offsets.
- An emissions audit of Hamilton's community-wide greenhouse gas inventory to ensure the Framework is based on the most accurate emissions information, to help staff develop an efficient reporting process to facilitate annual reporting requirements, and to confirm the inventory aligns with global best practices.
- Internal Focus Group sessions with Finance Team and Director-level Climate Change Initiatives Steering Committee held to introduce the Carbon Budget and Accounting Framework, and associated concepts and methodologies.
- An internal staff training session was held on the proof-of-concept greenhouse gas calculator that will be utilized by staff as part of carbon budgeting.

Challenges emerged with facilitating access to an excel add-in greenhouse gas calculator required to enable hands-on training for City staff. This required working with the City's IT Security, Privacy and other required approval processes through the Enterprise Asset Board and the Transformation Team to secure approval for staff access to the tool. These challenges have delayed the project by approximately six months; the project workplan has been updated and an interim report on the Carbon Budget and Accounting Framework will now be brought to the General Issues Committee in Q4 of 2025.

(iv) Green Buildings

In 2024, the following milestones have been achieved with respect to Green Buildings:

Better Homes Hamilton Pilot Program

- The pilot home energy-efficiency retrofit program Better Homes Hamilton launched in December 2023 and 150+ homeowners applied to be selected for a loan of up to \$20,000 at the introductory rate of zero-percent interest to be paid back to the City annually through property taxes.
- A Better Homes Hamilton portal was launched in 2024 to administer the program. Participants are currently submitting their funding requests and required documents for the energy-efficiency measures they intend to install in their

homes to reduce GHG emissions and increase home comfort. Accounts payable has begun issuing initial loan disbursements to participants, who are now implementing their retrofits. Tenants living in homes that are participating in the program are being informed by the program of the responsibilities of their landlord and the City is providing information to tenants on their rights. The Program Coach continues to provide one-on-one guidance for participants and has made themselves available to any tenants that have questions or concerns.

- The purpose of the pilot project is to learn about the different archetypes of buildings, identify barriers to energy-efficiency retrofits, and capture lessons learned, in order to investigate a pathway forward for scaling up the Better Homes Hamilton Program. Research on the feasibility of expanding the program has begun, and a staff report will go to the General Issues Committee in Q4 2025 on the results of the pilot and how best to scale up the program.

Corporate Net Zero Emissions/Zero Carbon Standard for New Municipal Facilities

- Building on the 2022 Pathway to Net Zero for [Existing] Corporate Buildings report, and in collaboration with the Office of Energy Initiatives, the Office of Climate Change Initiatives is leading a parallel study for new corporate buildings.
- In 2024 a consultant was hired to assist City staff in developing a corporate net zero emissions/zero carbon policy and green building performance standard for all new City facilities and large renovations and additions to existing facilities to support the City's transition to net zero emissions and zero carbon.
- Asset owners have been consulted regarding their capital plans and based on that data, the consultant is currently conducting whole building technical and financial life-cycle analyses to inform the policy.
- The study will support a staff report to Council in 2025 on the feasibility of and approach to implementing a corporate net-zero emissions/zero carbon policy in 2026.

(v) Urban Greening

Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy sets the ambitious goal of planting 50,000 trees annually across Hamilton. To monitor our community's success with meeting this annual target, staff in the Forestry and Horticulture Division track progress on the City's 20,000 trees/year commitment while the Office of Climate Change Initiatives has created a system to track tree planting undertaken by key community partners. In 2024, a total of 55,482 trees were planted, exceeding the annual target by 11%.

In fall 2024, the Office of Climate Change Initiatives developed a cross-divisional working group to test a new framework for inter-departmental collaboration to advance innovative green infrastructure projects. Guided by a climate justice lens, the first project being explored involves selecting and an underutilized municipal parking lot to depave and implement a multi-objective nature-based green stormwater infrastructure project. The working group is currently applying for grants to fund a technical and financial

feasibility study on candidate sites identified by preliminary GIS analyses in vulnerable communities facing multiple climate challenges and seeks to leverage further funding for implementation.

Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy - Progress Report on Action Implementation

Highlights related to implementation of a selection of actions found in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy are provided below. More information on progress with implementation can be found in Appendix "A" to Report PED25129. Additionally, Appendix "B" to Report PED25129 provides a summary chart with status updates for every action found in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.

(i) Recharge Hamilton – Community Energy & Emissions Plan

Enabling Actions

Hamilton's climate mitigation plan includes 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. These enabling actions are delayed, with no tangible progress made to date, yet they 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.

Low-Carbon Transformation #1: Innovating Our Industry

Mitigation Action 1.0 calls for the creation of a net zero industrial working group – the Hamilton Regional Decarbonization Hub. In late 2024, the City learned that efforts to secure federal funding for the Hub were unsuccessful. An internal effort is now underway to determine a new pathway forward, led by the Economic Development Division and supported by the Office of Climate Change Initiatives.

Annual tracking of local facilities reporting to the federal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Program continues with the inclusion of 2023 data to the trendline. For 2023 a total of 14 local industries reported greenhouse gas emissions above the 10,000 tCO₂e reporting trigger for the federal program. Most of these facilities are showing emission reduction trends over time, confirmed when comparing 2023 emissions to 2017 emissions. But two of the 14 facilities reported show emission increases over this timeframe, up to and including 2023. One shift highlighted by the 2023 data is the sizeable jump in greenhouse gas emissions from steel producer ArcelorMittal Dofasco. The company's emissions increased by 207,673 tCO₂e - a 5.2% increase from the company's 2022 reported levels. For comparison purposes, the City of Hamilton's corporate greenhouse gas emissions in 2023 totalled 122,699 tCO₂e. However, the longer term trend for the local steel producer is still moving in the right direction, with 2023 emission levels sitting below pre-pandemic emission levels reported in 2019. Another trend is hopeful, highlighting the accomplishments of Hamilton Health Sciences

to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at its McMaster, Hamilton General, and Juravinski sites. Emission reductions have been achieved by overhauling and reducing the use of co-generation facilities at all three hospital locations. The result has been a sizeable 64% reduction in 2023 greenhouse gas emissions when compared to 2017 levels, with the Juravinski co-generation facility now being the only one of the three facilities above the 10,000 tCO₂e federal reporting threshold.

Low-Carbon Transformation #3: Changing How We Move

Mitigation Action 7 calls for the expansion and connection of active transportation networks. In January 2024 Council committed to the Proposed Accelerated Active Transportation Implementation Plan (2024-2029). During 2024, a total of 13.6km of bike lanes were added to the network through 10 cycling infrastructure projects, bringing the total kilometres of active transportation infrastructure installed to 590km or 60% of the planned 970km network.

Mitigation Action 9 calls for the expansion of transit service. During 2024, the City's Transit Division extended service and frequency on several core routes as part of the implementation of Year 8 of the City's 10-year Local Transit Strategy. This was achieved through an increase of 49,000 service hours and 43 additional full-time employees. Hamilton Street Railway ridership levels increased during 2024, reaching 21.84 million riders. This represents a 14.5% increase over 2023 and surpasses pre-pandemic ridership levels.

Low-Carbon Transformation #4: Revolutionizing Renewables

Mitigation Action 17 calls for technical feasibility studies of expanded anaerobic digestion facilities. The City's Waste Management Division has studies either underway or soon to be underway to assess the potential for organic waste to be utilized to generate renewable natural gas. These studies will help guide future solid waste management decisions that will also help with climate mitigation.

Mitigation Action 19 calls for the decarbonization and expansion of the Hamilton Community Enterprises downtown district energy system. This natural gas-powered system provides heating and cooling to a number of downtown facilities including Hamilton City Hall, Central Library and Hamilton Farmers Market, the Ellen Fairclough Building, Templar Flats, and the David Braley Health Sciences Centre. The existing system offers district energy at substantial cost savings through centralized, shared system equipment. Decarbonization would bring significant climate benefits through simple fuel switching. Hamilton Community Enterprises is in the final stretch of mapping out a technical and financial strategy for expanding and decarbonizing the system by tapping into industrial waste heat.

Low-Carbon Transformation #5: Growing Green

Mitigation Action 23 sets a community goal to plant 50,000 trees within the City's boundaries annually and as already noted, the community collectively surpassed that target by 11% in 2024. It is also worth noting that in 2024 Public Works hired additional staff to support the implementation of Hamilton's Urban Forest Strategy. This has

resulted in focussed efforts to increase tree planting and maintenance, to address the need for private tree protection, undertake accurate measures of urban forest canopy cover, and utilize this information to equitably prioritize tree planting in neighbourhoods that need tree canopy cover the most.

(ii) Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan

Resilient Theme #1: Built Environment

Adaptation Action 1.2 calls for the development of guidelines and incentives to improve the resilience of residential homes and buildings to climate risks. The City has offered a protective plumbing program for many years, and this opportunity continues to be used by Hamilton homeowners to protect their properties from flooding; 216 backwater valves were installed by homeowners through the program. Also, of note during 2024 was the development of a residential incentive program as part of the City's Stormwater Funding Review. The program, known as Rain Ready, will be implemented by local not-for-profit Green Venture on behalf of the City and will provide homeowners with the ability to access grants of varying amounts to undertake property improvements ranging from rain barrel installations to green roofs and rain gardens.

Resilient Theme #2: People and Health

Adaptation Action 4.2 calls for the evaluation and selection of programs for making emergency preparedness kits accessible to anyone, regardless of income. In 2024, Office of Climate Change Initiatives staff collaborated with Hamilton Fire Emergency Management staff to offer a joint session providing information on Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy combined with information on why everyone needs an emergency preparedness kit and how to create one for individual needs. The session was held at the Villages of Glancaster in December and served as a dry run for a series of co-hosted events planned for residents who might otherwise face challenges with putting together the essential elements of an emergency kit.

Resilient Theme #3: Natural Environment, Agriculture and Water

Adaptation Action 8.1 requires the City to engage with local partners to continue tree planting and preservation, explore community partnerships and naturalization programs to reduce urban heat island and enhance ecosystem function. Starting in 2024 the City's annual Tree Giveaway became a partnership between the City's Forestry and Horticulture Division and the Hamilton Naturalists' Club. The Naturalists' Club brings years of perfecting an approach using a pre-ordering system that ensures the tree species requested by a resident is waiting for them on pick-up day, while Forestry staff support logistics around tree ordering and delivery and distribution at pick-up locations.

Alternatives

Council could choose not to approve the recommendation 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 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. This could affect future costs to address climate impacts, and the local impacts from climate change if opportunities to accelerate key actions are not pursued, and it could negatively impact on the City's efforts to establish itself as a climate leader.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Report PED25166 includes a core recommendation that the community-wide 'Low Carbon Scenario' modelling for Hamilton be updated and the insights be applied to updating Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy. This recommendation aligns with Council Strategic Priority 1.3 – '*Accelerate our response to climate change*' found under '*Sustainable Economic & Ecological Development*'.

Through implementation of the actions in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy, combined with updating the Low Carbon Scenario and associated actions in the Climate Action Strategy, other benefits will accrue over time. These include:

- Under Sustainable Economic & Ecological Development: Reduce the burden on residential taxpayers; Facilitate the growth of key sectors; Protect green space and waterways.
- Under Safe & Thriving Neighbourhoods: Make sure people can safely and efficiently move around by foot, bike, transit or car; Provide vibrant parks, recreation and public space.
- Under Responsiveness & Transparency: Get more people involved in decision making and problem solving.

Previous Reports Submitted

August 2022 – City Council Report 22-017 approved Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy and its mitigation and adaptation plans, including committing to Net Zero by 2050.

October 2023 – PED23222 Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy Annual Update

October 2024 – PED24166 Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy Annual Update

November 2024 – FCS24040 Green Municipal Fund

Consultation

The 2025 Annual Update was prepared with the collaboration and input of internal staff from:

- Planning and Economic Development Department (Transportation Planning & Parking, Planning, Growth Management, Building, Economic Development, Municipal Law Enforcement Divisions),
- Corporate Services Department (Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Division),

- Public Works Department (Departmental Initiatives/Corporate Asset Management, Environmental Services, Office of Energy Initiatives, Hamilton Water, Transportation Divisions, Hamilton Street Railway), and
- Healthy and Safe Communities Department (Hamilton Fire, Hamilton Paramedic Services, Healthy Environments and Housing Services Divisions).

Review and input on priority indicators used to gauge progress with actions set out in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy was provided by the citizen Climate Change Advisory Committee.

Data and other information regarding community progress implementing actions set out in the Strategy was provided by: Mohawk College, McMaster University, Bay Area Climate Change Council, Hamilton Community Enterprises, Hamilton Conservation Authority, Halton Conservation Authority, Grand River Conservation Authority, and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix A: Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy Annual Climate Change Update 2024

Appendix B: Status Update Regarding Climate Actions in Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy

Appendix C: City of Hamilton – Assessment of Accelerated Emission Reduction Targets

Appendix D: Hamilton's Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector

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