



Committee Minutes

Climate Change Task Force December 14, 2021 – 10:00 AM

The Climate Change Task Force met on the above date through electronic means with the following members participating:

Present: Councillors Carleton, Gamble, Hutchinson, McQueen, Woodbury, and Warden Hicks

Regrets: Councillor Desai

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Linda Swanston, Manager, Climate Change Initiatives; Scott Taylor, Manager of Planning Services; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing; Olivia Yale, Digital Communications Specialist and Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Call to Order

Chair Carleton called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

Reports

PDR-CCTF-03-22 What We Heard-Draft Climate Change Action Plan Engagement Findings

Linda Swanston addressed the Task Force on the engagement findings. She outlined the process to date and elaborated on the various advisory tables. Engagement approaches were also highlighted.

She then outlined the engagement findings. These included:

1. Set more ambitious targets

2. Importance of nature-based solutions
3. Clear prioritization of actions
4. Treat the plan as a living document
5. Improve data collection, analysis and communication
6. Show leadership at the County level
7. Centre reconciliation in climate action
8. Agricultural is a crucial element in the culture of Grey County
9. Leverage emerging opportunities
10. Consider lifecycle emissions of building materials and technologies
11. Ramp up engagement and communication

Next steps include completing updated modelling. She also highlighted recent activities, including initiating a regional electric vehicle charging study with other municipalities and including a net-zero feasibility study in the Rockwood Terrace Redevelopment.

It is anticipated that an updated Climate Change Action Plan will be presented in the first quarter of 2022.

Staff addressed questions from the task force, including when the action plan will be rolled out to the lower tiers, strategies for engaging youth and the importance of their input. It was noted that youth are very passionate and aware of the need for climate change action. Staff indicated that climate change is a mental health concern, especially among youth.

Staff noted that youth feedback could be sought on the age friendly community plan and the climate change action plan concurrently.

The Task Force noted that the agricultural community feels they are targeted about climate change, however this is a sector that has opportunity to realize great gains in terms of climate change action. They are a key stakeholder in the development of this action plan and will be consulted regularly.

Staff noted the unique characteristics of Grey County. There are many shorelines and other natural features. Further, Grey County has a higher level of energy poverty in comparison to other areas of the province, meaning a substantial amount of people's income is put towards utilities. When energy efficiencies are realized, there is opportunity for both greenhouse gas emissions reductions and cost savings for residents.

Discussion occurred on green building standards and how working with building officials and planning staff moves these kinds of initiatives forward.

The Task Force discussed emissions from natural gas versus the cost of electricity. Staff noted that it is expected that natural gas will become more expensive over the next

ten years as the federal carbon tax takes hold. There are opportunities to reduce the impact however, such as the use of air source heat pumps. Renewable natural gas is a great technology, but we are likely not in a position provincially to use it to completely replace fossil fuel natural gas due to supply limitations.

Discussion occurred on batteries in electric vehicles and concern about the length of warranty for batteries. There is concern about the lifespan of these crucial pieces of equipment.

CCTF-01-22 Moved by: Councillor Hutchinson Seconded by: Councillor Woodbury

That Report PDR-CCTF-03-22 regarding ‘What We Heard - Draft Climate Change Action Plan Engagement Findings’ be received; and

That staff be directed to incorporate these engagement findings into a final draft of the Climate Change Action Plan, to be considered by the Climate Change Task Force and County Council.

Carried

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

To be determined

On motion by Councillors Woodbury and McQueen the meeting adjourned at 10:51 am.

Sue Carleton, Chair