



Committee Minutes

Climate Change Task Force April 5, 2022 – 9:30 AM

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

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

Regrets: Councillors Hutchinson and Woodbury

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Linda Swanston, Manager, Climate Change Initiatives; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Rob Hatten, Communications Manager and Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Call to Order

Chair Carleton called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

Reports

PDR-CCTF-10-22 Climate Change Action Plan

Linda Swanston presented the above noted report. Grey County has been working with ICLEI Canada since 2019 to develop a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). She outlined the history of the project. A draft plan was presented in 2021 and comments and engagement sessions have taken place since that time. Updates to the CCAP have been made to reflect the recommendations and advice that has been taken from those sessions.

Ms. Swanston provided information on the other advisory tables that have been a part of the process to date, including County Council and Senior Management staff, the

Climate Change External and Internal Working Groups and staff leads from all member municipalities.

She then spoke to the inventory levels and 2018 Baseline Grey County greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and noted the proposed Grey County targets of net-zero (GHG) emissions both from corporate operations and community wide by 2050.

She outlined the targets of other jurisdictions including the Federal *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* that enshrines in legislation the Government of Canada's commitment to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The benefits of action were highlighted including cost savings to residents through reduced utility expenses, improved public health through promotion of active transportation, and opportunity for green economic growth.

She outlined the core engagement findings which included a desire for more ambitious targets, a focus on nature-based solutions, a need to show leadership and a clear prioritization of actions, among others.

The importance of reconciliation was noted and ensuring that meaningful collaboration with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, Indigenous communities and organizations located within Grey County is achieved and that their feedback is integrated into the Plan.

Ms. Swanston spoke to the recommended community actions, noting there are already some programs in place that are advancing aspects of the Plan. Other areas are new and need to be developed.

She spoke to prioritization criteria, including relative greenhouse gas reduction potential, cost to implement, community benefits and level of Grey County influence.

Based on these criteria, Four Fundamental Pillars to continue to expand were identified, and Five Key Next Steps to initiate were outlined that collectively can achieve 79% of the potential cumulative GHG emissions reductions identified in the Plan.

Questions and comments were addressed regarding the work being done by agricultural sector. The use of the word emergency, which has meaning under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, was discussed. It was noted that the term emergency also conveys significant priority and visibility beyond the legislation. Further discussion occurred on what should be done with light duty, gas powered equipment when it has reached its end of life. Staff noted that the Plan only suggests replacing equipment at the end of its useful lifecycle with low-emissions alternatives.

There was a suggestion for Grey County to consider establishing more aggressive targets corporately. Staff noted that some of those targets are based on what technologies are currently available, however could explore the possibility of more

aggressive goals. There was also discussion of establishing interim targets potentially in 5-year increments.

Main Motion

Moved by: Warden Hicks Seconded by: Councillor Gamble

Whereas the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report released in February 2022, indicates that human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption in nature, and affecting the lives of billions of people around the world, and notes that urgent action is required to deal with increasing risks; and

Whereas municipalities will bear much of the financial burden associated with climate change due to the increase in costs of maintaining and upgrading infrastructure such as roads, culverts, bridges and stormwater management systems, costs due to damage caused by flooding, etc.; and

Whereas municipalities are well-positioned to respond to climate change in that over 50% of greenhouse gas emissions are under the direct influence of local governments according to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities;

Be it Resolved That report PDR-CCTF-10-22 regarding the County's Climate Change Action Plan be received; and

That the Climate Change Task Force recommends that Council declare a climate emergency to deepen the County's commitment to move forward with the strategies and actions identified in the Climate Change Action Plan, and to work with local municipalities and other community partners, with the support of the federal and provincial government; and

That the Climate Change Action Plan, and a Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2050 be endorsed to help guide corporate strategic plans and priorities; and

That the climate change action plan recommendations be supported, and staff be directed to continue and expand work supporting the various actions that are already underway, including the Four Foundational Pillars, and to develop workplans to advance the Five

Key Next Steps identified in this report, in collaboration with local municipalities and other community partners; and

That staff be directed to share the Climate Change Action Plan with all member municipalities for information, with a presentation to local councils should that be requested.

Primary Amendment

CCTF02-22 Moved by: Warden Hicks Seconded by: Councillor McQueen

That Clause 6 of the motion be amended to also include that staff be directed to explore more aggressive corporate target dates; and

That staff be directed to bring updated target reviews each term of Council.

Carried

Main Motion as Amended

CCTF03-22 Moved by: Warden Hicks Seconded by: Councillor Gamble

Whereas the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report released in February 2022, indicates that human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption in nature, and affecting the lives of billions of people around the world, and notes that urgent action is required to deal with increasing risks; and

Whereas municipalities will bear much of the financial burden associated with climate change due to the increase in costs of maintaining and upgrading infrastructure such as roads, culverts, bridges and stormwater management systems, costs due to damage caused by flooding, etc.; and

Whereas municipalities are well-positioned to respond to climate change in that over 50% of greenhouse gas emissions are under the direct influence of local governments according to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities;

Be it Resolved That report PDR-CCTF-10-22 regarding the County's Climate Change Action Plan be received; and

That the Climate Change Task Force recommends that Council declare a climate emergency to deepen the County's commitment to move forward with the strategies and actions identified in the Climate

Change Action Plan, and to work with local municipalities and other community partners, with the support of the federal and provincial government; and

That the Climate Change Action Plan, and a Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2050 be endorsed to help guide corporate strategic plans and priorities and that staff also be directed to explore more aggressive corporate target dates and bring updated target reviews each term of Council; and

That the climate change action plan recommendations be supported, and staff be directed to continue and expand work supporting the various actions that are already underway, including the Four Foundational Pillars, and to develop workplans to advance the Five Key Next Steps identified in this report, in collaboration with local municipalities and other community partners; and

That staff be directed to share the Climate Change Action Plan with all member municipalities for information, with a presentation to local councils should that be requested.

Carried

Correspondence

Correspondence from Sue Near – Reconsidering the CP Rail Trail Upgrades

CCTF04-22 Moved by: Councillor McQueen Seconded by: Councillor Gamble

That the correspondence from Sue Near regarding reconsidering the CP Rail Trail upgrades be received for information.

Carried

Correspondence from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

CCTF05-22 Moved by: Warden Hicks Seconded by: Councillor McQueen

That the correspondence and Report Card from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative be received for information.

Carried

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

To be determined

On motion by Councillors Gamble and McQueen the meeting adjourned at 10:59 am.

Sue Carleton, Chair