



Committee Minutes

Climate Change Task Force January 26, 2021 – 1:00 PM

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

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

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning; Scott Taylor, Senior Planner; Hiba Hussain, Planner; Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing; Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Rob Hatten, Communications Manager and Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

Draft Climate Change Strategies

Hiba Hussain introduced the themes and the draft strategies that have been completed as part of the draft Climate Change Action Plan.

The themes found within the Corporate section were highlighted, as well as each of the strategies contained within those themes.

The first theme discussed was related to vehicle fleet and equipment. It was noted that the goal is to improve how the fleet and vehicles are used and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and demonstrate climate leadership.

Questions were addressed regarding electric vehicle infrastructure and technology.

The next theme the Task Force reviewed was related to Stationary Energy. The goals of this section are to improve energy conservation at corporate buildings to ensure the infrastructure is the most efficient it can be. The strategies within this section were then reviewed.

Next, the Task Force reviewed Waste Production in corporate buildings. The goals of this theme are to reduce corporate waste across all operations, encourage behavioural change and create a culture of conservation.

Lastly, the Municipal Culture theme was reviewed. The goal of this theme is to integrate climate change into decision making and planning processes and encourage sustainability through a decision making lens.

It was noted that small changes make big impacts and these small changes should be encouraged in the organization.

Councillor Woodbury left the meeting at this time.

Staff asked if there is support for examining the Plan from a broader local municipal perspective. There isn't anything that excludes broader participation and it would be useful to explore opportunities. Ms. Wingrove noted that the local CAOs will go through the Plan and see where there is alignment between the local municipalities and this plan. The Task Force supported this.

The themes from within the Community Section were then reviewed.

The first theme discussed was related to the Building theme. Ms. Hussain noted that the goal of this theme is to prioritize energy conservation by building cleaner more efficient buildings and retrofitting existing structures, creating indoor spaces that are more comfortable for residents while ensuring policies are equitable and reduce energy poverty across our communities. Each strategy within this section was then reviewed.

Next, the Task Force discussed the Transportation theme. The goal is to encourage active transportation and a move away from carbon and gas-powered vehicles. Expanding rural transportation systems and the promotion of public transportation and rideshare programs was also noted as a goal.

Discussion occurred on chargers for electronic vehicles, issues with responsibility with recycling and the biodigester owned by the Township of Chatsworth and Georgian Bluffs.

The Agricultural theme was then highlighted. The aim of this section is to provide support, resources and tools to help the agricultural community become more sustainable. Ms. Hussain then outlined the strategies within.

The next theme discussed was related to Land Use. Objectives include continuing to promote compact, mixed use development and integrate smart growth principles into land use planning processes while preserving and expanding Grey County's natural areas.

The Task Force then considered the Energy theme which aims to promote renewable energy in the County that is owned and operated locally, and has minimal impact on the surroundings. Further, it should create and develop local jobs and support the independence of residents and business.

Lastly, the theme of Waterway and Shoreline Preservation was noted. The goal within this theme is to ensure the protection of waterways and shorelines including lakes, rivers and streams and to reduce the impacts of flooding on local infrastructure.

Discussion occurred on flood plain mapping, the need to protect water quality and preserve natural shorelines.

Councillor McQueen left the meeting.

Staff requested the Task Force consider what may be required for the implementation of the Plan and to identify needs and concerns and forward that information to Hiba Hussain.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

To be determined

On motion by Councillors Hutchinson and Warden Hicks, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 pm.

Sue Carleton, Chair