



Committee Agenda

Climate Change Task Force

June 28, 2022 – 1:30 PM

Electronic Meeting, Grey County Administration Building

1. Call to Order

2. Declaration of Interest

3. Delegations

1:30 PM Kevin Behan, Deputy Director
Clean Air Partnership

1:50 PM Shawna Macivor, Vicky Thompson, Lloyd Lewis and Gord Edwards
Neighbourwoods North
Planting Project Proposal

4. Reports

a. PDR-CCTF-24-22 Clean Air Council Membership

That Report PDR-CCTF-24-22 regarding Clean Air Council Membership be received and that Grey County become a member of the Clean Air Council, with membership fees for 2022 being paid through the existing budget.

b. PDR-CCTF-25-22 Community Nature Based Climate Solutions Pilot

That Report PDR-CCTF-25-22 be received, regarding the implementation of a community nature-based climate solution pilot program; and

That staff be directed to implement a multi-year planting plan for the Grey County Administration Building site to support *Going Green in Grey*, the County's Climate Change Action Plan with funds being utilized from the existing approved budget for 2022 and for future expenses to be considered as part of the annual budget process; and

That staff be directed to host a Fall 2022 community planting event to initiate engagement of volunteers in nature-based climate solutions to be funded from the existing approved budget or from grant funding received as part of the Agents of Change program.

5. Other Business

6. Next Meeting Dates

- a. To Be Determined

7. Adjournment

To:	Chair Carleton and Members of the Climate Change Task Force
Committee Date:	June 28, 2022
Subject / Report No:	PDR-CCTF-24-22
Title:	Clean Air Council Membership
Prepared by:	Linda Swanston
Reviewed by:	Randy Scherzer
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All municipalities within Grey
Status:	

Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CCTF-24-22 regarding Clean Air Council Membership be received and that Grey County become a member of the Clean Air Council, with membership fees for 2022 being paid through the existing budget.

Executive Summary

Collaboration and coordination are essential elements of the successful implementation of Grey County's recently adopted *Going Green in Grey* Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). Membership in the Clean Air Council (CAC) will provide Grey County staff, and the staff of our local municipalities, access to a platform to share information, build connections and work towards reducing energy use and emissions. Grey County has joined over 500 Canadian municipalities in declaring a climate emergency and has the opportunity to learn from and with other jurisdictions on how best to implement our CCAP. This report outlines the rationale and benefits to joining the Clean Air Council and recommends Grey County become a member.

Background

Grey County recently adopted a net-zero by 2050 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target community-wide, and the *Going Green in Grey* Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) will help the County and its partners reduce local GHG pollution and begin adapting to our changing climate. The CCAP establishes community targets of 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, relative to 2018 levels and Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, relative to 2018 levels. The County's corporate targets are accelerated in an effort to lead by example seeking 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, relative to 2018 levels and Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, relative to 2018 levels. The CCAP also lays out a series of interim GHG pollution reduction milestones every 5 years.

The CCAP was prepared following the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) five-milestone framework. The PCP framework focuses on quantifying and analyzing local GHG pollution and identifying actions to reduce it, resulting in a climate change mitigation plan. The CCAP identifies the need to develop an adaptation plan to help the County, member municipalities, and our community respond to our changing climate as a key next step. In implementing the CCAP Grey County can benefit and avoid duplication by networking with other municipalities and counties committed to ambitious climate action.

Clean Air Council Membership

The CAC is Canada's largest peer-to-peer municipal climate action network and is comprised of over 30 municipalities and Public Health Units (PHU) working collaboratively on clean air and climate change actions.

CAC member jurisdictions represent 10 million people, and have completed over 1000 climate action initiatives, reducing 19 million tons of GHGs. In 2020 over 1,000 municipal staff participated in 35 CAC workshops and webinars focused on priority areas that align with Grey County's CCAP including:

- Low carbon buildings - both at the corporate and community scale
- Low carbon transportation - active transportation, electric vehicles, municipal fleet greening
- Climate action and equity - applying an equity lens to climate action
- Climate lens - creating a climate lens for municipal decision-making

As a member, Grey County and local municipalities will have access to the CAC resource library of over 170 briefing notes, case studies, webinar recordings, and presentations on climate action issues. The resources available through the CAC will assist with carrying out the *Going Green in Grey* priority actions including; creating a green development standard, establishing a home energy retrofit program, electric vehicle infrastructure roll-out, community engagement, and adaptation planning, to name just a few.

CAC members include both local municipalities and upper-tier municipalities, creating a valuable network for learning and collaboration for staff at both levels. CAC membership includes a growing number of rural jurisdictions and CAC is expanding their offerings related to nature-based solutions and climate action in the agricultural sector.

With every four-year municipal term, the CAC identifies declaration actions that member municipalities will advance. Municipalities report back on progress on these declaration actions on a four-year cycle. The 2019-2023 [Declaration Report](#) illustrates the collective progress: The declarations broadly align with the targets and actions of *Going Green in Grey*, and Grey would first report in 2027 which aligns with our planned reporting and update cycle for the CCAP.

The CCAP identifies the need for some issues to be managed by other levels of government. The CAC provides opportunities to collaborate with CAC members on joint submissions to provincial and federal governments on proposed policy changes related to energy and the environment. This reduces burden on County and Municipal staff to provide comment on

climate/environmental proposals and adds Grey County's support to climate relevant policy consultations.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

There are no legal or legislated requirements related to this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

Adopting this report would result in the payment of a prorated 2022 annual membership due to Clean Air Council from the existing 2022 approved budget, and a go forward annual payment of \$1,814 to be included for consideration as part of the annual budget process. Grey County can terminate our membership at any time without penalty.

Relevant Consultation

Internal: CAO

External:

Appendices and Attachments

Attachment A: [Clean Air Council Membership Package](#)

To:	Chair Carleton and Members of the Climate Change Task Force
Committee Date:	June 28, 2022
Subject / Report No:	PDR-CCTF-25-22
Title:	Community Nature-based Climate Solutions Pilot
Prepared by:	Linda Swanston
Reviewed by:	Randy Scherzer
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	None
Status:	

Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CCTF-25-22 be received, regarding the implementation of a community nature-based climate solution pilot program; and
2. That staff be directed to implement a multi-year planting plan for the Grey County Administration Building site to support *Going Green in Grey*, the County's Climate Change Action Plan with funds being utilized from the existing approved budget for 2022 and for future expenses to be considered as part of the annual budget process; and
3. That staff be directed to host a Fall 2022 community planting event to initiate engagement of volunteers in nature-based climate solutions to be funded from the existing approved budget or from grant funding received as part of the Agents of Change program.

Executive Summary

As an initial step toward implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan recommendations, staff propose moving forward with a multi-phase community site naturalization proposal for the Administration Building in Owen Sound. Naturalizing the site provides multiple benefits including:

- demonstrating leadership for nature-based climate solutions to sequester carbon identified in *Going Green in Grey*
- engaging residents in direct climate action and building their relationship to the natural environment
- building relationships with local volunteer climate action organizations
- exploring opportunities to support reconciliation through climate action

Background

County Council's recently adopted *Going Green in Grey* Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) has a focus on nature-based solutions including 'Action 1: Afforestation, Habitat and Biodiversity Protection.' Council has set a target of 1 million trees being planted across the Grey County community by 2030 and 5 million by 2050.

In the Spring of 2021, a group of residents associated with NeighbourWoods North (NWN) reached out to Grey County to propose the naturalization of the Grey County Administration Building Property at 595 9th Ave East, Owen Sound. In the Summer of 2021 Grey County's Climate Change Initiatives Manager met with the NWN group to discuss their proposal. In Fall 2021 County staff, including the Housing Manager responsible for the Administration Building property, walked the site with NWN volunteers and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority's (GSCA) Forestry Coordinator to assess appropriate planting based on the site's orientation, gradient, soil, water conditions and utility locations. From this the NWN volunteers prepared an options paper of planting approaches that informed the planting proposal in this report. Given NWN's history of successful resident engagement in other large scale planting projects the opportunity for the Administration Building project to also engage volunteers was explored.

Proposed Naturalization Actions

Having reviewed the NWN suggestions in discussion with Housing and Maintenance staff, and GSCA, Staff are recommending an initial set of actions in 2022:

2022 Actions	Cost Estimate	Rationale
<p>Sugar Maples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant 10 Sugar Maples along the 6th Street East sidewalk - Mulch under trees 	\$2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trees are native to area and will do well in the soil on that area of the site - Will provide shade and windbreak to pedestrians walking up to Administration building
<p>Pollinator Gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish two 12x15 foot pollinator gardens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Lower level 6th street building entrance o South side of the building adjacent to the concrete pad 	\$3000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attract beneficial pollinators to Administration building site - Provide educational opportunity for staff and residents
<p>Shade Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant 4 shade trees on South side of building at ground level towards the front of the building 	\$800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide shade to staff area - Reduce heating and cooling demands on the administration building through shading and wind break

		- Use native species potentially, White Oak and Mountain Ash
Explore Rain Garden - Investigate planting native plants in the northwest corner of the property to manage rainwater	Existing staff capacity for research	- Manage rainwater - Provide pollinator habitat

Staff will monitor the 2022 plantings for outcomes and issues, along with impacts on maintenance. Maintenance impacts are anticipated to be minimal to moderate. There will be reduced mowing requirements due to the mulching around the newly planted trees, there will be additional watering requirements associated with the new trees over the first 1-5 years. The pollinator gardens will require an estimated one hour a week of weeding and maintenance, the potential for Administration Building staff to participate in the maintenance will be explored as part of wellness programming.

The monitoring of the 2022 plantings will inform if any revisions are needed to the proposed go-forward planting program (map of phased plantings provided in Attachment 1):

2023

- Establish bioretention rain garden in northwest corner of the property.

Future years

- Create native woodlot on south side of the property planting 30-40 native trees from the South corner of the building down to the 9th Avenue East Sidewalk

A 3D visualization of the planting projects once mature is available online here: <https://arcg.is/1r9zuO>

Community Engagement

Naturalization of the Administration building property is an excellent opportunity to pilot engaging Grey County residents in nature-based climate solutions that support “Theme 8 – Outreach & Engagement” of *Going Green in Grey*. Co-hosting a community planting event with Neighbourwoods North in Fall 2022 will begin building awareness of Grey County’s climate action plan and will engage residents in taking direct climate action. NWN will help with community engagement by mobilizing volunteers for a planting event in the Fall by connecting with their own membership, local Climate Action Teams and the Master Gardeners of Grey Bruce. Based on the outcomes of the Administration Building planting event other Grey County sites could subsequently be naturalized with the help of resident and staff volunteers.

Engaging volunteers in the planting project begins to implement Action 19 of *Going Green in Grey*, ‘Establish a Climate Action Engagement Program’. With support of the Agents of Change program funded by ICLEI Canada, staff are currently exploring how to develop a community climate volunteer program grounded in Indigenous knowledge to accelerate nature-based climate solutions, advance reconciliation, and deliver benefit to local Indigenous communities. Conversations are ongoing with M’WIKwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre about how best to

work with Indigenous community to develop a nature-based climate volunteer program focused on 'right relationship' with the land and each other.

As part of the Agents of Change program, to support efforts to include equity considerations in climate action ICLEI will fund the Manager of Climate Change Initiatives participation in the Livable Cities Forum in Victoria BC October 3-5, 2022. Projects such as the Administration Building community plantings will provide an opportunity to pilot different approaches to honour Indigenous Knowledge and community in County naturalization projects and engagement efforts.

Climate Action Impacts

Grey County's commitment to nature-based climate solutions aligns with the Canadian Government commitment to plant two billion trees by 2030 [2 Billion Trees Program](#).

Tree planting and naturalization on County-owned properties where appropriate has the potential to deliver both climate mitigation and adaptation benefits. Carbon sequestration rates are dependent on tree species and tree age. The Federal Government estimates a minimum average sequestration of 6kg CO₂e per year per newly planted tree in their tree planting program. Accelerating tree planting across Grey County has the potential to sequester 378,000 tonnes of CO₂e between now and 2050 if we reach our planting targets, along will delivering significant habitat and biodiversity benefits. By naturalizing county properties, on site water management will also be improved reducing risk of flooding and soil erosion. Trees moderate microclimate, regulating extreme temperatures, improving the experience so staff and residents on the property, and reducing energy demand when adjacent to buildings.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

There are not legal requirements associated with this project.

Financial and Resource Implications

Cost for the 2022 proposed plantings will be covered by the existing climate action implementation funds included in the approved 2022 budget. Future year costs will be brought forward through the annual budget process.

The Federal government will invest \$3.16 billion in the [2 Billion Trees Program](#) and a new round of funding will be launched in Fall 2022 to support tree planting across Canada.

Relevant Consultation

Internal: Housing

External: GSCA, NWN

Appendices and Attachments

Attachment A: [Administration Building Planting Map](#)