



# Committee Minutes

## Climate Change Task Force July 5, 2021 – 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, Desai, Hutchinson, McQueen and Warden Hicks

Regrets: Councillor Woodbury

### Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning; Scott Taylor, Senior Planner, Mary Lou Spicer, Director of Finance and Heather Morrison, Clerk

## Call to Order

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

## Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

## Reports

### PDR-CCTF-18-21 Draft Climate Change Action Plan

Scott Taylor presented the above report. He spoke to the vision statement related to climate change noting the plan looks at both corporate and community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. He noted that since October 2019, staff have been working with ICLEI Canada on a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) which follows the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) five milestone process. The project objectives were then reviewed with the members. He outlined the various stakeholders and stated that even with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a significant amount of stakeholder engagement has already taken place to bring the draft plan to where it is today.

Mr. Taylor noted that the CCAP includes 2018 data as a baseline for both the County and community GHG emissions and sets targets for emission reductions in the short term (2030) and longer term (2050). Under the Corporate plan, County buildings have the highest energy consumption, followed by the vehicle fleet, and streetlights. Within the community plan, the largest energy consumption is in the agricultural sector, followed by private vehicles, residential buildings, and commercial/industrial buildings rounding out the top four. Staff noted that they would continue to work with each of these sectors to explore opportunities for GHG reduction and education.

Mr. Taylor spoke to how emission reduction targets will be set. The targets should be ambitious, meaningful, achievable, and connected to local context. He then outlined both the corporate and community targets for both 2030 and 2050. The strategies contained in the CCAP will assist the County, member municipalities and the community in reaching the targets on climate change. Further consultation with various groups of stakeholders will help finalize the CCAP for presentation to the Climate Change Task Force and subsequently Grey County Council.

Mr. Taylor noted that the draft CCAP includes 26 strategies in seven categories for greenhouse gas emissions for community targets and 14 strategies in four categories for corporate targets. He provided a brief outline for each of the categories and the strategies contained within those.

Warden Hicks joined the meeting.

Mr. Taylor spoke to potential program areas for review at the County level including implementing a climate change lens in overall operations, exploring opportunities for local renewable energy generation (e.g. rooftop solar panels), land use policy changes, expanding local transit and active transportation options, and preserving significant environmental features to name a few. He noted that the strategies will be implemented throughout the lifespan of the CCAP, and that not all strategies would be undertaken immediately.

Randy Scherzer then provided further details on several of the initiatives contained in the draft CCAP. He noted that a Climate Change staff person has been hired and an announcement regarding this will be made at the July 8, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting. This new position is expected to start in late July. Mr. Scherzer then provided an outline of next steps for the draft CCAP.

Mr. Scherzer posed questions to the Task Force members including any gaps in the plan or stakeholder listing, engagement methods etc.

Questions and comments from members then followed including natural gas expansions to rural communities. Staff noted that discussions are underway with various utility companies for future opportunities as well as community education.

Kim Wingrove spoke to the possibility of a 50% reduction by 2030. It was noted that comments in this regard, may come through the future stakeholder engagements. Discussion on electricity generation and related infrastructure then occurred. It was noted that Georgian Bluffs has put rough ins for charging stations as a mandatory requirement for all new builds. Scott Taylor noted that public charging stations foster economic development through visitors and tourism in the area. Placing these charging stations in areas where there is retail, cultural, or sight-seeing activities is beneficial to allow charging to take place while visitors shop and explore the area.

CCTF-03-21 Moved by: Councillor McQueen Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

**That Report PDR-CCTF-18-21 be received; and**

**That staff be directed to solicit feedback from the public, stakeholders, and municipalities on the Draft Climate Change Action Plan; and**

**That once a robust public consultation program has been undertaken, the feedback be incorporated 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

Discussion occurred on the best method of garnering feedback from member municipalities. Staff noted that they have engaged with municipal CAOs and other staff members. Staff would be happy to further engage with municipalities to ensure their input is reflected in the CCAP.

The Task Force requested an update on the application for the collaborative electric vehicle charging study that has been submitted to FCM. Staff anticipate hearing about the application by early fall 2021 and will provide a further update at the next meeting. The proposed study will be focusing on the available public infrastructure.

## Next Meeting Dates

To be determined

On motion by Councillors Hutchinson and Gamble the meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.

Sue Carleton, Chair