

To:	Chair Carleton and Members of the Climate Change Task Force
Committee Date:	July 5, 2021
Subject / Report No:	PDR-CCTF-18-21
Title:	Draft Climate Change Action Plan
Prepared by:	Scott Taylor
Reviewed by:	Randy Scherzer
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All municipalities within Grey
Status:	Adopted as presented by Climate Change Task Force through resolution CCTF-03-21; Endorsed by Committee of the Whole through Resolution CW118-21; Endorsed by County Council CC59-21

Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CCTF-18-21 regarding a Draft Climate Change Action Plan be received for information; and
2. That staff be directed to solicit feedback from the public, stakeholders, and municipalities on the Draft Climate Change Action Plan; and
3. 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.

Executive Summary

Since October 2019 the County has been working with ICLEI Canada on a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). Although the COVID 19 pandemic changed the public and stakeholder consultation plans, a significant amount of outreach was completed and a draft of the CCAP has now been prepared. Staff would like to thank all of those that have provided input and feedback into the CCAP process to date. The draft CCAP provides data on the baseline (2018) County corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions and sets draft targets for emissions reductions in the short-term (by 2030) and long-term (by 2050). Strategies are provided to assist the County, member municipalities, and the community in reaching these targets. Staff are seeking support in principle for the draft CCAP, in order to undertake a robust public consultation program throughout the summer and early fall. Following that consultation, a final draft of the CCAP will be prepared for consideration by the Climate Change Task Force and ultimately County Council.

Background

Since 2019 the County of Grey has been working with ICLEI Canada to develop a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) that will help the County and its partners reduce their impact on the environment. A draft of the CCAP has been prepared using the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection five-milestone framework. The draft CCAP is linked to in the Appendices and Attachments section of this report. The County's CCAP is a mitigation plan meant to mitigate the impacts of the County and community on a changing climate. This plan differs from some other local approaches, where a climate adaptation strategy was used.

The draft CCAP sets a vision for the County to reduce corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 20% by the year 2030 and 60% by the year 2050. Community GHG emission reduction targets are proposed at 15% by the year 2030 and 50% by the year 2050. In all cases the GHG emission targets are measured against a baseline year of 2018. When the CCAP process was started in 2019, the year 2018 was chosen as it was the last year there was a complete dataset for. Looking back, it was also an appropriate baseline year, as it was before the pandemic, and therefore emissions levels were not yet altered by any reduced activities during the pandemic.

The draft CCAP provides 25 strategies in 7 categories for GHG emission reductions to achieve the community targets, and 14 strategies in 4 categories to achieve the corporate targets. The strategies will be implemented over the life of the CCAP and will not all be implemented at once. Implementation of the CCAP will require partnerships with member municipalities, the public, utility companies, and different sectors of the economy (i.e. businesses, agriculture, tourism, etc.) to achieve the vision for GHG emissions reductions.

Although the pandemic had an impact on the County's ability to collect input throughout the CCAP process; County staff and ICLEI were still successful in getting feedback into the process. Some of the engagement throughout the CCAP so far has included the following groups and processes:

1. the County's Climate Change Task Force,
2. an internal staff climate change working group,
3. an external climate change working group made up of stakeholders from Grey-Bruce,
4. two on-line surveys, one targeting residents and businesses, and the other targeting the agricultural sector,
5. working with various municipal and citizen-led climate action teams across the County,
6. targeted outreach to the business and agricultural sectors,
7. small facilitated on-line group meetings,
8. input from municipal staff*,
9. public presentations to committees, boards, or councils, and
10. various emails, discussions, and social media input throughout.

*Municipal staff have been involved at various points throughout the CCAP process. Most recently the draft CCAP was shared with municipal staff for their review and feedback. Although feedback has not yet been received from all nine member municipalities, the feedback received to date has generally been positive with some constructive considerations to move forward with.

Should the Task Force support the draft CCAP in principle, staff would continue this engagement with those that have already fed into the CCAP, as well as hopefully hearing from

some new voices as well. A key piece of this engagement would be working with the future Climate Change Manager/Coordinator to (a) help solicit internal and external feedback, and (b) add their own expertise to the CCAP. Depending on the changing nature of the pandemic, this public consultation may be done on-line, in-person, or through hybrid approaches. All public health standards will be followed in undertaking the engagement activities.

Following this additional consultation, staff would work with ICLEI to prepare a final draft of the CCAP for consideration by the Climate Change Task Force and County Council.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

While the County is not legislatively required to have a Climate Change Action Plan; the County is required to implement climate change considerations into our asset management plan, and include policies in our official plan, as per the *Planning Act*.

Financial and Resource Implications

The CCAP went through a request for proposal (RFP) process, and budgeted expenses have been carried over from the 2020 budget. Both the public consultation and finalization of the plan fall within the existing budget. Implementation of the CCAP would be required to be included in future County budgets.

Relevant Consultation

Internal: Transportation Services, Housing, Economic Development and Tourism, CAO, and Finance.

External: The public, member municipalities, local utilities, agricultural sector, businesses, conservation authorities, climate action groups, and provincial ministries.

Appendices and Attachments

[Draft Climate Change Action Plan](#)