



# Committee Report

<b>To:</b>	Chair Carleton and Members of the Climate Change Task Force
<b>Committee Date:</b>	April 1, 2021
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	Electric Vehicle Charging Network / PDR-CCTF-02-21
<b>Title:</b>	Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Network Initiative
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<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	All municipalities within Grey
<b>Status:</b>	

## Recommendation

- 1. That Report PDR-CCTF-02-21 be received for information; and**
- 2. That staff be directed to support the Regional Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Network initiative and the feasibility study; and**
- 3. That the County makes a grant of \$5,000, along with in-kind staff resources, to the County of Wellington for the project, contingent on the other project partners matching grant contributions; and**
- 4. That Grey County's contribution to the Regional EV Charging Network Initiative be funded from the Energy Audit Reserve.**

## Executive Summary

The County of Wellington is proposing to develop a preliminary regional electric vehicle charging network strategy with neighboring partners which include the Counties of Dufferin, Perth, Huron, and Grey, in addition to Grey-Bruce Public Health, City of Guelph and Our Energy Guelph (hereafter referred to as the partners).

The network strategy will primarily focus on assessing the existing and planned charging stations and conduct a charging station gap analysis to provide the partners and communities with future planning for an electric vehicle charging network. Wellington County, on behalf of the partners will apply for grant funding to the Federation of Municipalities (FCM) to conduct a feasibility study to see the viability of developing an electric vehicle charging network across partner jurisdictions. Each of the partners in the network the group is being asked to contribute \$5,000.00 and in-kind staff resources toward the project.

## Background

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. Throughout the consultation for the CCAP, staff have heard from Council and members of the community to prioritize the development of electric vehicle charging stations. As electric vehicle technology evolves and advances, we are seeing more people choose electric cars over high-carbon powered vehicles. This shift in consumer habits requires the County to be proactive and ensure that adequate infrastructure exists within our region to allow the public to travel freely using this new technology.

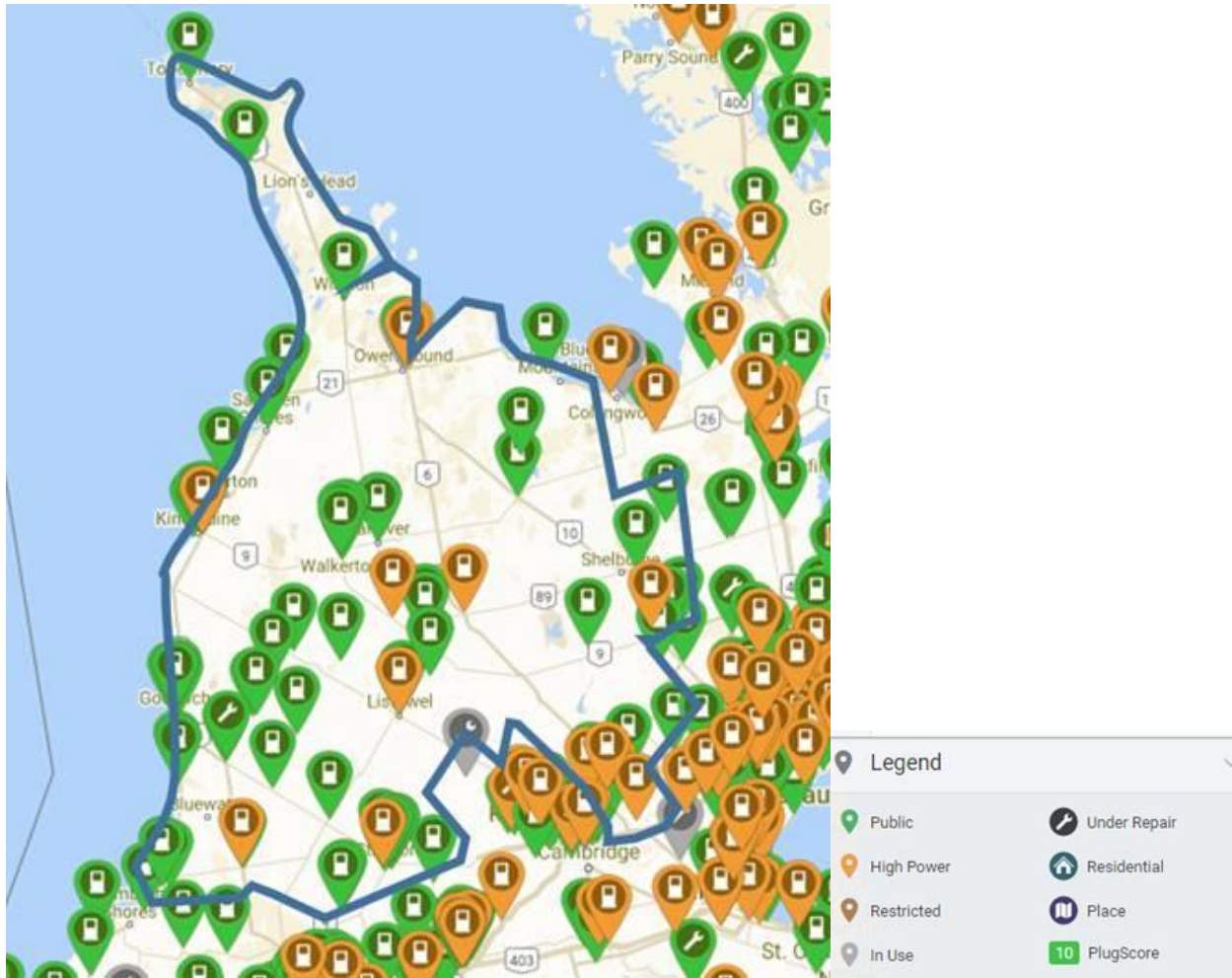
Grey County Planning and Tourism staff have been working with the County of Wellington and neighbouring municipalities to investigate and support establishing an electric vehicle charging station network that will bridge the gap of charging infrastructure between Highway 401 and Lake Huron and Georgian Bay to the Bruce Peninsula. The opportunity to create a network in this region has been identified as a key opportunity for tourism, economic development and acceleration of electric vehicle adoption.

The partners have expressed interest in a collaborative approach for the development of an electric vehicle charging station network and acknowledge the benefit of pooling staff resources and funding. This interconnected approach also allows for connectivity in hard infrastructure that is critical to transitioning to electric vehicles.

The partners will be applying to FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF). Through the GMF, FCM provides grants and resources to support environmentally sustainable municipal feasibility studies. FCM grants covers up to 50% of eligible costs (to a maximum of \$175,000) to undertake plans and feasibility studies. If the network's proposal is accepted, the funding will be utilized to hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study that looks at the viability of developing charging stations in the region.

In addition to the grant funding, the network will require its partners to cover the remaining 50% of the cost to conduct this study. The network is looking for a financial commitment of \$5000.00 and staff time from each partner to supplement the consulting cost not covered by the funding. The total cost to conduct the feasibility study is expected to be approximately \$70,000.00.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed to clarify the roles and responsibilities between the partners, and for the submission of a funding application to FCM GMF grant. It is expected that the funding application will be submitted in April 2021, the project will commence in August 2021 and be completed in March 2022.



Map 1 – Study Area of the Feasibility Study. (Courtesy of Plugshare)  
[PlugShare - EV Charging Station Map - Find a place to charge your car!](https://www.plugshare.com/)

## Discussion

A number of the partners have individually planned and implemented various electric vehicle charging networks over the past 5 years. Charging infrastructure has been installed in some areas as a response to acquiring supportive funding. Many stations are located to support municipal staff and community members at town halls, recreational facilities, and in public parking lots. These facilities have often been installed without consideration of the distance between chargers, connections along travel routes, or supporting economic development by strategically locating charging stations in close proximity to tourist destinations (e.g. restaurants, attractions, shopping, etc.).

The preliminary regional electric vehicle charging network feasibility study will review existing electric vehicle charging and propose a strategy to expand the network to support the transition to electric vehicles and economic development. The feasibility study will be utilized as a guide for local and regional municipalities and private enterprises to plan and install infrastructure in a thoughtful manner. The feasibility study is also an opportunity to engage with the community about electric vehicles to support their adoption.

The following are the areas of study for the preliminary regional electric vehicle charging network feasibility study:

- Geospatial analysis of existing charging stations in study area,
- Modelled design of future regional network,
- Criteria for site selection with emphasis on tourism and economic development,
- Identification of proposed charging locations, and
- Identification of opportunities for solar array charging station.

The network will not be committing its partners to any development or allocation of resources for future EV charging stations through this feasibility study. The feasibility study will serve the purpose of planning, modelling and identification only. This study could be shared within the public and private sectors to help drive the business case for additional charging infrastructure.

The consultant team will engage and involve staff from the partner organizations, as well as expected to engage local utilities and other agencies. Public consultation may also be part of the study requirements. The project is anticipated to commence in August 2021 and completed in March 2022.

The County of Wellington will provide project management services for the development of the study and serve as the lead applicant for the funding submission. The County of Wellington will administer the funding agreement and provide records to the partners. The partners will enter into a memorandum of understanding with respect to this project. Staff will enter into this service agreement as per the Delegation of Duties By-law.

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

There are no legal or legislative considerations at this time.

## Financial and Resource Implications

Each partner is being asked to commit to funding the preliminary electric vehicle strategy to a maximum of \$5,000.00 each plus staff time. Grey County's financial contribution is proposed to be funded from the Energy Audit Reserve. The Energy Audit Reserve has a 2021 projected year-end balance of \$153,158.

## Relevant Consultation

- Internal: Transportation Services, Economic Development and Tourism, CAO, and Finance
- External: Member municipalities, local utilities

## Appendices and Attachments

None