



Committee Agenda

Climate Change Task Force

October 28, 2022 – 1:00 PM

Zoom – Electronic Participation

1. Call to Order

2. Declaration of Interest

3. Delegations (None)

4. Reports

- a. CAOR-CCTF-12-22 - Climate Action and the Agricultural Sector

That report CAOR-CCTF-12-22 be received for information; and

That the County of Grey continue to advance the actions identified in Theme 1 of Going Green in Grey related to nature-based climate solutions and agriculture in partnership with the local Agricultural sector.

- b. Verbal Update - Climate Change & Official Plan Amendment No. 11

- c. Verbal Update - Going Green in Grey Implementation Progress

5. Correspondence

- a. Correspondence - Township of North Dumfries - Support for City of Cambridge Resolution Regarding Ontario Must Build it Right the First Time - July 15 2022

That the correspondence from the Township of North Dumfries regarding Ontario Must Build it Right the First Time, dated July 15, 2022, be received for information.

6. Other Business

7. Next Meeting Dates

- a. To Be Determined

8. Adjournment



Committee Report

To:	Chair Carleton and Members of the Climate Change Taskforce
Committee Date:	October 28, 2022
Subject / Report No:	Climate Action and the Agricultural Sector / CAOR-CCTF-12-22
Title:	Climate Action and the Agricultural Sector
Prepared by:	Linda Swanston
Reviewed by:	Randy Scherzer
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All municipalities within Grey
Status:	

Recommendation

1. That report CAOR-CCTF-12-22 be received for information; and
2. That the County of Grey continue to advance the actions identified in Theme 1 of *Going Green in Grey* related to nature-based climate solutions and agriculture in partnership with the local Agricultural sector.

Executive Summary

Going Green in Grey sees the agriculture sector as an essential partner in reaching climate action goals. Action 3: Facilitate Ongoing Capacity Building in Sustainable Agriculture Best Practices lays out a series of recommended actions. National, provincial, and local agricultural communities have expressed concerns about Federal carbon pricing and fertilizer emissions reduction targets throughout 2022. Rather than price-based actions, *Going Green in Grey* recommends further development of sustainable, climate-friendly production methods and on-farm carbon sequestration implemented in partnership with the Agricultural sector. As other orders of government announce and implement agriculture-focused climate action programs Grey will monitor and modify our plan if warranted.

Background

In April 2022 County Council endorsed the *Going Green in Grey: Climate Change Action Plan* and declared a climate emergency, acknowledging the urgency of action by all levels of government to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. *Going Green in Grey* established a community-wide net-zero local greenhouse gas emissions target for 2050 and a series of interim targets, including a 30% reduction by 2030 to align with Federal and international commitments.

Agriculture and GHG Pollution

Agriculture was responsible for approximately 10% of Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2019, or 73 Mt CO₂, which come from three main sources: enteric fermentation (24Mt), crop production (24Mt), and on-farm fuel use (14Mt) according to the 2021 National Inventory Report. Based on 2019 data, national emissions from synthetic fertilizers accounted for 12.75 Mt. While many producers in the agriculture sector are already working to improve nutrient management and reduce emissions associated with crop production, fertilizers are responsible for a growing share of overall agricultural emissions.

In Grey County, data related to agriculture operations, including on-farm fuel use and crop production, is limited. Enteric fermentation and manure management GHG emission numbers are possible to calculate based on the Agricultural Census and Federal livestock emissions factors.

Grey County data related to livestock emissions captures the production of CH₄ from enteric fermentation in livestock, as well as CH₄ and N₂O from manure management practices. Due to the large number of livestock in Grey County, this category accounted for 33 percent of all emissions occurring community-wide in 2018. At this time data is not available for Grey County related to soil and crop management, however, nationally agricultural soil management accounts for 42 percent of agricultural emissions according to the [National Inventory Report](#) in 2018.

Federal Climate Action and Agriculture Programs

In response to the opportunity to reduce emissions in the agricultural sector the Federal government has advanced several initiatives in recent years looking to work with the agricultural sector to both reduce emissions and increase carbon sequestration in agricultural operations.

The Canadian Federal Government instituted a price on carbon in 2018 through the [Greenhouse Gas Pollution Act](#) that applies to all sectors to support reaching the Federal goal of Net-Zero national GHG emissions by 2050. There are two overarching systems for pricing carbon in Canada: the fuel charge, which is the carbon tax that Canadians pay on gasoline, diesel, natural gas, and other hydrocarbon fuels; and the output-based pricing system (OBPS), which applies to large industrial emitters. In Ontario the federal fuel charge applies, but there is a Provincial version of the OBPS, the emissions performance standard (EPS) program.

The EPS does not apply to on-farm direct emissions from agricultural practices (e.g., livestock enteric fermentation, NO_x emissions from fertilizer application). Farmers are also exempted from much of the fuel charge; it does not apply to gasoline and diesel used in tractors, trucks and other machinery used on-farm; partial relief from the fuel charge is also provided for natural gas and propane used in commercial greenhouses. [Bill C-234](#) is currently under consideration by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, which would also provide an exemption on the carbon tax for grain drying. The National Farms Union supported this exemption at the October 3rd meeting but suggested a sunset clause to ensure that the transition to low-emissions drying technologies happens in a timely manner.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada launched the \$165.7 million [Agricultural Clean Technology Program](#) in 2021, which earmarks \$50 million to help farmers purchase more efficient grain dryers and replace hydrocarbons. The program also focuses on research and innovation,

particularly in the areas of green energy and energy efficiency. Ultimately, these are investments that will accelerate and facilitate producers' transition away from fossil fuels.

Because a significant proportion of agriculture emissions are not the result of fuel use, nor are the direct emissions captured by the EPS for large industrial emitters, other approaches to monitor and reduce emissions are being explored (e.g., emission reduction targets for fertilizer application).

The Canadian Federal government circulated a discussion document over Summer 2022 for comment to help guide the development of a plan to achieve Canada's fertilizer emissions reductions targets of 30% by 2030 from 2020 levels: [Share ideas: Fertilizer emissions reduction target - agriculture.canada.ca](https://www.shareideas.ca/fertilizer-emissions-reduction-target-agriculture-canada-ca)

Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) has a global warming potential per tonne of 273 times CO₂, so is an area of particular attention. According to the Federal government, the intensity of N₂O emissions per hectare has nearly doubled since 1981 in Canada making it a critical issue to efficiently manage to reach global climate goals.

Discussion

Agriculture is one of the greatest areas of opportunity for climate action, and *Going Green in Grey* highlights the high relative greenhouse gas emissions reduction and sequestration potential of expanding existing best management practices across the agricultural sector.

Going Green in Grey focuses on continuing and expanding support for local organizations that are building capacity in the agriculture sector, including Alternative Land Use Services, Grey Agricultural Services and Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

The Agri-Food sector is a vital part of the climate solution, with organizations such as [Farmers for Climate Solutions](#) clearly articulating the central role farmers must play in a climate safe future.

Going Green in Grey sets the following goals:

- By 2030 20% of natural land for pasture and 30% of cropland are under best management practices for carbon sequestration;
- By 2050 60% of natural land for pasture and 90% of cropland are under best management practices for carbon sequestration; 50% of manure is managed under best practices.

Staff are working to establish baselines for these goals based on currently available data.

The Grey County agriculture sector has expressed concern about the potential financial impacts of Federal carbon pricing activities, and goals to reduce GHG emissions associated with fertilizer use. *Going Green in Grey* focuses on actions to support farmers to reduce the GHG emissions associated with their operations and increase carbon sequestration rather than price-based actions.

Grey County is proposing participation in the Experimental Acres project in 2023. The project was created by Our Food Future (OFF), a federally funded City-County partnership project between the City of Guelph and the County of Wellington that expanded to Dufferin County in

2022. Experimental Acres creates an opportunity for local producers to pilot regenerative carbon-sequestering agriculture concepts with the costs subsidized.

The development of *Going Green in Grey* included consultation with the Grey County Agricultural Advisory Committee and local agricultural organizations, and its implementation will continue to happen in partnership with the sector.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

None.

Financial and Resource Implications

None.

Relevant Consultation

Internal: Economic Development and Tourism, CAO, and Finance

External:

Appendices and Attachments

Appendix A: [Discussion document: Reducing emissions arising from the application of fertilizer in Canada's agriculture sector](#)

Appendix B: [Nitrogen Fertilizer: Critical Nutrient, Key Farm Input, and Major Environmental Problem, National Farmers Union Discussion Paper](#)



The TOWNSHIP of
NORTH DUMFRIES

2958 Greenfield Road
PO Box 1060
Ayr, ON N0B 1E0

July 15, 2022

RE: Resolution received from the City of Cambridge, regarding Ontario Must Build it Right the First Time

This letter is to advise you that Township Council, at their Council Meeting held on June 27, 2022 adopted the following resolution:

“THAT Township Council support the resolution from the City of Cambridge, regarding Ontario Must Build it Right the First Time:

AND THAT this motion be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and all municipalities in Ontario.”

Please contact the undersigned should you require anything further.

Sincerely,

Ashley Sage, Clerk
Township of North Dumfries

Encl.

**The Corporation of the City of Cambridge
Corporate Services Department
Clerk's Division
The City of Cambridge
50 Dickson Street, P.O. Box 669
Cambridge ON N1R 5W8
Tel: (519) 740-4680 ext. 4585
mantond@cambridge.ca**

June 1, 2022

Re: Motion from Councillor Liggett – Ontario Must Build it Right the First Time

At the Special Council Meeting of May 31, 2022, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge passed the following Motion:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario adopted greenhouse gas reduction targets of 30% by 2030, and emissions from buildings represented 22% of the province's 2017 emissions,

WHEREAS all Waterloo Region municipalities, including the City of Cambridge, adopted greenhouse gas reduction targets of 80% below 2012 levels by 2050 and endorsed in principle a 50% reduction by 2030 interim target with the support of bold and immediate provincial and federal actions,

WHEREAS greenhouse gas emissions from buildings represent 45% of all emissions in Waterloo Region, and an important strategy in the TransformWR community climate action strategy, adopted by all Councils in Waterloo Region, targets new buildings to be net-zero carbon or able to transition to net-zero carbon using region-wide building standards and building capacity and expertise of building operators, property managers, and in the design and construction sector,

WHEREAS the draft National Model Building Code proposes energy performance tiers for new buildings and a pathway to requiring net zero ready construction in new buildings, allowing the building industry, skilled trades, and suppliers to adapt on a predictable and reasonable timeline while encouraging innovation;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing consulted on changes for the next edition of the Ontario Building Code (ERO #: 019-4974) that generally aligns with the draft National Model Building Code except it does not propose adopting energy performance tiers, it does not propose timelines for increasing minimum energy performance standards step-by-

step to the highest energy performance tier, and, according to Efficiency Canada and The Atmospheric Fund, it proposes adopting minimum energy performance standards that do not materially improve on the requirements in the current Ontario Building code;

WHEREAS energy efficient buildings provide owners and occupants with lower energy bills, improved building comfort, and resilience from power disruptions that are expected to be more common in a changing climate, tackling both inequality and energy poverty;

WHEREAS the City of Cambridge in partnership with area municipalities and utility companies in the Region of Waterloo are actively exploring developing Green Building Standards;

WHEREAS while expensive retrofits of the current building stock to achieve future net zero requirements could be aligned with end-of-life replacement cycles to be more cost-efficient, new buildings that are not constructed to be net zero ready will require substantial retrofits before end-of-life replacement cycles at significantly more cost, making it more cost-efficient to build it right the first time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request the Province of Ontario to include in the next edition of the Ontario Building Code tiered energy efficiency standards and a timeframe for when higher tiers would become the minimum energy efficiency requirements in the Code, consistent with the draft Tiered National Model Building Code;

THAT Council request the Province of Ontario to adopt a more ambitious tier of the draft Tiered National Model Building Code as a minimum energy efficiency requirement than the tiers currently proposed for the next edition of the Ontario Building Code;

THAT Council request the Province of Ontario provide authority to municipalities to require increased performance in energy efficiency through the implementation of tiered Green Development Standards;

THAT Council request the Province of Ontario to facilitate capacity, education and training in the implementation of the Tiered National Model Building Code for municipal planning and building inspection staff, developers, and homebuilders to help build capacity; and

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be provided to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to area MPPs, and to all Ontario Municipalities.

Should you have any questions related to the approved resolution, please contact me.

Yours Truly,



Danielle Manton
City Clerk

Cc: (via email)
Hon. Premier Ford
Ontario Minister of Health, Christine Elliot
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
City of Cambridge Council