

## REPORT

**REPORT TO:** Chair and Members of the Planning, Public Works and Transportation Committee

**REPORT FROM:** Gabriel Clarke, Manager of Sustainability & Climate Change

**DATE:** May 17, 2018

**REPORT NO.:** PLS-2018-0048

**RE:** Halton Climate Collective

### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PLS-2018-0048, dated May 17th 2018, regarding the Halton Climate Collective, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Committee approve the Town's participation in the Halton Climate Collective initiative as outlined in this report.

### BACKGROUND:

In 2017, Town staff were contacted by the Halton Environmental Network (HEN) to discuss the Halton Climate Collective - a regional collective impact initiative on climate change that HEN has launched as a result of having secured a collective impact grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF).

HEN is an incorporated non-profit organization that operates in the Region of Halton and shares information and resources with the public, governments, businesses, and other non-profit organizations. HEN has been effectively engaging the Halton community for almost 15 years.

HEN's new Executive Director, Lisa Kohler developed the concept for a region-wide collective impact initiative focused on climate change and obtained the \$30,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Collective Impact (CI) funding stream to fund the Halton Climate Collective.

OTF CI funds initiatives that bring various public and private sector stakeholders together to develop a collective strategy to address complex issues through

transformative and lasting change. The complex issue of climate change, with its many causes, varied effects, hard to predict consequences and unevenly distributed burdens, aligns very well with types of challenges that the Collective Impact framework was designed to address. By participating in the CI, expertise and information will be shared between stakeholders to identify actions that would benefit Halton Hills and the wider region to more effectively and efficiently mitigate and adapt to climate change. Other participants on the Halton Climate Collective include: the Town of Oakville, Conservation Halton, the Halton District School Board, the University of Waterloo, the Region of Halton, and the Halton Catholic District School Board.

The \$30 000 OTF grant will enable participants to complete Stage 1 of the Collective Impact Framework – Define the Impact – over a period of 18 months. Stage 1 is focused on articulating the issue, engaging key stakeholders, developing a common agenda, and building a theory of change. The OTF grant also includes access to the expertise and resources of the Tamarack Institute, who are leaders in Collective Impact projects across Canada.

Upon successful completion of Stage 1, additional grants are made available from OTF to fund the implementation of Collective Impact initiatives through the Transform Investment stream. The Transform Investment stream invests in projects that use collective impact strategy and provides access to large grants for projects that are local, regional and provincial in scope.

To date, Halton Hills' unofficial participation on the Halton Climate Collective has been limited to Town staff. HEN has requested that Halton Hills authorize the participation of Town staff on the leadership committee as well as the participation of elected officials and key community stakeholders at select engagement sessions related to the Halton Climate Collective.

#### **COMMENTS:**

A strong alignment exists between the focus of the Halton Climate Collective initiative and the Town's existing climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives. The Town existing climate mitigation plan – the 2015 Mayor's Community Energy Plan – is scheduled to be fully implemented by mid-2019 and will need to be reviewed and updated thereafter to remain relevant. The Town is also currently developing a climate change adaptation plan to increase the community's resiliency to future climate impacts. The Halton Climate Collective establishes a regional forum on the subjects of climate change mitigation and adaptation. As such, the Collective has the potential to provide Halton Hills with the ability to enhance the Town's own mitigation and adaptation efforts through collaborative initiatives, initiatives that leverage external resources and initiatives that achieve economies of scale.

Participating in the Halton Climate Collective entails no commitments on the part of the Town beyond contributing in the collective impact engagement process to represent the Town's interest, shape the discussion and achieve an outcome that will serve both local and regional interests. It should also be noted that any recommended actions or initiatives that may result from the Halton Climate Collective involving Halton Hills would be vetted independently through the Town's regular decision making process.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

By establishing a regional multi-stakeholder forum on climate change mitigation and adaptation, the Halton Climate Collective complements and has the potential to support the implementation of three actions contained in Council's 2014-2018 Strategic Action Plan:

- Action 5A: Develop a Climate Change Adaptation to address community responsiveness and resiliency to climate change.
- Action 5B: Collaborate with community partners to continue to implement the Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy.
- Action 5F: Implement the Mayor's Community Energy Plan.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Halton Environment Network applied for and manages the \$30,000.00 OTF grant mentioned above. Should Halton Hills become a participant in the Halton Climate Collective, a portion of this funding will be dedicated to engaging Halton Hills in the Collective Impact process.

Upon successful completion of Stage 1, the Halton Climate Collective would become eligible to apply for additional grants to fund implementation through the OTF Transform Investment stream.

The existing HCC leadership team have applied for additional funding to support the Collective, including an OTF Seed Grant and an Eco Action Grant.

In addition to funding, the HCC receives no-cost in-kind resources including free workshops, seminars, and webinars from the OTF, the Tamarack Institute and other Collective Impact practitioners. HCC also receives free expert advice from the Tamarack Institute and have been working with many leading climate researchers from the University of Waterloo.

**CONSULTATION:**

The Halton Climate Collective proposal has been reviewed by the Town's Senior Management Team.

Should Halton Hills decide to participate in the Halton Climate Collective, Town staff, elected officials and key community stakeholders would be invited to future HCC engagement events.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

Assuming the Town becomes a participant in the Halton Climate Collective, HEN will – in close consultation with Town staff – expand the public engagement process it has already initiated to include Halton Hills staff, elected officials and key community stakeholders.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

By providing the Town with an opportunity to explore collaborative actions that have the potential to accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and increase community resiliency to climate change, the recommendation outlined in this report to participate in the Halton Climate Collective advances the Strategy's implementation.

This report supports the Environmental Health, Economic Prosperity, Social Well-being and cultural pillars of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is very good.

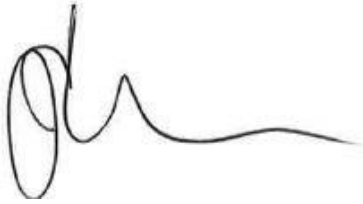
**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Upon authorization, staff will prepare a press release describing the Halton Climate Collective and the Town's role in the initiative.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Halton Hills has been invited to participate on the Halton Climate Collective – a regional initiative focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation – which was established and is being led by the Halton Environmental Network. Participating in the Collective would provide the Town with the opportunity to join an established regional forum on the subject of climate change and explore collaborative actions that have the potential to achieve both local and regional climate objectives.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Linhardt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Marshall', written in a cursive style.

**Brent Marshall, CAO**