

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor & Members of Council

**FROM:** Dharmen Dhaliah, Senior Manager Climate Change and Asset Management

**DATE:** October 26, 2020

**MEMORANDUM NO.:** ADMIN-2020-0040

**RE:** Climate Change Action Task Force and Steering Committees Update

### **PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:**

To provide Council with an update on the Climate Change Action Task Force and Steering Committees.

### **BACKGROUND:**

On May 6th, 2019, Halton Hills Council passed Resolution No. 15.1 which, among other things:

- Established a target for the Town of Halton Hills to become a net-zero municipality by 2030 and directed.
- That a Climate Change Action Task Force be formed taking advantage of expertise and community knowledge to assist in formulating and delivering a communitywide plan to reduce carbon emissions.

On December 9th, 2019, Council adopted the Town's Low Carbon Resilience Framework (LCRF) shown in Appendix 1, to establish a coordinated approach to Climate Change mitigation and adaptation, within two guiding strategies: Low Carbon Transition Strategy and Climate Change Resilience Strategy.

On April 3, 2020 through a Delegation of Authority Request Memo Council adopted Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Action Task Force (Appendix 2A) so that Staff can proceed with establishing a governance model to support and steer all stakeholders involved to take concrete actions to achieve the net zero target by 2030.

The governance model consists of the Climate Change Action Task Force (CCATF) chaired by Mayor Bonnette to advise and influence the development and implementation of the LCRF. The CCATF is supported by two Steering Committees:

- The Climate Change Resilience Steering Committee (CCR-SC), chaired by Councillor Somerville has mandate to provide guidance and support the implementation of the Climate Change Resilience Strategy (CCRS) to improve the adaptive capacity and resiliency of the Town to cope with the local impacts of climate change. (Terms of Reference Appendix 2B)
- The Low-Carbon Transition Steering Committee (LCT-SC), chaired by Councillor Fogal has mandate to provide guidance and support the implementation of the Low-Carbon Transition Strategy (LCTS) to reduce Town-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to achieve the net-zero by 2030 target. (Terms of Reference Appendix 2C)

The CCATF, the CCR-SC and the LCT-SC have been meeting regularly as shown in the Table below:

	<b>Task Force &amp; Steering Committee</b>	<b>Meeting Dates</b>
1	Climate Change Action Task Force	November 12, 2019 January 14, 2020 February 4, 2020 February 25, 2020 March 17, 2020 June 8, 2020 October 22, 2020
2	Climate Change Resilience Steering Committee	February 13, 2020 March 9, 2020 May 26, 2020 August 07, 2020 September 23, 2020
3	Low-Carbon Transition Steering Committee	February 20, 2020 March 11, 2020 May 12, 2020 July 30, 2020 October 5, 2020

This Memorandum provides an update on the Steering Committees activities and projects to support the Climate Change Action Task Force and the Climate Change and Asset Management department to take action to meet Net Zero target by 2030 while building a more resilient community. Staff has put together a Town’s Climate Change Action Work Plan as shown in Appendix 3 to track implementation progress.

## **COMMENTS:**

### **Climate Change Resilience Steering Committee**

Since its establishment in January 2020, the CCR-SC has held five meetings to date, generally meeting on a monthly/bi-monthly basis. Members of the CCR-SC represent groups whose participation and input will be crucial in order to successfully implement the CCRS. This includes representation from:

- Town Council (Councillor Somerville, who Chairs the Committee)
- Town Staff (including from Climate Change & Asset Management (CCAM), Corporate Communications, and Engineering)
- Halton Environmental Network
- Credit Valley Conservation Authority

To date, in addition to ongoing strategic guidance on CCRS projects, highlights of the CCR-SC activities include:

- Providing oversight on the Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP), approved by Council on August 31, 2020 via Report No. ADMIN-2020-0027 and the preceding presentation to Council at a workshop on August 10, 2020
- Supporting the Town's partnership with Youth Challenge International, and a youth-led team working on youth engagement on climate adaptation
- Facilitating connections to academic institutions to partner with on areas of the natural asset management work
- Reviewing and advising on the implementation plan for the CCAP (details below)

The CCR-SC has helped finalize the general implementation plan for the CCAP, which falls into five key theme areas; this structure will also be used to guide the CCR-SC's mandate:

#### 1. Community Resilience

Encompasses all aspects of community engagement and adaptation plan actions targeting social and economic impacts of climate change (tourism, food security, climate refugees, and resident/business education)

- Sustainable Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP)
- Adaptation Plan consultations
- Homeowner and resident education campaigns
- Engagement with businesses, schools, community groups

#### 2. Emergency Preparedness & Public Health

Includes the Emergency Response Plan and integrating climate change risk, ensuring public safety after extreme weather events, and public health (e.g. climate impacts of water-borne and vector-borne illness and disease) awareness

- Emergency Response Plan
- Supporting Halton Region Health Dept.'s ongoing initiatives re: climate impacts on public health

3. Resilient Infrastructure  
Climate change vulnerability assessments for all Town infrastructure (facilities, roads, bridges, water systems), ensuring existing facilities are able to maintain service levels and that new facilities are constructed with resiliency in mind
  - Facilities Vulnerability Assessment
  - Town Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment
4. Flood Protection  
Developing and implementing a Stormwater Management Master Plan and ensuring homes and facilities are protected from flood risk
  - Stormwater Management Master Plan
5. Natural Asset Management  
Protecting and enhancing Town's tree canopy and other natural assets (wetlands, forests, grasslands, surface water, and groundwater) to be resilient to climate impacts
  - Geospatial Natural Capital Assessment
  - Urban Forest and Private Tree Management Strategy
  - GIS mapping project

### **Low-Carbon Transition Steering Committee**

Beginning in February of 2020, the Low-Carbon Transition Steering Committee (LCT-SC) has been meeting on an ad hoc basis, generally once every two months. During that period, five meetings have been held. Initially only including Town staff and members of council, the membership of the LCT-SC has been expanded to include external members who can help direct the implementation of the Low-Carbon Transition Strategy. Current members include:

- Town Council (Councillor Fogal, who Chairs the Committee)
- Town Staff (including from Climate Change & Asset Management and Corporate Communications)
- Halton Environmental Network
- Halton Hills Hydro

To date, in addition to ongoing strategic guidance on LCTS projects, highlights of the LCT-SC activities include:

- Supporting on the Town's Low-Carbon Mobility Strategy, including the recent installation of EV chargers at Town Hall.
- Advising on the Home Retrofit Acceleration Program, and the pilot project currently being developed by the Town

- Supporting the Green Development Standards update and assisting with the development of a grant proposal to The Atmospheric Fund to conduct a series of workshops to assist with the implementation of the GDS
- Convening a working group, with additional members from the Planning Department, to discuss the implementation of the Vision Georgetown Energy Master Plan and the Sustainable Urban Design Guidelines.

Based on discussions with the consulting team developing the LCTS, CCAM staff recommended to the LCT-SC the creation of an additional stakeholder governance body with both decision-making power and broad community representation.

The LCT-SC directed CCAM staff establish the LCTS Multi-Stakeholder Governance Body (MSGB). The LCTS-MSGB is intended to serve as governance and decision-making body with membership representing key stakeholder groups, including:

- Town staff from all relevant departments (e.g. transportation, planning, economic development, and asset management office)
- Public membership from constituencies reflecting the intention of the Town's May 6, 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration (e.g. local experts, conservation authorities, business leaders and community leaders, youth, faith organizations, non-profit organizations, indigenous representation, educators and others).

After issuing a call for applications through the Town's social media channels and mailing lists targeting the stakeholder groups listed above, membership of the LCTS-MSGB have been selected in consultation with the LCT-SC. The body will hold its first meeting in early November and will report findings and decisions directly to the LCT-SC.

**CONCLUSION:**

As climate change presents an unprecedented challenge to our community and businesses, the Town needs all hands on deck to steer all those involved and all stakeholders to take concrete actions to achieve the net zero target by 2030 and increase resiliency to climate change. A formal governance model plays a crucial role to ensure that management assesses the short-, medium- and long-term materiality of climate-related risks and opportunities for the Town of Halton Hills on an ongoing basis.

Reviewed and approved by,

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

Richard Cockfield, Director of Strategic Planning

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

Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer