



## **REPORT**

**REPORT TO:** Mayor R. Bonnette and Members of Council

**REPORT FROM:** Jennifer Spence, Climate Change Outreach Coordinator

**DATE:** February 1, 2021

**REPORT NO.:** ADMIN 2021-0009

**RE:** Memorandum of Understanding Between the Town of Halton Hills and Halton Environmental Network

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Report No. 2021-0009, dated February 1, 2021 regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Halton Hills and Halton Environmental Network be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Halton Environmental Network (HEN) in the amount of \$10,000.00 in exchange for HEN assisting with implementation of climate change initiatives outlined in the attached Appendix known as Schedule 'One', and subject to HEN meeting the requirements of and signing a MOU with the Town of Halton Hills;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and the Town Clerk be authorized to execute a MOU between the Town and HEN on behalf of the Town of Halton Hills;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this report and the associated Council recommendation be forwarded to HEN.

### **BACKGROUND:**

HEN is an incorporated non-profit organization operating mostly within the Region of Halton's municipalities of Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton, and Oakville and occasionally in the Region of Peel. Programs of HEN include: Halton Climate Collective (HCC), Halton Food, Halton Green Screens (HGS), OakvilleReady, and Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) Halton-Peel. HEN is the facilitator and animator of numerous climate change initiatives. HEN collaborates with environmental groups, other non-profit organizations such as faith-based communities, businesses, governments, and the public. HEN has been effectively engaging the Halton community since 2004.

On December 7, 2020, Nicole Kucherenko, HEN Board Chair, delegated to the Town of Halton Hills Budget Committee an overview of HEN, the initiatives supporting Halton Hills Climate Change Emergency Declaration, environmental sustainability, and a value proposition for funding consideration in the amount of \$10,000.00.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council authorization to enter into an MOU with HEN in the amount of \$10,000.00 in exchange for HEN's assistance with implementation of the Town's climate change initiatives outlined in the attached Appendix of Schedule 'One'. The work outlined in Schedule 'One' of this MOU supports Council's Climate Emergency Declaration and goals (ADMIN-2019-0035).

### **COMMENTS:**

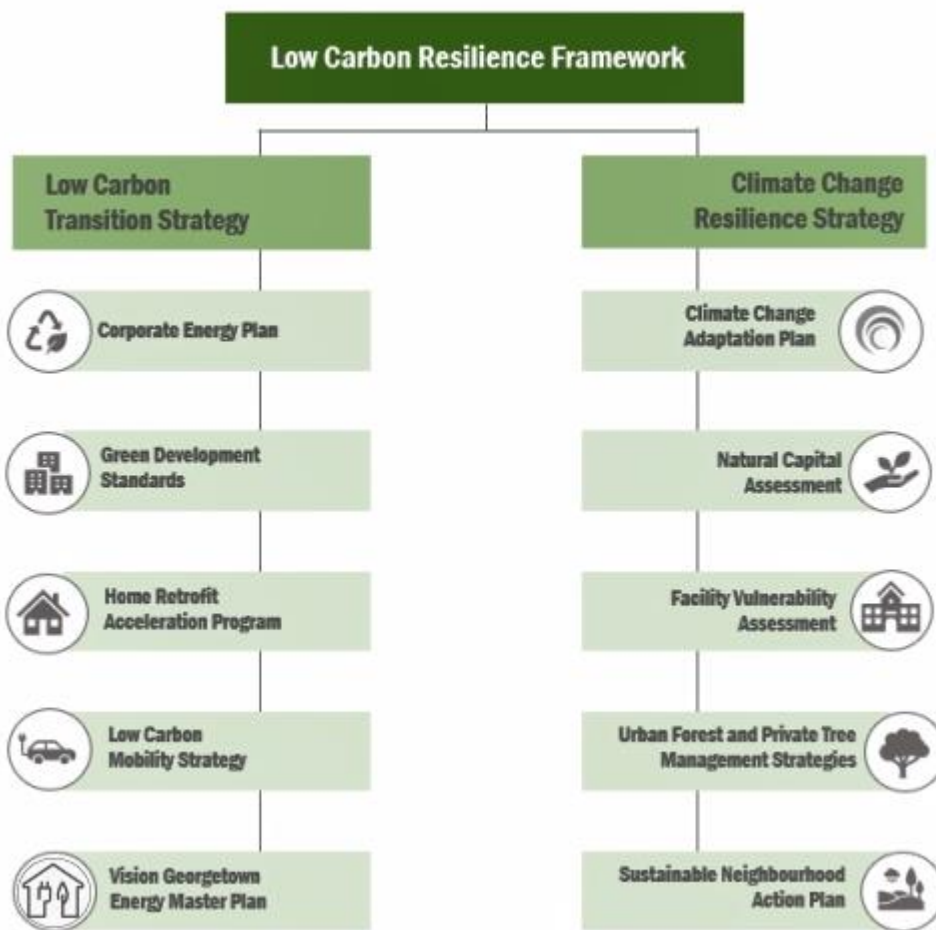
The Town of Halton Hills has a well-established relationship with HEN involving environmental sustainability and climate change initiatives since 2009. Over the past five years HEN has continued to be an active organization producing exceptional results to heighten climate change awareness and connect the Halton Region community by engaging stakeholders, leaders, youth and community organizations across the Region toward the common goal of climate action through a "boots on the ground" approach. HEN continues to make a positive impact on the Halton community by amplifying the area municipalities' climate change initiatives through its extended contacts, social media, e-newsletters, website, workshops and more recently virtual workshops.

In 2017, HEN established the Halton Climate Collective to address climate change through a regionally-wide collective approach by bringing staff together from Halton Region, City of Burlington, Town of Oakville, Town of Milton, Town of Halton Hills, University of Western, Sheridan College, Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic School Board and Halton Conservation. This collective approach to addressing climate change helps the Town to gain climate change knowledge, identifies actions, strengthens relationships between local leaders, and heightens awareness of climate change initiatives in our community.

In 2020, HEN expanded its involvement in the Town's actions to reduce climate change by participating as a member of the following Town climate change committees:

- Low-Carbon Transition Strategy (LCTS) Steering Committee
- Climate Change Resilience Steering Committee
- LCTS Multi-Stakeholder Governance Committee
- Implementation and Governance Sub-committee

Partnering with HEN through the MOU will allow for enhanced community collaboration and strengthen the Town's ability to effectively deliver and engage the Halton Hills community on the initiatives outlined in the Town's Low-Carbon Resilience Framework as per diagram below:



## RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommendation within this Report supports the Town's values as outlined in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, namely to Foster a Healthy Community and to Preserve, Protect and Enhance our Environment. The MOU aligns directly with the following priorities/focus areas:

- Shaping growth
- climate change and the environment
- local autonomy and advocacy
- transportation
- fiscal and corporate management
- youth and senior initiatives

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The financial impact of the MOU is that the Town of Halton Hills will pay a total of \$10,000.00 using two installments: one \$5,000.00 (taxes included) installment when 50 per cent of the deliverables are completed and one final payment of \$5,000.00 (taxes included) at the end of the MOU or when the deliverables are 100 per cent completed and to the satisfaction of the Town. The MOU expires at the end of 2021 unless amended and agreed by the parties.

Funding will be derived from the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Implementation account 7300-10-1902.

**CONSULTATION:**

Consultation between the Town and HEN was undertaken in the development of this MOU.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

Public engagement was not undertaken to review the development of this MOU. However, successes of past public engagement events working with HEN and its sub-group Halton Climate Collective were considered.

**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.

The recommendation outlined in this report advances the Strategy's implementation.

The MOU will contribute to the Strategy's implementation by strengthening community partnerships and advancing the Town's initiatives within the community to address mitigation and adaptations of climate change.

This report supports the environmental health, cultural vibrancy and economic prosperity pillars of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is very good.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

There will be ongoing communication to complete the deliverables outlined in the MOU. All communication channels will be utilized primarily to engage, educate and raise awareness in the community on climate change initiatives to advance the Town's climate change goals collectively, along with the community to reduce our carbon emissions through climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

**CONCLUSION:**

The MOU with HEN will advance the Town's actions to address climate change and enhance awareness in the community. The MOU supports the Town's approved Low-Carbon Resilience Framework that will guide Halton Hills to become a carbon neutral community by 2030 while building community resiliency to adapt to climate change impacts.

Reviewed and Approved by,

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Dharmen Dhaliah, Senior Manager of Climate Change and Asset Management

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Cockfield', with a stylized, flowing script.

Richard Cockfield, Director of Strategic Planning

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Mills', with a stylized, flowing script.

Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer