

**Report to
Rapport au :**

**Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management
Comité permanent de la protection de l'environnement, de l'eau et de la gestion
des déchets**

16 April 2019 / 16 avril 2019

**and Council
et au Conseil**

24 April 2019 / 24 avril 2019

**Submitted on April 5, 2019
Soumis le 5 avril 2019**

**Submitted by
Soumis par :**

**Councillor / Conseiller Shawn Menard,
Capital Ward / Quartier Capitale (17)**

Contact Person

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Ward: CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE File Number: ACS2019-CCS-ENV-0005

SUBJECT: CITY OF OTTAWA – DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

OBJET: VILLE D'OTTAWA – DÉCLARATION SUR L'URGENCE CLIMATIQUE

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management recommend Council:

- 1. Officially declare a climate emergency for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our eco systems, and our community from climate change;**

- 2. Establish a Council Sponsors Group comprised of representatives from the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management, Planning Committee, Transportation Committee, Transit Commission, the Ottawa Board of Health and the Councillor Liaison of the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee;**
- 3. Direct City staff to include the following in the review and update of the Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan (AQCCMP):**
 - a) An analysis of how the AQCCMP's long term target to reduce GHG emissions 80% below 2012 levels by 2050 compares to the IPCC's targets for limiting global warming to 1.5 °C**
 - b) Midterm (2030) corporate and community GHG emission reduction targets**
 - c) Climate Change mitigation and adaptation priorities for next five years (2019-2024) to embed climate change considerations across all elements of City business;**
- 4. Direct City staff to include the following in the Energy Evolution Final Report:**
 - a) Status update of Energy Evolution Phase 1 actions**
 - b) New concrete actions and resource implications (staff and financial) to achieve GHG emission reduction targets**
 - c) Use an equity and inclusion lens in the prioritization of actions**
 - d) Funding and savings options for the City when implementing emission reductions;**
- 5. Direct City staff to report back, within the 2019 calendar year, on a spending plan for the Hydro Ottawa Dividends Surplus that would help reduce community and corporate GHG emissions beyond the scope of the City's current climate targets while also saving money;**
- 6. Direct City staff to complete a vulnerability assessment and develop a climate resiliency strategy to reduce the impacts of a changing climate;**

7. **Recognize climate change as a strategic priority in the City's strategic plan and accompanying budget directions for the remaining Term of Council; and**
8. **Work with senior levels of government to accelerate ambition and action to meet the urgency of climate change and provide additional resources for municipalities and the public to reduce their GHG emissions and build resiliency to climate impacts.**

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité permanent de la protection de l'environnement, de l'eau et de la gestion des déchets recommande au Conseil de :

1. **déclarer officiellement une urgence climatique afin de nommer, d'encadrer et d'intensifier notre engagement à protéger notre économie, nos écosystèmes et nos communautés des changements climatiques;**
2. **établir un groupe de parrains du Conseil composé de représentants du Comité permanent de la protection de l'environnement, de l'eau et de la gestion des déchets, du Comité de l'urbanisme, du Comité des transports, de la Commission du transport en commun, du Conseil de santé d'Ottawa et du conseiller de liaison du Comité consultatif sur la gérance environnementale;**
3. **demander au personnel de la Ville d'inclure les éléments suivants dans la révision et la mise à jour du Plan de gestion de la qualité de l'air et des changements climatiques (PGQACC) :**
 - a) **une analyse permettant de comparer les objectifs à long terme du PGQACC visant à réduire les émissions de GES de 80 % sous les niveaux de 2012 d'ici 2050 avec les objectifs du GIEC visant à limiter le réchauffement planétaire à 1,5 °C;**
 - b) **les objectifs communautaires et municipaux de réduction des émissions de GES à moyen terme (2030);**
 - c) **les priorités d'adaptation aux changements climatiques et d'atténuation de leurs effets pour les cinq prochaines années (2019-**

2024) afin d'ancrer les considérations relatives aux changements climatiques dans tous les éléments des activités de la Ville;

- 4. demander au personnel de la Ville d'inclure les éléments suivants dans le rapport final sur le projet Évolution énergétique :
 - a) compte rendu sur les mesures prises durant la phase 1 de la stratégie Évolution énergétique;**
 - b) nouvelles mesures concrètes et incidence sur les ressources (humaines et financières) pour atteindre les objectifs de réduction des émissions de GES;**
 - c) l'emploi d'une optique d'équité et d'inclusion dans l'établissement des mesures prioritaires;**
 - d) les options de financement et d'économies qui s'offriront à la Ville lorsqu'elle mettra en œuvre les réductions des émissions.****

- 5. demander au personnel de la Ville de présenter un rapport, au cours de l'année civile 2019, sur un plan de dépenses pour les excédents de dividendes d'Hydro Ottawa qui aideraient à réduire les émissions communautaires et municipales de GES au-delà des objectifs actuels de la Ville en matière de climat tout en économisant de l'argent;**

- 6. demander au personnel de la Ville de remplir une évaluation de la vulnérabilité et de mettre en place une stratégie de résilience face aux changements climatiques afin d'en limiter les effets;**

- 7. reconnaître les changements climatiques comme une priorité stratégique dans le Plan stratégique de la Ville et dans les lignes directrices du budget pour les prochaines années du mandat du Conseil;**

- 8. travailler avec les instances supérieures pour nourrir son ambition et précipiter les mesures visant à répondre à l'urgence des changements climatiques et à fournir des ressources supplémentaires aux municipalités et au public pour les aider à réduire leurs émissions de GES et à bâtir leur résilience envers les effets du climat.**

BACKGROUND

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that a reduction of global carbon emissions of 45 per cent from 2010 levels to reach net zero emissions by 2050 is necessary to keep the Earth "compatible with human civilization." That means making sure global warming is kept to an increase of 1.5 C. The world is currently on track for more than 3°C of warming based on policies currently in place, and Ottawa and Canada are no exception to this international trend.

While Ottawa's community carbon pollution levels decreased an average of 2.75% per year from 2012 to 2016, the bulk of these reductions came from the phase out of coal fired power plants. In order to maintain its trajectory, the City will need to identify substantial new avenues for corporate and community emission reductions. The released federal budget offers opportunities in this respect, providing \$350M for grants and loans to municipal governments for energy efficiency in large public buildings, community and demonstration projects; \$300M through FCM to finance home energy efficiency upgrades, and \$300M to improve energy efficiency in affordable housing.

This motion is being proposed to position Ottawa as a world-class green capital city, and leader in the transition to a low-carbon economy. More specifically it will accelerate the scope and timeframe of the City's climate change initiatives, coordinate greenhouse gas reduction targets with long-range IPCC projections, and explore options for better integrating actions within existing City structures. The motion aligns with a number of internal efforts including the 5-year update of the AQCCMP and the final report for Energy Evolution, Ottawa's Community Energy Transition Strategy to come later in 2019, staff initiatives on climate resilience and adaptation, and the motion passed at March 6th Council to report annually on community and corporate GHG emissions.

Moved by Councillor S. Menard:

WHEREAS Climate change is currently contributing to billions of dollars in property and infrastructure damage worldwide, stressing local and international economies;

AND WHEREAS, Climate change is currently jeopardizing the health and survival of many species and other natural environments worldwide, stressing local and international eco systems;

AND WHEREAS Climate change is currently harming human populations through rising sea levels and other extraordinary phenomena like intense wildfires

worldwide, extreme heat events, and more variable and unpredictable droughts and heavy rains, stressing local and international communities;

AND WHEREAS recent international research has indicated a need for massive reduction in carbon emissions in the next 11 years to avoid further and devastating economic, ecological, and societal loss;

AND WHEREAS the City of Ottawa Emergency Management Plan defines emergency as “any situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions that could result in serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property that is caused by natural, technological or human-caused hazards, whether intentional or otherwise.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management recommend Council:

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- 2. Establish a Council Sponsors Group comprised of representatives from the Standing Committees on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management, Planning Committee, Transportation Committee, Transit Commission, the Ottawa Board of Health and the Councillor Liaison of the Environment Stewardship Advisory Committee;**
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4. **Direct City staff to include the following in the Energy Evolution Final Report:**
 - a) **Status update of Energy Evolution Phase 1 actions**
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6. **Direct City staff to complete a vulnerability assessment and develop a climate resiliency strategy to reduce the impacts of a changing climate;**
7. **Recognize climate change as a strategic priority in the City's strategic plan and accompanying budget directions for the remaining Term of Council; and**
8. **Work with senior levels of government to accelerate ambition and action to meet the urgency of climate change and provide additional resources for municipalities and the public to reduce their GHG emissions and build resiliency to climate impacts.**

DISCUSSION

Comments provided by the Mover of the Motion

A growing list of cities, districts and counties across the world representing over 15 million people collectively have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate emergency, including Los Angeles, Oakland, London, Montreal, and most recently, Vancouver, Halifax, Kingston, Hamilton, and Richmond, and over 300 communities in Quebec. A recent report commissioned by Environment and Climate Change Canada, called Canada's Changing Climate Report, warned that on average, Canada is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the world. The direct effects of this phenomena include an increase of precipitation across the country though

summer rainfall may decrease; warmer and more acidic oceans; and more frequent and more intense hot temperatures.

Locally, recent Ottawa weather related events including the tornados in the fall of 2018 and severe flooding in spring of 2017 underscore the gravity of the situation and the need for urgent action. As we know from the field of public health, climate change shocks and stresses do not affect all groups in our community equally. Frontline communities, those that have been affected by systemic vulnerabilities and inequities, are often at greater risk and have the fewest resources to respond and adapt. The City's Equity and Inclusion lens offers a pro-active approach to respond to problems and prioritize solutions in a changing climate.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

Comments provided by the Mover of the Motion

The effects of climate change can have devastating effects in rural areas with resource or tourism-based economies that are directly dependant on natural weather systems. Farmers are challenged with shortened or unpredictable growing seasons, while increasing temperatures impact the maple syrup industry as well as summer tourism. According to NRCAN¹, in Canada, the rate of projected climate change is expected to be 10 to 100 times faster than the ability of trees to migrate, resulting in impacts on forest health and productivity.

CONSULTATION

Community groups including Ecology Ottawa and the Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability have provided input for this motion, which will be publicized in advance of the Environment Committee meeting.

This report was also circulated to City staff in several Departments and their comments are reflected below:

The Climate Change and Resiliency Unit has reviewed the Climate Emergency report. In order to deliver on the report recommendations, staff propose the following timelines:

- Establish a Council Sponsors Group by the end of May 2019 to provide guidance on the Review and Update of the Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan (AQCCMP) and the Energy Evolution Final Report

¹ <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/climate-change/forest-change/17778>

- Bring forward the Review and Update of the AQCCMP, including new recommendations, by the end of 2019 to allow time to:
 - o Compare the City's current AQCCMP targets with IPCC's targets
 - o Ensure current and revised Energy Evolution modeling work informs new AQCCMP targets and priorities
 - o Align the AQCCMP's priorities for the next five years (2019-2024) with current City initiatives, including draft policy recommendations within the Official Plan
- Bring forward Energy Evolution including new recommendations by the end of 2019
- Bring forward a spending plan for the Hydro Ottawa Dividend Surplus in conjunction with Energy Evolution by the end of 2019
- Use the Regional Climate Projections developed in partnership with the National Capital Commission (estimated completion by the end of 2019) to develop a Vulnerability Assessment and initiate the Climate Resiliency Strategy (estimated by the end of 2020)

To implement the measures in this report that are above and beyond what was approved as part of the 2019 budget, PIED requires additional funding in the amount of \$250,000 to finance a combination of consulting support to add additional analysis to work we are already doing, and funds to support an additional temporary FTE to assist with the increased scope of work.

Development of the climate resiliency strategy and all implementation work associated with the AQCCMP and Energy Evolution will require additional funding and staff resources. These will be identified in advance of the 2020 budget.

Additional comments on the Recommendations

With respect to recommendation 1, should Council officially declare a climate emergency, as described in this report, the Municipal Emergency Plan would not be triggered as the climate change emergency is an evolving situation over an extended period of time that would not constitute an emergency as intended by the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E. 9 (EMCPA). The City's current Municipal Emergency Plan takes into account and plans for serious and imminent harm caused by forces of nature, like spring flooding, tornados, and earthquakes.

With respect to recommendation 7, given that this Term of Council has yet to finalize its strategic priorities, staff suggest that climate change be considered for inclusion as a strategic priority when the City's Strategic Plan is brought forward to Council for decision. Additionally, to avoid pre-committing future budgets, any accompanying budget implications would be brought forward to Council as part of its regular budget process.

With respect to Recommendation 2, the City Clerk's office will work with Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department to circulate for expressions of interest from Members of the relevant Committees with a view to bringing a Motion to Council prior to the end of May, 2019 to confirm the Sponsors' group membership

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

This report is City-wide in nature.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS

No Advisory Committees were consulted in the preparation of this report. The 2018-2022 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee has not yet met this term, but its members will be provided a copy of the final report. Individual comments may be received by the Committee at its meeting of 16 April 2019.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to Committee and Council's approval of the Report's recommendations.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

No specific Risk Management Implications have been identified in this Motion. Staff will be available at Committee, or at Council, if clarification is required.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct asset management implications with the recommendations of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

One-time funding in the amount of \$250,000 is required to implement the recommended measures. Through the 2019 budget process, Council directed the use of surplus Hydro Ottawa dividends be directed towards energy efficiency initiatives. Subject to the

availability of surplus dividend funds, a new capital account will be established with budget authority of \$250,000, funded with dividend revenues.

Development of the climate resiliency strategy and all implementation work associated with the AQCCMP and Energy Evolution will require additional funding and staff resources. These will be identified in advance of the 2020 budget.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

No specific Accessibility Impacts have been identified. Staff will be available at Committee, or at Council, if clarification is required.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Recommendation 7 Speaks to Term of Council priorities. As noted in the staff comment above, Council has yet to finalize its strategic priorities for the 2018-2022 Term.

DISPOSITION

Staff will take direction from Council, as appropriate.