

**DRAFT RESOLUTION REGARDING COBOURG COUNCIL'S 2022 BUDGET REQUEST OF STAFF
"AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE"
FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE COW MEETING OF OCT 6, 2021**

WHEREAS on Council declared a Climate Emergency at the Regular Council Meeting of December 2, 2019 through Resolution No. 484-19; and

WHEREAS the need to address the Climate Emergency is ever more urgent as is clear in the recently released ICCP report¹;

WHEREAS global heating is **an emergency of a worse scale than the pandemic; with way more severe and long lasting consequences;** and

WHEREAS Cobourg Council approved a Climate Action Plan in principle to mitigate global heating by reducing and removing sources of GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS global heating has negative effects on the health of citizen and outdoor workers, municipal infrastructure, and municipal ecosystems for which an adaptation plan is needed to better manage and reduce our vulnerability to the harmful effects of global heating:

- extreme heat is a risk to citizen and outdoor worker health, the health of trees, causes softening/deterioration of standard road asphalt, communication wires to sag, etc
- flooding, high winds, freezing rain, drought damages physical infrastructure (roads/culverts and bridges, storm water systems, water supply and sewage treatment systems, building roofs and basements, energy supply systems, communication networks, river banks, etc); causes tree damage; loss of transportation and communication services;
- milder winters results in more pests such as those affecting trees, and more freeze/thaw cycles cause damage to infrastructure
- flooding, drought, extreme heat affects our ecosystem and water quality

WHEREAS it is more cost effective to implement mitigation and adaptation measures proactively than to address the impacts after they have occurred (In 2012 the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy estimated that every \$1 spent now on adaptation will yield between \$9 and \$38 worth of avoided damages in the future²), and

WHEREAS Cobourg is in the process of preparing its 2022 Budget;

¹ <https://www.theenergymix.com/2021/08/09/human-activity-drives-climate-change-epochal-ipcc-report-finally-confirms/> Helen Mountford, vice president of climate and economics at the World Resources Institute, told Bloomberg the current decade is "truly our last chance" to take action and prevent the catastrophic effects that will follow a breach of the 1.5°C threshold. "If we collectively fail to rapidly curb greenhouse gas emissions in the 2020s, that goal will slip out of reach," she said.

² Towards Resilience, Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan 2016, page 8
https://www.durham.ca/en/living-here/resources/Documents/EnvironmentalStability/DCCAP_Print.pdf

NOW THEREFORE the SCCAC Recommends that:

- When approving 2022 budget allocations for various Departments that Council advise staff that when they come to Council later in the year for approval of funding for specific undertakings such as a new road, parking lot, vehicle(s), sewer/water system upgrade, changes to its communication infrastructure, the planting of trees, etc., that staff show Council that their request reflect the most sustainable option for that undertaking from both a climate mitigation and climate adaptation perspective; and that; and that
- Cobourg include an allowance based on an estimate from staff in its 2022 budget to cover the possibility of an initial increased cost of choosing an environmentally sustainable option³; or delay its budget approval schedule by one month to allow staff to provide the cost for the most sustainable option; and that
- Cobourg make it a priority for 2022 to begin work on the preparation of a Cobourg Climate Adaptation Plan including contacting those with whom it should partner (e.g. GRCA), identifying whether and what experts might be needed to assist with developing such a plan, and the budget amount Cobourg should include in its 2023 budget.

³ From Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan a quote saying that University of Waterloo's Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation "concludes that climate change adaptation is '*simply good and smart business for Canada*'".