

**DRAFT RESOLUTION TO COUNCIL RE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER POSITION AND COBOURG'S 2022
BUDGET
FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE COW MEETING OF SEPT 1, 2021**

WHEREAS the Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee (SCCAC) has learned that the position of Environmental Officer ended as of August 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS this position has supported Cobourg to address the climate emergency, including providing Cobourg with a Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS a number of environmental initiatives within Cobourg's Climate Action Plan and related to Cobourg's Climate Emergency Declaration have been initiated for which the expertise of an environment expert is needed to assist existing Cobourg staff to implement; and

WHEREAS the need to address the Climate Emergency is ever more urgent as is clear in the recently released ICCP report¹, and is evident from the large number of uncontrollable fires across the world, and the droughts and floods in Canada and in other parts of the world; and

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

WHEREAS it is more cost effective to implement mitigation and adaptation measures proactively than to address the impacts after they have occurred; and

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

NOW THEREFORE the SCCAC Recommends that Cobourg

1. Environmental Officer Position: Find funds within its 2021 budget to immediately hire a full-time environmental staff expert, and also ensure sufficient funds in Cobourg's 2022 Budget to pay for a full time environmental expert staff person to:
 - help Cobourg implement the measures in Cobourg's Climate Action Plan;
 - advise on additional climate mitigation and adaptation measures for Cobourg to implement including help Cobourg staff access funds from the provincial and federal governments where available for such initiatives;
 - support all departments to perform their work through a climate emergency mitigation and adaptation lens;

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.

- help staff provide cost estimates for climate mitigation and adaptation measures Cobourg should implement so Cobourg can ensure sufficient funds in its 2022 budget to implement these measures; and
 - work with the County and other municipalities within the County to implement climate emergency mitigation and adaptation initiatives together as much as possible to maximize cost and staff resource efficiency.
2. 2022 Budget: Ensure sufficient funds within its 2022 budget to implement the climate emergency mitigation measures in its current Climate Action Plan, and also provide an allowance for costs not yet identified knowing that additional mitigation and adaptation measures will need to be implemented given the dire situation we are facing.