

**DRAFT** (for review by the SCCAC at Jan 6, 2021 meeting)

**Presentation to The Planning and  
Development Advisory Committee of  
Cobourg - Carrying out Mandate  
Through A Climate Emergency Lens**

**By the Sustainability and Climate Change  
Advisory Committee (SCCAC)**

## **Purpose: Support Committees to Apply Climate Emergency Lens**

- SCCAC 2020 work plan approved by Council in 2019, contained an objective to support other Advisory Committees to carry out their mandate through a climate lens
- On Feb 3, 2020, Council approved a Motion to authorize the SCCAC and request other Advisory Committees to work with the SCCAC to discuss the climate emergency we are facing, and to develop guidance on measures the respective committees would consider when fulfilling their mandate

# SPECIAL REPORT GLOBAL WARMING

# TIME

**BE  
WORRIED.  
BE **VERY**  
WORRIED.**

Climate change isn't some vague future problem—it's already damaging the planet at an alarming pace. Here's how it affects you, your kids and their kids as well

**EARTH AT THE TIPPING POINT**  
**HOW IT THREATENS YOUR HEALTH**  
**HOW CHINA & INDIA CAN HELP**  
**SAVE THE WORLD—OR DESTROY IT**  
**THE CLIMATE CRUSADERS**



# Critical Four Years!

- Council & Advisory Committees are carrying out our mandate in one of the most critical periods in history since WWII
- IPCC **2018 report**: 10 years to retool society to stop increase above 1.5 degree C – start aggressive action now
- Implications if we fail: human survival at risk
- People already suffering and dying - primarily in poorer countries and poorer people – perpetuates existing inequity

(Jakarta, Indonesia)

(IPCC: International Panel on Climate Change)



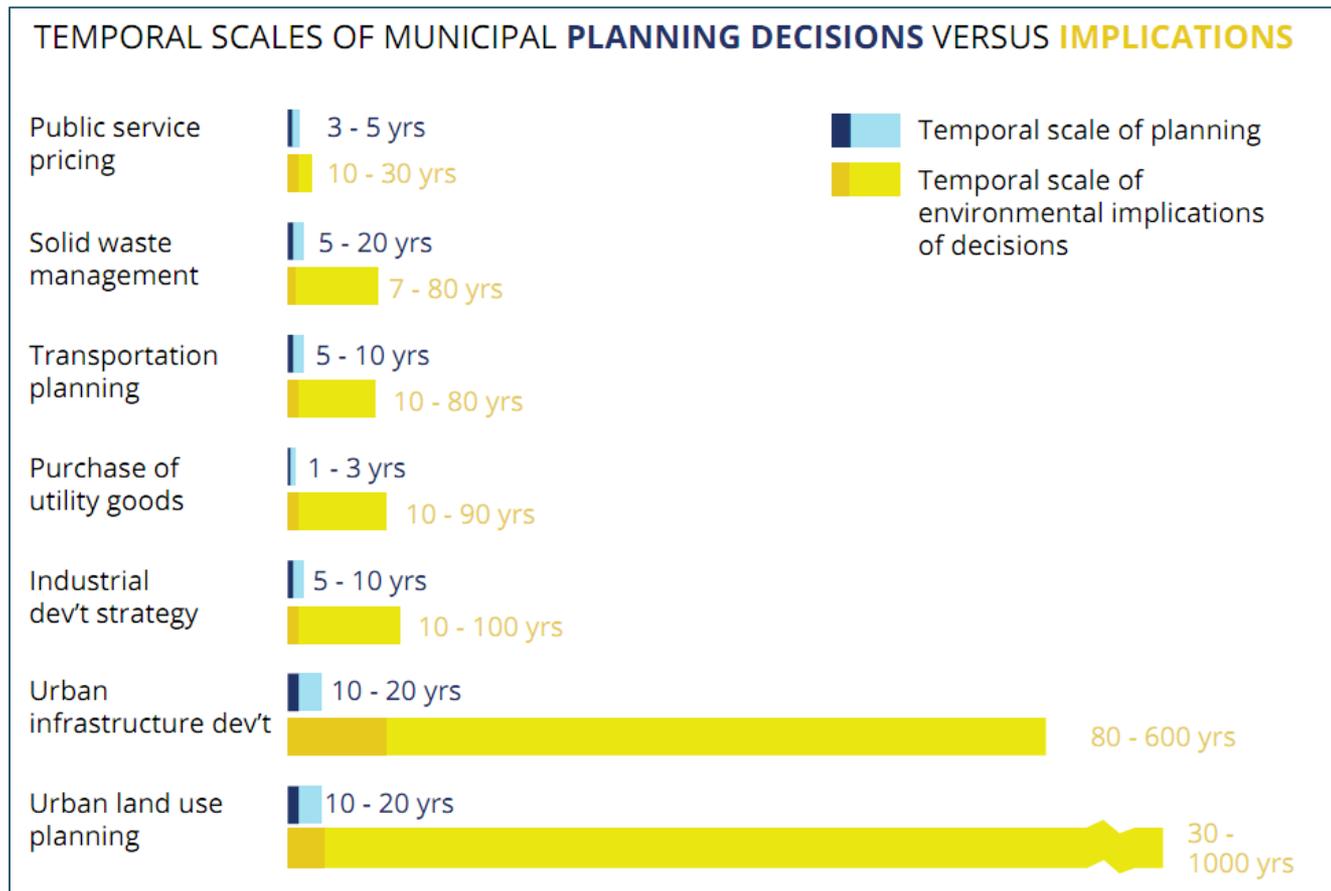
# Canada Among Highest Emitters

- Canada has the 9<sup>th</sup> highest CO2 emissions of over 190 countries (from fuel combustion);
- It is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest in per capita emissions
  - 14.9T per person compared to 1.6T for India; or to colder climates Germany 8.9T per person; Poland 7.7T
- Ontario is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest emitter of Canadian provinces & territories : 159Mt CO2 eq. vs. Quebec (3<sup>rd</sup> highest) at 78 Mt CO2 eq.

# Municipalities Key

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – local gov't have influence over approx. 50% of GHG emissions in Canada.
  - Land use/site planning and densities
  - Buildings –account for highest GHG emissions within municipality
  - Local transportation
  - Water and wastewater service
- More economical to incorporate sustainable features at subdivision stage, than retrofit later. Also saves home dweller operating costs

Local government planning/spending decisions made today have consequences, including GHG emissions, that last for decades, even centuries... (source Judy Smith Presentation to Council)



# Council Declared a Climate Emergency

- On Dec 2, 2019 Council declared a climate emergency conveying its recognition that we are facing an unprecedented crisis requiring unprecedented climate mitigation measures;
- In same motion Council approved the following:
  - The development of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP; Sustainability Master Plan); and a Green Development Standard.
  - A staff position to develop the RFP and manage the project to completion
  - Updating Cobourg's Strategic Plan to allow staff to reprioritize other work commitments
- **Funds were provided in Cobourg's budget;**

# Sustainable Development includes:

- Compact development/higher density/**mixed use**:
  - Reduces the need for energy related to such things as roads (to construct and vehicles to travel); infrastructure related to water, sewage and data transmission (to build and to supply each service through longer systems), and **supports the use of** district heating systems where applicable.
  - Supports active transportation – walking and biking – **reduces need for the car which is a major source of pollution**
  - Reduces encroachment on green space which is needed for ecological health and the production of food
- Sections 4.8 Sustainability Strategy of the Official Plan, and Cobourg's Urban and Landscape Design Guidelines, 2010, provide additional direction to achieve sustainable development and external building design

# Sustainable Development cont...

- Zero GHG emissions buildings. Ways to get there:
  - Construct to the Passive House Standard and be certified
  - Use renewable technologies – solar, air to heat exchange, geothermal
  - Site layout with buildings oriented to the south to maximize solar generation
- Low-impact development (LID) storm water management:
  - Use of green streets: swales and vegetation between sidewalks and street and permeable pavement to slow, filter and clean storm water runoff
- Maximize the number of trees to provide shade canopy while minimizing shading of solar

# Special Projects Underway

- **Comprehensive Zoning By-Law Review** to improve structure; update to reflect provincial policy changes; changes to use, parking; emerging issues and trends in sustainable community planning; etc.
- **Tannery District Sustainable Master Plan** is intended to move Cobourg toward a net-zero carbon, net-zero waste economy.
- **The Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan** (CIP) which includes a **secondary** objective **of incentives** for brownfield redevelopment, universal design, or sustainable design projects.
- **Climate Action Plan for Cobourg: Approved in principle by Council November 2020.**

## Special Projects cont....

- **Integrated Community Sustainability Plan:** a community driven master plan that includes the four pillars of a sustainability community with the focus on the environmental pillar- the other pillars are addressed around it. Other pillars are economic, social and cultural. Will integrate existing planning tools: Official Plan, existing Master Plans (e.g. Transportation, forestry, etc), Affordable Housing CIP, and Climate Action Plan.
- **The Green Development Standard** will set Cobourg's GHG/energy efficiency expectations- some mandated; some encouraged through incentives.

# In The Meantime....

- Cobourg is facing many development applications now—in various stages of the approval process
- It is less costly to ensure they are sustainable now than to retrofit later. FCM: for every \$1 spent now, save \$6 in future costs
- **Given we are facing an emergency with dire consequences for human civilization unless we act fast,** what can we do now to move current development projects to be sustainable in interim of GDS and Affordable Housing CIP being implemented?

# Suggestions for Climate Lens

- **Zoning By-Law Review:** review to determine whether it maximizes sustainable development provisions to the extent possible under Cobourg's Official Plan and Provincial governing documents such as the Planning Act, Provincial Policy Statement
- **Other Special Projects:** whether they include measures and requirements to achieve maximum sustainable development, redevelopment and retrofitting
- **All new government owned buildings** be built and certified to Passive Building Standard, and include renewable energy to make zero GHG emissions.

# Questions & Next Steps

## Questions?

## Discussion

- What can the PDAC do to apply a climate emergency lens now
- How can the SCCAC help