

DRAFT (for Review by SCCAC at Mar 5/20 Mtg)

**Presentation to the Parks and
Recreation Advisory Committee –
Carrying out Mandate Through a
Climate Emergency Lens**

By the Sustainability and Climate
Change Advisory Committee (SCCAC)

We are facing a Climate Crisis



Draft for Review by the SCCAC at Mrch 5,
2020 Meeting

Why 60% Below 2005 Levels?

- Canada 9th highest in CO2 emissions (from fuel combustion)
- 4th highest per capita (per person)
- –14.9T compared to 1.6T for India; or to colder climates Germany 8.9T; Poland 7.7T
- Ontario 2nd highest emitter of Canadian provinces: 159Mt CO2 eq. vs. Quebec (3rd highest) at 78 Mt CO2 eq.
- Canada's Paris Agreement – 30% below 2005 levels by 2030- signed on by FCM members including Cobourg
- Won't achieve GHG reduction levels required to stay within 1.5 degrees C increase

Thinking globally, acting locally

- Global warming is affecting all communities, perhaps especially small communities, and we all share responsibility for tackling the problem at its source: greenhouse gas emissions.
- Cities have long been recognized as necessary partners in any effective response to global warming, but small and rural communities also have a unique and critically important role to play.
- Local actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions almost always reinforce community aspirations and objectives for social and economic development.
- There is no “one size fits all” for small community action on climate change –local circumstances define the opportunities for reducing emissions while growing and improving your community.

Judy Smith, September 2019

Local government investments

- Local government fuel and electricity consumption for their own buildings, vehicles and operations makes a significant contribution to community greenhouse gas emissions –this is especially true for smaller communities where local government facilities represent a larger share of community energy use than they do in cities.
- Ownership, control or influence over utilities, hospitals, schools, social housing, retirement homes, libraries, community centres, and other agencies extends the local government’s impact on community greenhouse gas emissions well beyond its own immediate operations.
- Local government investment in public transit and infrastructure for walking and cycling can go a long way to reducing automobile dependence and the associated energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Judy Smith, September 2019

Opportunities to lead community climate mitigation

- The permitting process for new buildings and renovations provides an opening for local government to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Land use plans and zoning influence the number and length of trips citizens make, and the level of automobile dependence. Regulation and planning of land use and the built environment also influences the potential for renewable energy, district energy and microgrids, all of which contribute to lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- Organic waste management affects landfill gas emissions, the recovery of clean energy from landfill gas or anaerobic digestors. Waste reduction, reuse and recycling of paper, metals, plastics, and glass saves large amounts of manufacturing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Water supply and sewage treatment infrastructure is a significant energy use in the community, and the facilities provide opportunities for clean energy recovery.

Judy Smith, September 2019

Municipalities Key Areas

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – municipalities have influence over approx. 50% of GHG emissions in Canada.
 - Land use/site planning and densities
 - Buildings
 - Local transportation
 - Water and wastewater service

SCCAC Recommendations

- Council declare a climate emergency
- Set GHG emission reduction target of minimum 60% below 2005 levels by 2030; net zero by 2050
- Communicate declaration to Cobourg Community
- Develop a Green Development Standard (GDS)
- Develop a Community Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Ensure sufficient funds and staff for GDS and CIP
- Provide allowance for Climate Change Action Plan in 2020 budget
- Update Cobourg's Strategic Plan

Sustainability Definition

“Sustainability is environmental, economic, social and cultural actions that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.



The Corporation of the
Town of Cobourg

Resolution

Moved By

Last Name Printed

Aden Burean

Resolution No.:

Seconded By

Last Name Printed

A. Seatty

Council Date:

January 13, 2020

WHEREAS at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on January 6, 2020, Council considered a Memo from the Secretary of the Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee, regarding the definition of Sustainability;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council endorse the definition of 'Sustainability' from the Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee, as follows:

“Sustainability is environmental, economic, social and cultural actions that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Climate Emergency Declaration



The Corporation of the
Town of Cobourg

Resolution

Moved By *[Signature]* Resolution No.:

Last Name Printed Bureau

Seconded By *[Signature]* Council Date:

Last Name Printed DARLING December 2, 2019

WHEREAS at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on November 25, 2019, Council considered a Memo from the Secretary of the Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee, regarding a Motion to Declare a Climate Emergency and Accelerate GHG Reduction Actions in the Town of Cobourg;

WHEREAS Municipalities have a significant role to help change and mitigate the contributions to climate change through responsible planning and budgeting; and

WHEREAS 462 Canadian Municipalities have declared a Climate Emergency including many in Ontario, with some setting ambitious emission reduction targets such as net zero emissions by 2030; and

WHEREAS in Council's Strategic Plan it states: "the Town of Cobourg will be good stewards and practice sustainable actions"; and

WHEREAS the Town of Cobourg's Official Plan provides a general policy framework for the conservation of water, air quality, energy and other resources and for the reduction of waste, as well as environmental stewardship, monitoring and education, and for the development of a "culture of conservation" which reflects the principle of sustainable development (Bruntland Commission); and

WHEREAS the Cobourg's Official Plan specifies that the Town of Cobourg shall develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) which will be designed with specific achievable actions for the community and will build on existing initiatives; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Town of Cobourg declare a Climate Emergency conveying its recognition that we are facing an unprecedented crisis requiring unprecedented climate mitigation measures; and

FURTHER THAT, in response to this Climate Emergency, Council deem the need to reduce the effects that the Town of Cobourg is contributing to the climate crisis by way of the following actions:

1. That Council create a staff position on a one (1) year contract basis, under the supervision of the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Integrated Community Sustainable Plan (ICSP) and Green Design Standards and manage the project through to completion;

2. Refer all costs associated with the contract position and Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) to the 2020 budget deliberations and have Staff prepare a budget estimate for the January 2020 budget meeting; and
3. Update Council's Strategic Plan to allow Staff to reprioritize other work commitments to ensure that staff resources will be sufficient to commence work on the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan prior to the scheduled start of 2021 as outlined in Council's current, approved Strategic Plan.

Initial Suggestions

1. Increase number of trees planted

The tree planting program currently plants trees on town property where they have been cut down to accommodate service wires. Could these trees be planted on the owners property instead, away from overhead wires?

Plant more native species of trees such as Black Ash, Black Oak, Eastern Black Walnut.

Suggestions - continued

2. Assets

Replace machinery, tools, and appliances used by Public Works and Parks and Recreation with electric ones.

For example, a battery powered John Deere 590 54" riding lawnmower can be converted to a snow removal machine with the attachment of a plow.

Suggestions - continued

3. Parkland

Replace lawn that is not in repeat high traffic areas with white clover. In these areas, the clover can be mixed in with high traffic grass.

Suggestions - continued

4. Venues in Cobourg

The town of Cobourg should move to 0 waste at these events. When a venue application is made, the applicant must demonstrate how they will produce 0 waste. Guidelines on how this can be achieved could be developed and attached to the venue application.

Suggestions - continued

5. Electric Outlets

Ensure the installment for more outlets for electric cars in parking areas near parklands.

Questions and Next Steps

Questions?

Discussion:

- What can Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee do to apply climate emergency lens now
- How can the SCCAC help