

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 Seven Years!

- 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)



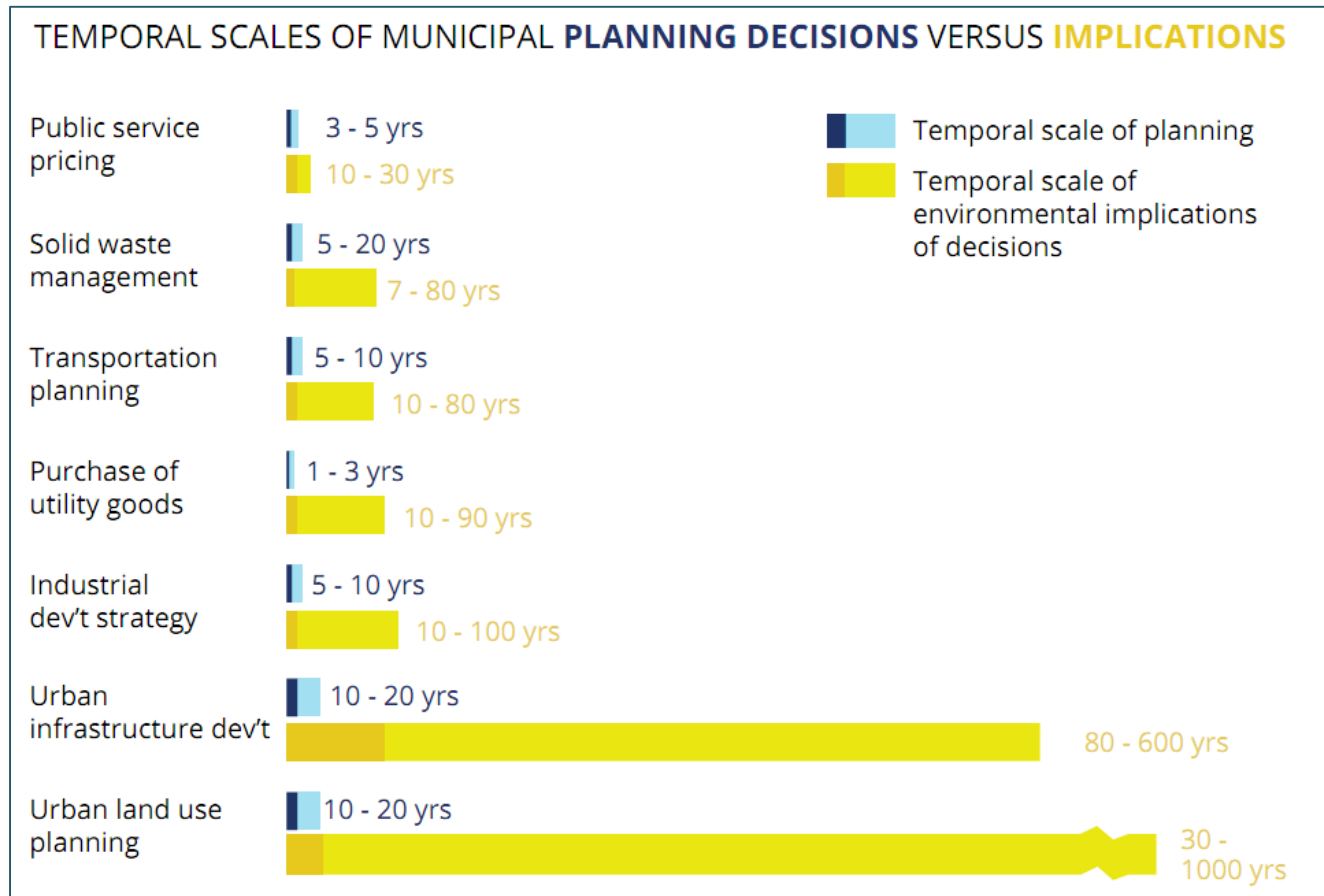
Canada Among Highest Emitters

- Canada has the 9th highest CO₂ emissions of over 190 countries (from fuel combustion);
- It is the 4th 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 2nd highest emitter of Canadian provinces & territories : 159Mt CO₂ eq. vs. Quebec (3rd 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- central the environmental pillar- 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 expectations- some mandated; some encouraged through incentives. Covers site plan layout (solar orientation, use of district heating); proximity to transit; compact development; active transportation; tree canopy/parks; storm water management; GHG/energy efficiency buildings

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 (Consultant review done in 2012)
- **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