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or review at Mar 3, 2021 SCCAC Meeting

Overview of 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Work Plan for the Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee

**By the Sustainability and Climate Change
Advisory Committee (SCCAC) to Committee of
the Whole on, 2021**

Purpose

- To provide an overview of SCCAC accomplishments in 2020
- To secure Council's Approval of the SCCAC 2021 Work Plan

SCCAC 2020 Annual Report

Highlights of 2020 SCCAC Work

- Context: due to COVID, the SCCAC met four times in 2020
- Key accomplishments (in order of event):
 - Council endorsed the SCCAC recommended definition of sustainability
 - Council supported SCCAC's request to work with other Advisory Committees to help them carry out their mandate from a climate emergency lens
 - Supported Council to send letters to the Premier and other provincial and municipal politicians supporting the recommendation of the Clean Air Alliance for the province to phase out gas-fired electricity generate by 2030 -

Conclusions

- The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) and Green Development Standard (GDS) were delayed due to COVID and limited staff resources in Planning Department
- Planning Dept resources addressed somewhat – will need more staff if Cobourg is to address the climate emergency – much of the necessary work will need to be done by this Department
- Key concern of SCCAC is that developments are proceeding now that are not sustainable – will worsen climate crisis – reflected in 2021 Work Plan

SCCAC 2020 Work Plan

CONTEXT

- On Dec 2, 2019 Council declared a Climate ‘emergency’ conveying its recognition that we are facing an *unprecedented crisis requiring unprecedented climate mitigation measures*;
- COVID has taught us how government responds to an ‘emergency’
 - Businesses shut down within days; some will be lost forever
 - Some people lost their jobs; higher use of food banks;
 - Some countries increased malnutrition, starvation; reoccurrence of other diseases due to other immunization programs being stopped (polio, measles, malaria);
 - People being isolated; not being with loved ones when they die;
 - Children lost valuable school years; increase in drug overdose, mental health issues, domestic violence; other health issues postponed; etc

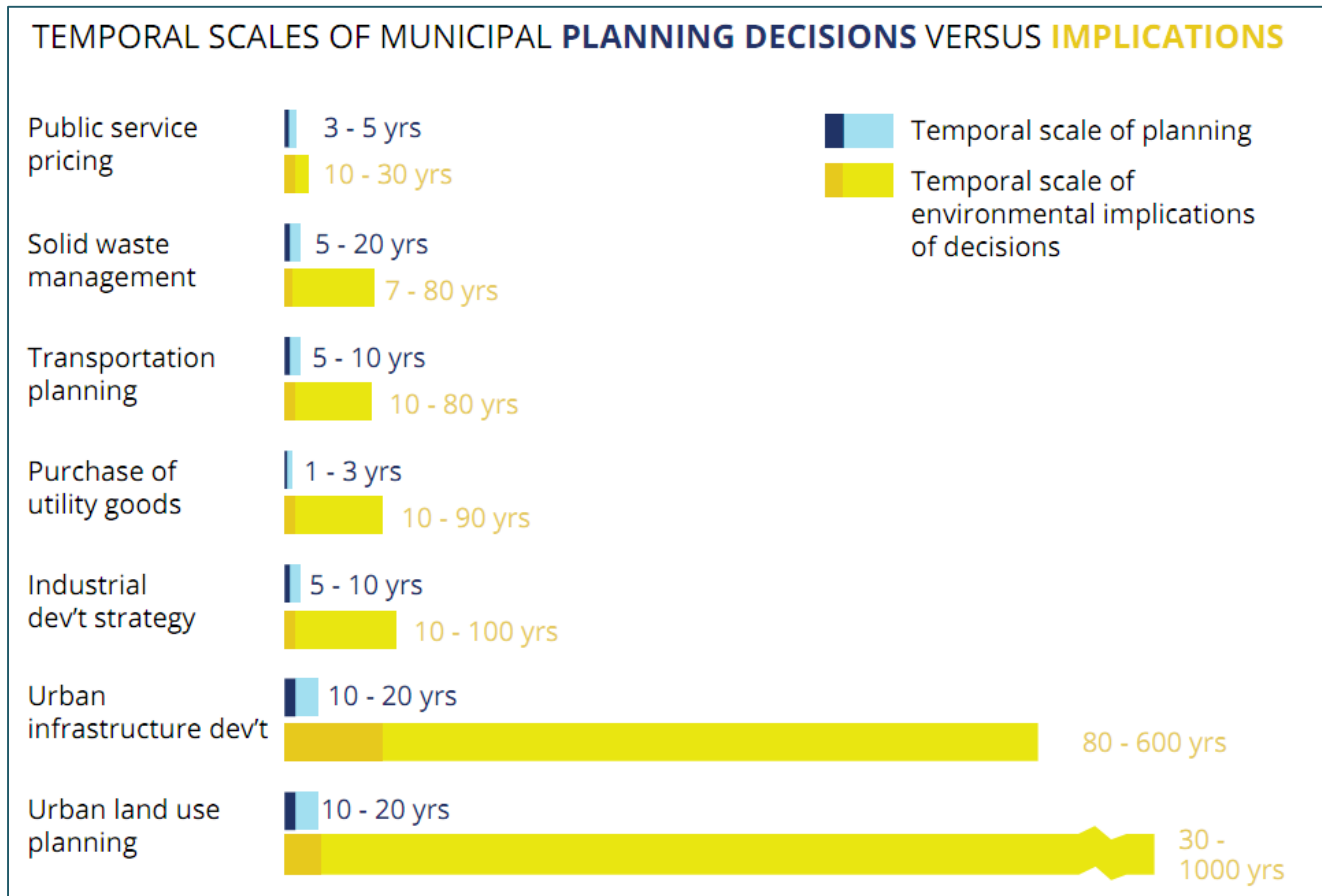
Climate Crisis Worse

- The Climate Crisis is an emergency of a worse scale than the pandemic
- It is presently having, and will continue to have, way more severe consequences, and they will be much longer lasting
- We really need to absorb this – have a higher fear of the climate crisis than we have of getting COVID.
- Relationship between global heating and increase in pandemics, and in lowering community and individual resilience to pandemics.

UN Report: End the Suicidal War on Nature

- *“The world remains on track for catastrophic warming of 3°C above pre-industrial levels, a million species face extinction, and 90% of people live with dirty air.”* The Guardian writes.
<https://theenergymix.com/2021/02/22/un-report-urges-end-to-suicidal-war-on-nature/>)
- *Pollution was included in the report because despite improvements in some wealthy nations, toxic air, water, soils and workplaces cause at least 9 million deaths a year, one in six of all deaths. “This is still a huge issue,” said Baste.* <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/18/human-destruction-of-nature-is-senseless-and-suicidal-warns-un-chief>
- *Unep and the World Health Organization have said the root cause of pandemics is the destruction of the natural world, with worse outbreaks to come unless action is taken.*
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/18/human-destruction-of-nature-is-senseless-and-suicidal-warns-un-chief>

Much of the Focus of the SCCAC 2021 Work Plan is to Address Sustainable Development

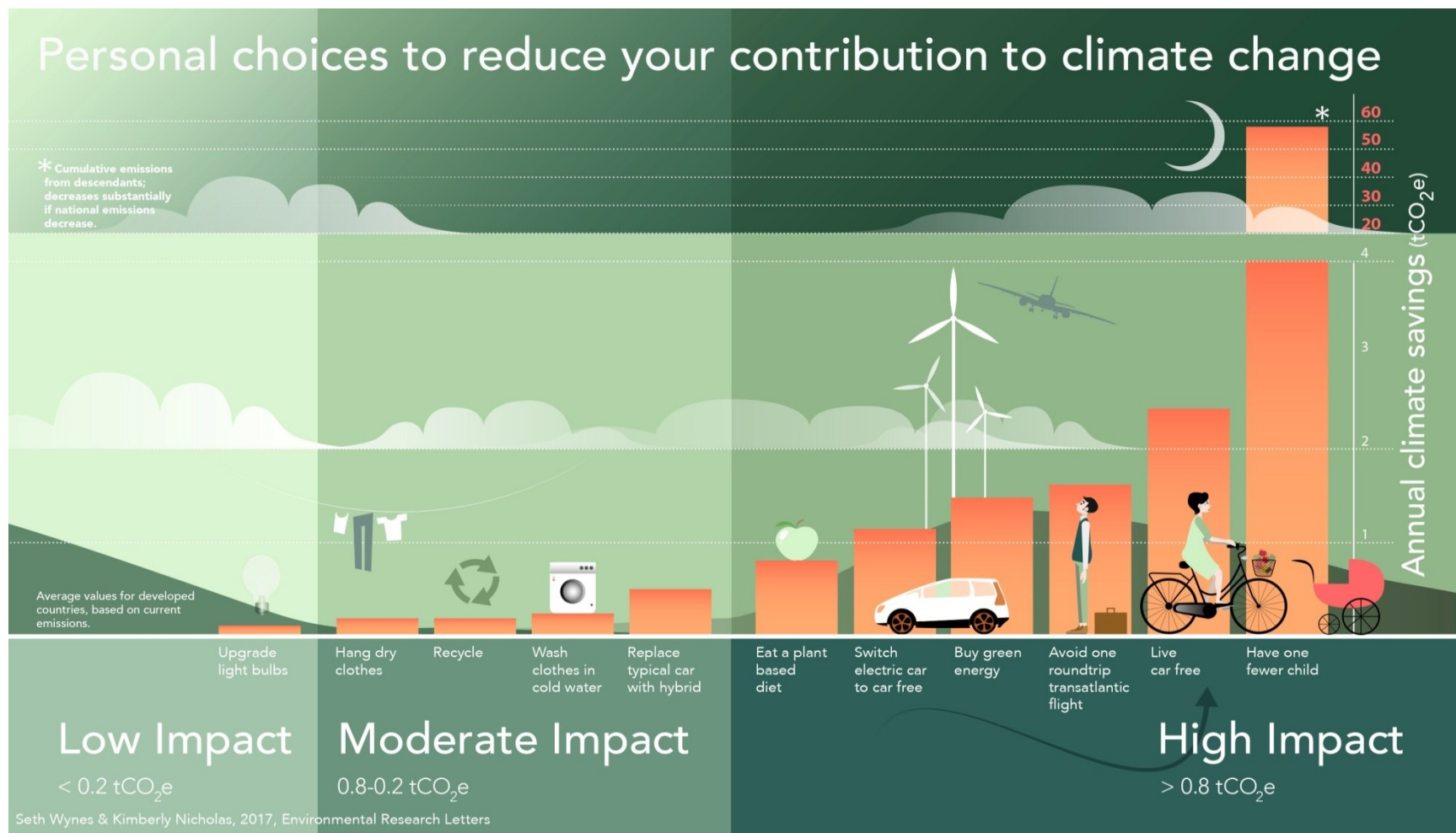


Highest Sources of GHG

- As presented before, the third highest source of GHG emissions is **road transport**:
 - First is power plants
 - Second is our homes
- The second most significant action individual can do is **live car free** (illustration next slide)
- Council needs to enable Cobourg Citizens to do this

<https://grist.org/briefly/groundbreaking-study-outlines-what-you-can-do-about-climate-change/>;

Researchers in Sweden, [Eric Holthaus](#), July 13, 2017



Key Recommended Work Plan Activities

- Support other advisory committees to apply climate lens
- Provide comment on Zoning-By Law Review
- Determine if there are ways to achieve more sustainable developments while awaiting ICSP and GDS
- Identify relationship between urban density and the climate crisis; educate on this relationship
- Provide comment on draft ICSP and GDS
- Review relevant County initiatives for impact on Cobourg
- Assist with implementing Climate Action Plan as needed

Key Immediate Issue for Cobourg

- 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 ensure sustainable development in Cobourg in the interim of GDS and Affordable Housing CIP being implemented?
- We will try to help answer this question