

Thursday October 22, 2020



To Mayor Henderson and Councilors,

It is the view of Sustainable Cobourg that the Town of Cobourg's Climate Action Plan Update 2020, submitted by the Northumberland Environmental Officer, Judy Smith, be accepted. We endorse the actions outlined in the Plan. In addition, we urge that the priorities of retrofitting existing homes that are creating 'energy poverty' for our residents, as well as transitioning all Town owned vehicles away from conventional to Electric vehicles, be seen as critical actions.

In November 2019, the Town approved the motion, by Chair Minnie de Jong of the Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee, to declare a Climate Emergency and focus on reducing greenhouse gases which are known to contribute to changing our climate. The priorities outlined in the Cobourg Climate Action Plan 2020 Update will begin to achieve that.

We are living in unprecedented times. It is now that we can make our mark in shaping the future. The long awaited, by us, Integrated Community Sustainability Plan and Green Design Standards are enormous instruments that will help us mitigate the undeniable consequences to our environment, our society and our economy of the plague caused by greenhouse gases. We cannot, we dare not wait one moment longer.

As a Partner organization to the Town, as stated in the Strategic Plan, we have supported the Town's direction in creating a culture of sustainability because we know that it is only through that lens that we can achieve any measure of success in our fight against the destructive effects of ever increasing GHG. "Our vision is of Cobourg as a sustainable community. One where the values of environmental stewardship, social responsibility and economic resilience are reflected in individual, community, business and government behaviours and are consistently supported through sustainable products, policies, purchases, programs and actions." (taken from the vision statement of Sustainable Cobourg) The actions outlined in the Cobourg Climate Action Plan 2020 are exactly those actions. And they are doable.

We were happy to be of help in funding part of the research for this report and we are here in any measure that the Town deems to be appropriate in achieving the actions outlined in this report.

Best,
Gigi Ludorf-Weaver,
President, Sustainable Cobourg