



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Committee of the Whole**

From: **Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services**

Meeting Date: **May 11, 2015**

Subject: **Report CSD15-011
Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan
Progress Report**

Purpose

A report to update Council on the Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSD15-011 dated May 11, 2015 of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

That the presentation on the Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan, by Liz Nield and Jeff Garkowski of LURA Consulting, be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with receiving the Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan presentation.

Background

The Greater Peterborough Area Community Sustainability Plan was adopted by the participating municipalities in April 2012. The Plan recommends that each municipality in the Greater Peterborough Area join Partners for Climate Protection to create a plan to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions while increasing adaptation and resiliency.

This process officially began with the City and the County of Peterborough passing reports to initiate a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) on September 3, 2013 and September 4, 2013, respectively. The CCAP is to lead by the Sustainable Peterborough Coordinating Committee and hosted by Peterborough Economic Development.

Sustainable Peterborough applied for and received a Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund grant of \$175,000 and a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation of \$225,000. The City contributed the remaining \$44,500 to fund the Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan. LURA Consulting, together with ICLEI Canada and GreenUP, was hired in October 2014 to develop the CCAP.

Climate Change Action Plan

Climate change is due primarily to greenhouse gases associated with human activities. Experts estimate that the global average surface is warming by 1.8°C to 4°C compared to the previous century. As the climate changes, the frequency of extreme weather and climate events will increase. Anticipated impacts in the Peterborough area include more heat waves, droughts, more frequent and intense rain events/flooding, more smog occurrences, and disease outbreaks.

Sustainable Peterborough is developing a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for the Greater Peterborough Area to reduce local contributions to climate change and prepare the community for present and expected changes that will occur as a result of climate change. The overall objective of the CCAP is to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the use of fossil fuels, lower our energy consumption, and adapt to our changing climate. The Plan will identify goals, actions and emission reduction targets that fit with and address the needs of each of each municipality and First Nation within the Greater Peterborough Area.

The Plan is being developed in a collaborative manner through partnerships with the local community, neighbourhoods, businesses, agencies and by engaging residents of the Greater Peterborough Area. This regionally coordinated approach will ensure that we act together to safeguard the health of our residents and ensure the stability of our local economic and natural resources against impacts related to climate change.

The Climate Change Action Plan is following the Partners for Climate Protection's (PCP) five-milestone framework for the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The PCP program is a network of local Canadian governments that have made a commitment to reduce GHG emissions and act on climate change. Administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the program has over 225 local and regional governments participating.

To prepare the Climate Change Action Plan, the following five milestones will be completed:

- **Milestone 1:** creating a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast;
- **Milestone 2:** setting an emissions reduction target;
- **Milestone 3:** developing a local action plan;
- **Milestone 4:** implementing the local action plan; and,
- **Milestone 5:** monitoring progress and report results.

The Climate Change Action Plan will include climate change considerations from the perspective of Municipal/First Nations operations and the Greater Peterborough Area community. A "Corporate" (Municipal/First Nations Operations) Climate Change Action Plan and "Community" Climate Change Action Plan will be created for each of the 10 municipalities and 2 First Nations to allow tailoring to the needs of each community. The Community Climate Change Action Plan will consider how the communities are designed and how people interact and influence their surroundings. Community GHGs are typically emitted from home and business heating and electricity, transportation, and generation of waste.

The Climate Change Action Plan began in October 2014. Preparation of final documentation and approval by each local municipality and First Nation is scheduled for August 2017.

LURA will present a progress report to all Councils on the outcome of Milestone 1. Following extensive community engagement, LURA will report back to all respective Councils with their local greenhouse gas emissions reduction target.

Summary

One of the goals of the Greater Peterborough Area Community Sustainability Plan is to reduce greenhouse gases, which contribute to climate change while increasing local ability to adapt to climate change conditions. Becoming active members in the Partners for Climate Protection Program and developing Climate Change Action Plans will help to enhance community resiliency in the face of a changing climate.

Submitted by,

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