



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Peterborough Environmental Advisory Committee

From: Michael Papadacos, Director, Asset Management and Capital Planning

Meeting Date: April 17, 2024

Report: Climate Initiatives Update, Report PEAC24-005

Subject

A report to provide the Peterborough Environmental Advisory Committee with an update highlighting corporate and community climate initiatives from March to April 2024.

Recommendation

That the Peterborough Environmental Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report PEAC24-005, dated April 17, 2024, of the Director of Asset Management and Capital Planning as follows:

That the report be received for information.

Background

The City of Peterborough continues to pursue greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions by developing and implementing strategic climate initiatives, along with incorporating resiliency throughout the community and within City operations. The following climate actions highlight new or ongoing projects within Peterborough.

Climate Initiatives Update

City Nature Challenge Bio-blitz – April 26-27 at Ecology Park

The City and the Peterborough Field Naturalists (PFN) are in the final planning stages of the [City Nature Challenge Bio-blitz](#) event. The in-person event will take place over two days in Ecology Park on April 26 and April 27. In addition to the in-person event, all residents can make wildlife observations within Peterborough from Friday, April 26 to Monday, April 29, using the iNaturalist web and phone application.

Preceding the event, the City and the PFN will be celebrating the second annual bio-blitz by planting an eastern white pine at Rogers Cove on April 19. Councilor Lachica, PFN, and City staff will be on hand to plant the ceremonial tree.

Lastly, Mayor Leal has instigated a friendly Mayors' Challenge with his mayoral colleague Bryan Paterson in Kingston. The community with the most participants using the iNaturalist app from April 26 to April 29 will win the Mayors' Challenge.

Climate Art '2004 Flood Commemoration' Project – Winning Artist Selected

In March, the Art Evaluation Committee selected Dimitri Papatheodorou to develop his art piece to commemorate the 2004 Peterborough Flood. Due to a delay in project timelines, the art piece will not be ready for the July 15 anniversary of the flood. However, a teaser campaign will be undertaken throughout the summer, beginning in July, that will hint at the artwork being constructed. In October, the installation will be unveiled.

Climate Change Action Plan 2.0 – Pathway to Net Zero 2050 – Modeling

Project consultant SSG will conduct follow-up interviews with community members in April as part of the equity focus group. The last Community Working Group (CWG) workshop will also be held to solicit feedback from committee members planned for May 6. After collecting the feedback, SSG will present the findings to the PEAC on June 19 for final input.

SSG is continuing to model and determine what mitigation actions will be needed to achieve net zero by 2050. New measures proposed at the second CWG on February 29 will be modelled to support closing the emission gap in previous modelling runs. A draft report is anticipated to be prepared in June. City Council is expected to receive the final report for adoption as the new community climate change action plan in September.

Curtis Creek Channel Improvements – Design Completed

The City is proceeding with improvements to the Curtis Creek Channel. At present, the City is creating easement agreements with property owners along sections of the creek that are most at risk of flooding. As a result, streambank construction projects are being pushed back to 2025.

Peterborough Public Health Climate Vulnerability Assessment – Completed

Peterborough Public Health (PPH) completed a [Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment](#) that evaluated the health impacts of local vulnerable groups from the effects of climate change. The assessment evaluated six climate hazards already being experienced within the PPH Region. Vulnerable groups include the most at-risk individuals, which include infants, youth, pregnant persons, and the elderly. In addition, social determinants of health factors that the most at-risk may experience, as well as other individuals, were also assessed, including:

- People experiencing socioeconomic disadvantages,
- Recent immigrants,
- Outdoor workers,
- People living with chronic health conditions,
- People with mental health conditions,
- People experiencing homelessness,
- People who use substances; and
- Indigenous people.

The assessment determined that collaboration between local community partners is needed to support vulnerable groups in adapting to climate change by creating an adaptation plan focused on priority populations.

Other Initiatives

There are no new updates for the following climate initiatives at this time:

- Alternative Fuel Study for Transit and Non-Transit Fleet Vehicles
- Climate Action Accelerator to Net-zero (CAANO) – Pilot Project
- Community Buildings Retrofit (CBR) – Technical Reports Completed
- Corporate Energy Management Plan Update 2024-2028 – Assessment
- Harper Creek Subwatershed Plan – Under review
- Home Energy Efficiency Program (HEEP) – Funding Announcement
- Otonabee River Trail and Shoreline Improvements – Request for Proposals
- Sanitary Master Plan – Public Survey
- Urban Forestry
- Watershed Plan

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Community & Well-being

Strategic Initiative: Demonstrate strong leadership in environmental stewardship by proactively addressing issues and challenges of climate change and the environment.

In 2019, City Council approved the Climate Emergency Declaration that requires City staff to report to PEAC on climate action. The Declaration also requires that City staff “greatly accelerate timelines for our existing actions to reduce the effects of climate change; add new actions and proposals to reduce greatly our GHG emissions” by 45 percent in 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Submitted by,

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