

Subject: Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Department: Infrastructure Services

Division: Environment

Report #: INS-2021-025

Meeting Date: 2021-04-12

Recommendations

That report INS-2021-025, Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan, be received;

That Council approve and adopt the Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan;

And that Council authorizes staff to begin the implementation of action items according to the contents outlined in Attachment 1 of this report.

Background and Analysis

Climate change poses several risks to Orangeville's physical, economic, social, and ecological systems. In order to prevent catastrophic impacts from climate change, mitigative efforts are required to limit greenhouse gas emissions. However, regardless of how successful mitigation efforts are moving forward, the impacts of climate change will continue to be felt in Orangeville for years to come. In response, the Town has developed an adaptation plan to build corporate capacity and address the local impacts associated with a changing climate.

In 2019, the Town was successful in applying for funding from FCM's Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (MCIP). This program enabled the Town to hire a Climate Change Co-ordinator to focus efforts on developing a climate change adaptation policy and plan. The Town's Climate Change Adaptation Policy was adopted in September of 2019 to support the implementation of adaptation efforts across the Corporation. This report presents the Town of Orangeville's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan ("the Plan") for the adoption of Council.

The Plan was developed to aid in mainstreaming adaptation across Town operations, planning and decision-making processes. It intends to address the broad range of potential risks that climate change poses and prepare for the effects on Town-managed infrastructure, assets, and services.

The key objectives and associated categories of the Plan include:

Environment and Natural Resources:

- Protect and restore natural systems to enhance local biodiversity and build climate resilience;
- Increase the uptake of natural infrastructure features in new and existing development; and
- Expand and increase the resilience of Orangeville's tree canopy.

Public Health and Safety:

- Increase preparedness and work to minimize health and safety risks associated with the changing local climate; and
- Generate awareness of risks and enhance warning and communication systems during extreme weather events.

Infrastructure and Assets:

- Protect and strengthen the resilience of Town assets, operations and service areas; and
- Incorporate climate change considerations into infrastructure planning, design and construction.

Cross-Cutting:

- Build financial capacity for the unforeseen impacts of climate change;
- Ensure a coordinated corporate response during extreme weather events;
- Build community resilience to climate change while reducing local greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Incorporate climate change considerations into existing and future Town plans, policies, procedures and operations.

The development of the Plan was guided by the International Council for Local Environmental initiatives (ICLEI) Canada's Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) program, a five-milestone adaptation planning framework for local governments. The BARC framework guides municipalities through a comprehensive planning methodology that includes research and climate impact assessment, plan development, action-setting, implementation tools, and monitoring strategies. Following this framework, a list of actions has been developed under each of the objectives to enhance Orangeville's ability to address local climate impacts.

Once the Plan has been adopted by Council, the proposed actions will be implemented across the Corporation (see Attachment 1 – Appendix E for implementation schedule). A major component of implementation will be aligning measures and priorities with existing Town plans and strategies (i.e. Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan, Water Conservation Plan etc.) to avoid duplicative efforts and ensure co-ordinated action.

It is important to note that climate change adaptation is an iterative process that requires ongoing monitoring and long-term management. As new information and data on the local climate becomes available, adaptation efforts should be updated and evaluated for overall effectiveness. It is anticipated that a report to Council will occur every two years, with a review of the Plan occurring every five years. However, this schedule is intended to be flexible and may change according to perceived need and resources.

The Plan will be monitored by the Climate Action Team, with leadership from the Sustainability Coordinator and will include internal check-ins with lead and supporting divisions on a regular basis to measure progress. The Climate Action Team will be responsible for documenting and reporting on the status of implementation, timelines, costs, action-specific indicators, and other details as needed. Various key performance indicators have been identified for each objective to aid in the evaluation of the Plan's effectiveness overtime.

Strategic Alignment

Orangeville Forward – Strategic Plan

Priority Area: Sustainable Infrastructure

Objective: Support innovation

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

Theme: Energy and Climate Change

Strategy: Plan for resilient infrastructure in a changing climate.

Notice Provisions

N/A

Financial Impact

The Plan proposes a number of adaptation initiatives to effectively address climate risks and build resilience. Each action item will be delivered and resourced through the appropriate budgetary planning progress and incorporated into future forecasts. Staff will also work to identify external grant funding sources on an individual action item

basis as well as determine areas of collaboration with Dufferin County and community stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted

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Attachment(s):

1. Town of Orangeville's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2021)