



**SUBJECT: Bay area climate change partnership**

**TO: Committee of the Whole**

**FROM: Capital Works**

Report Number: CW-45-17

Wards Affected: N/A

File Numbers: 210-09

Date to Committee: September 25, 2017

Date to Council: October 10, 2017

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### **Recommendation:**

Receive and file capital works department report CW-45-17 regarding the Bay area climate change partnership.

### **Purpose:**

This report provides information on the proposed governance structure for a Climate Change Partnership between Burlington, Hamilton and Mohawk College. Under the city's strategic plan, it relates to:

A Healthy and Greener City

- Environmental and Energy Leadership

3.2 e) The city will work with community stakeholders to implement the Community Energy Plan and achieve the goals and objectives related to energy conservation, generation and availability.

3.2 g) The city recognizes that climate change is a significant issue and is working with the community and all levels of government towards the goal of the Burlington community being net carbon neutral.

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### **Background and Discussion:**

In 2016, City of Hamilton Mayor Eisenberger and Burlington Mayor Goldring introduced the idea of a collaborative approach between the cities of Hamilton and Burlington to respond to climate change. Both mayors presented resolutions to their respective city

councils supporting the development of a governance structure to implement climate change initiatives between both cities. A copy of Mayor Goldring's June 24, 2016 memo to council with the full resolution is attached to this report as Appendix A.

The following directions were included in the resolution:

- a) That staff be directed to work with the City of Hamilton to develop a governance model similar to the Bay Area Restoration Council and the Bay Area Implementation Team, in collaboration with staff from the Federal and Provincial office of the Ministries of Environment and Climate Change, and report back to the Development and Infrastructure Committee.
- b) That the Mayor correspond with The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and The Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, to support the City of Hamilton's request that the Federal and Provincial Ministries assist with the establishment of the Community Climate Change Action Plan Implementation Team in identifying the appropriate Federal and Provincial government staff, private sector and community representatives to provide expert advice and financial resources toward the action on climate change, within the funding guidelines for the Low Carbon Economy Trust; and the Five Year Climate Change Strategy;
- c) That upon the formation of the governance structure for the Community Climate Change Action Implementation Team, the City of Burlington form a partnership with the City of Hamilton to coordinate efforts, with respect to the implementation of the plans; and,
- d) That staff be directed to report to the Development and Infrastructure Committee annually, respecting the progress of implementing Hamilton's Community Climate Change Action Plan and Burlington's Community Energy Plan.

An update memo was also provided to council in June 2017 in the Council Information Package. A copy of the memo is provided as Appendix B.

### **Centre for Climate Change Management**

Mohawk College joined the cities of Hamilton and Burlington early on in the process to develop a Centre for Climate Change Management which would encompass three entities:

- Mohawk's Campus Carbon Management Office
- Mohawk's Industry Partnerships Office
- The Bay Area Climate Change Partnership

Mohawk College is in the process of building a new net zero building at their Fennell Street campus, The Joyce Centre for Partnership & Innovation, expected to be ready in the fall of 2018. This new building will host the Centre for Climate Change Management.

The Centre for Climate Change Management will bring together community research, government, industry and academia to take a regional approach to combating climate change through meaningful action, innovation and preparing the next generation of students for the low carbon economy. Sustainable Hamilton Burlington has also been involved with Mohawk to develop the Industry Partnerships Office.

The 5 key objectives for the Centre include:

- Co-locate and connect key regional stakeholders;
- Support goals of municipal, provincial and federal governments to reduce carbon emissions;
- Offer support to businesses and industry to comply with and succeed under cap & trade;
- Develop best practices for implementation at college campuses across Ontario; and,
- Provide integrated learning and work experience for students in a high demand market

The Climate Change centre will also work to support and implement actions that align with the Provincial Climate Action Plan including, but not limited to:

- Support cycling and walking;
- Reduce congestion and improve economic productivity;
- Help industries adopt low carbon technologies
- Help homeowners reduce their carbon footprints by supporting additional choice; and,
- Help individuals and businesses manage their energy use and save money.

Mohawk College plans to make an announcement in October 2017 of who will be the Executive Director for the Centre for Climate Change Management.

### **Bay Area Climate Change Partnership**

The communities of Burlington and Hamilton will work collaboratively on climate change through the Bay Area Climate Change Partnership, resulting in investments in energy efficiency mitigation measures, green infrastructure, job creation, and clean technologies. The framework will replicate the existing structure for the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) and Bay Area Implementation Team (BAIT), which were set up to support the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan.

The framework and objectives for the Bay Area Climate Change Partnership will consist of:

**a) The Bay Area Climate Change Council (BACCC)**

**Objectives:** To act as a voluntary community reporting group that will provide governance and oversight of climate actions across Hamilton and Burlington and policy direction to the implementation teams. BACCC will be made up of equal community representation from Hamilton and Burlington.

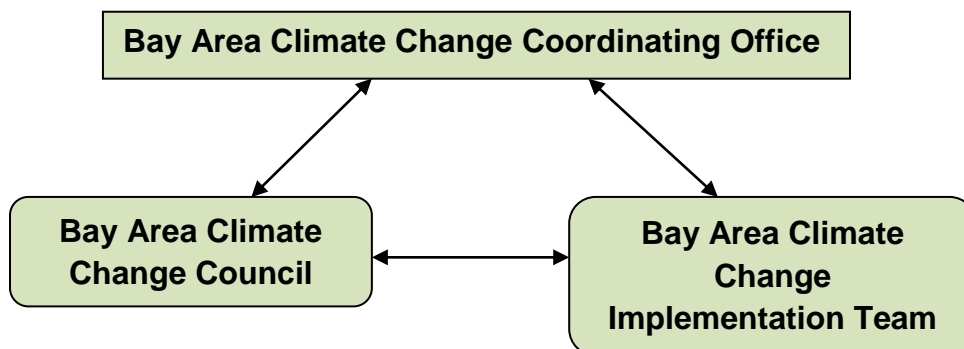
**b) The Bay Area Climate Change Implementation Team (BACCIT)**

**Objectives:** To implement climate change actions across Hamilton and Burlington as outlined in Hamilton's Community Climate Action Plan and Burlington's Community Energy Plan. Implementation team members will be subject matter experts in the designated areas of action and may form working groups to take on specific actions. BACCIT will consult with stakeholders and other subject experts on issues or concerns relating to implementation of actions.

**c) The Bay Area Climate Change Coordinating Office (BACCO)**

- **Objectives:** The Coordinating Office will consist of three to four municipal staff that will be co-located at Mohawk College. City of Hamilton staff will fill part of the staff complement in the Coordinating Office. This office will provide secretariat functions to both the council and the implementation teams, as well as help to coordinate climate actions, funding sources and annual events. The coordinating office will also be responsible for annual progress reports to communities and councils; hosting an annual climate change forum event; and developing and delivering a communications and outreach strategy.

The following is a diagram of the proposed governance structure for the Bay Area Climate Change Partnership:



## **Objectives of the Bay Area Climate Change Partnership**

The initiative will bring together leading stakeholders such as academia, utilities, Indigenous populations, non-government organizations and industry to work collaboratively on climate change to ensure Hamilton and Burlington remain prosperous in a low carbon economy. The following is a list of potential stakeholders to form the membership of both the Council and Implementation Team:

### **Bay Area Climate Change Council**

- Non-profits
- Academia
- Business/Industrial Representation
- Utility Companies
- Indigenous Population/First Nations
- Conservation Authorities
- Agriculture
- Public Health
- Citizens

### **Bay Area Climate Change Implementation Team**

- Municipal staff
- Provincial staff
- Federal staff
- Academia
- Business/Industrial representation
- Utility companies
- Conservation Authorities
- Public Health
- Indigenous Population/First Nations
- Agriculture

The Bay Area Climate Change Partnership will work to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives that make sense on a regional basis across both communities. It is expected that both the Hamilton Climate Change Action Plan and the Burlington Community Energy Plan will be used as a basis for determining which actions to prioritize.

## **Strategy/process**

The city's Sr. Sustainability Coordinator has been meeting with staff from the city of Hamilton and Mohawk College for a number of months to discuss the development of a governance structure to support a collaborative approach to implementing climate change initiatives. Regular updates have been provided to the city manager's staff. A meeting was held between the two mayors, city managers and staff to confirm the proposed strategy.

### **Options considered**

No other options were considered. However, staff are recommending that the city support and participate in the proposed Bay Area Climate Change Partnership for a period of two years and then evaluate the effectiveness of the partnership. Staff will report back to the Committee of the Whole with a recommendation on whether the city should continue to participate in the partnership on an ongoing basis.

The challenge for the City of Burlington will be balancing the new Bay Area Climate Partnership with the existing structure that is in place to implement the Community Energy Plan. However, staff do recognize the opportunities which may arise by participating in a larger regional based climate change collaboration with additional resources to help implement actions.

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### **Financial Matters:**

The Climate Change Mitigation and Low Carbon Economy Act, 2016 requires all auction proceeds of the provincial Cap and Trade System to fund climate reduction projects. Mohawk College has been leading discussions with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) for funding to support for the overall initiative. The transfer agreement for the funding will be between MOECC and Mohawk College. There will be a Memorandum of Understanding between Mohawk, Hamilton and Burlington.

### **Total Financial Impact**

N/A

### **Source of Funding**

N/A

### **Other Resource Impacts**

At this time, there has been no request for the City of Burlington to provide direct funding for this initiative, other than the Sr. Sustainability Coordinator's in-kind time to participate on the Bay Area Climate Change Implementation Team. Additional city staff may be requested to provide input or participate in meetings or workshops from time to time.

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## **Connections:**

As noted above, this initiative supports actions in the city's Strategic Plan, the Community Energy Plan, as well as the Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan.

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## **Public Engagement Matters:**

An announcement was made at the Bay Area Economic Summit in June introducing the Centre for Climate Change Management and the Bay Area Climate Change Partnership. City staff will continue to work with the City of Hamilton and Mohawk College to coordinate community engagement activities.

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## **Conclusion:**

The establishment of the Climate Change Partnership between Burlington, Hamilton and Mohawk College is expected to provide additional resources to support Burlington's implementation of the Community Energy Plan. Burlington will benefit from this regional collaboration to help meet its objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a net zero carbon community.

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Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Robichaud

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## **Appendices:**

- A. Climate Change Partnership resolution by Mayor Goldring, June 24, 2016
- B. Climate Change Partnership CIP memo, June 21, 2017

## **Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.