



SUBJECT: 2019-2023 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Capital Works

Report Number: CW-46-19

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 210-05

Date to Committee: November 4, 2019

Date to Council: November 18, 2019

Recommendation:

Direct the Mayor or designate to sign the *Clean Air Council 2019-2023 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change*, as detailed in Appendix A of capital works report CW-46-19, on behalf of the City of Burlington at City Council on November 18, 2019.

Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to encourage City Council to continue to support and sign the most recent *Clean Air Council 2019-2023 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change* on behalf of the City of Burlington.

A City that Grows

- Promoting Economic Growth
- Intensification
- Focused Population Growth

A City that Moves

- Increased Transportation Flows and Connectivity

A Healthy and Greener City

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Environmental and Energy Leadership

An Engaging City

- Good Governance
-

Background and Discussion:

In 2001, the Clean Air Council (CAC), a network of municipalities and health units working collaboratively to combat air pollution and climate change was established. The City of Burlington became a member the following year. Today, there are 26 participating local and regional municipalities from across the GTHA, London, Waterloo and Windsor along with representatives from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

The CAC works on the simple premise that if one jurisdiction undertakes a clean air and climate change action, it makes sense to share their experience and lessons learned with other jurisdictions. This will help to raise the bar for the implementation of actions and lead to lower carbon and more healthy and livable communities.

The Clean Air Partnership (CAP) is a registered charity whose mandate is to work with municipalities and their partners to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), increase their resiliency to extreme weather and make advancements towards a low carbon economy. CAP serves as the secretariat for the Clean Air Council.

Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change

In previous years, political representatives from each member jurisdiction were invited to attend a Summit in Toronto to build an increased awareness of the key role municipalities play in advancing air pollution and climate change solutions and sign the Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change. The format usually included a keynote speaker, time allotted for each jurisdiction to speak to their initiatives related to air pollution and climate change, and then the official signing of the latest Declaration on behalf of the municipality. While all political members of council were invited to attend the Summit, usually only one political representative from each jurisdiction was able to attend.

This year, CAP will be bringing the *Clean Air Council 2019-2023 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change* (Appendix A) to each of the CAC member municipalities. Gabriella Kalapos, Executive Director of CAP, will make a presentation at the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 4, 2019 to highlight the collective work accomplished by the Clean Air Council. If approved at the COW meeting, she will return to Burlington City Council on November 18 with a large Declaration for signing and for a photo opportunity.

Climate Impact

In April 2016, [Burlington's Strategic Plan 2015-2040](#) was approved. It states:

- “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.
- The city’s operations are net carbon neutral” (by 2040).

In April 2019, Council declared a climate emergency “for the purposes of deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, environment and community from climate change.”

[Burlington’s Plan: From Vision to Focus 2018-2022 workplan](#) approved in July 2019 further supports the above two actions and identified timelines for climate change mitigation and adaptation plans and other related initiatives as identified below.

There are seven sections identified in Article 3 - Call for Future Clean Air Council Action in the *2019-2023 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change* which are listed below along with the status in Burlington.

1. Getting the Municipal House in Order through continuous improvement and progress reporting related to implementation of energy conservation, green procurement, green fleets, community energy, and climate mitigation and resilience plans.

Status:

- [Corporate Energy Plan](#) first approved in 2013 with annual reporting to city council. New Corporate Energy and Emissions Management Plan 2019-2024 was approved in July 2019 with a path to net carbon neutrality by 2040. Annual updates will be provided to city council.
- [Green Procurement](#) policies approved in 2011.
- [Green Fleet Strategy](#) approved in 2008. The city’s Green Fleet Strategy will be updated by Q2 2021 as per [Burlington’s Plan: From Vision to Focus 2018-2022 workplan](#).
- The [Community Energy Plan](#) was approved by city council in 2014 with annual updates presented. The Community Energy Plan is transitioning into the [Climate Action Plan](#). Part 1 of the Climate Action Plan will speak to mitigation (Q3 2019) and Part 2 will speak to adaptation (Q1 2021).

2. Advancing Air Pollution, Low Carbon and Resilience Financial Mechanisms especially as it relates to expanding and scaling up proven projects, programs and mechanisms and leveraging intergovernmental and private sector opportunities.

Status:

- Staff will continue to monitor progress and assess Local Improvement Charge (LIC) financing mechanisms to support sustainable building retrofits (energy, water, stormwater) in the residential sector including an FCM funded study in York Region, to identify a range of LIC program design models appropriate to a tiered municipal government context as well as another study led by the Clean Air Partnership under the Climate Action Support Centre.
3. Scaling-Up Low Carbon Buildings through the uptake and transfer of green development standards, energy efficiency retrofits, air quality improvements, resilient building measures, and building energy disclosure and labelling.

Status:

- Review and update the Sustainable Building and Development by Q1 2021 as directed in [Burlington's Plan: From Vision to Focus 2018-2022 workplan](#).
 - Skyway Community Centre and Arena ([CW-48-19](#)) – designing the building to be a low carbon operation with geothermal energy, the use of recovered heat from the refrigeration plant to heat various portions of the facility, and to be solar ready (pending final funding approval).
 - City View Park Pavillion – designing its operation to be net carbon neutral.
4. Strengthening municipal capacity to consider and develop Value Propositions and Businesses Cases for Green Infrastructure.

Status:

- Updated Stormwater Management Design Standards in Q4 2019.
5. Maximizing Transportation Air Pollution and Carbon Reductions through the increased uptake of electric vehicles, implementation of active transportation/Complete Streets/Vision Zero plans, and integrated transportation and land use planning.

Status:

- Staff will complete the Integrated Mobility Plan by Q4 2020 and a Rural Active Transportation Strategy by Q3 2020 as directed in [Burlington's Plan: From Vision to Focus 2018-2022 workplan](#),
- Increased EV uptake will be part of the Corporate Green Fleet Strategy update by Q2 2021.

6. Incorporating Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience Considerations into Municipal Decision Making.

Status:

- A council direction in June 2019 to add "[Climate Impact](#)" to the staff report template was approved (item 4.12).

7. Working collaboratively with a Broadening Stakeholder Base to increase the understanding of the links between climate action, public health, community livability and financial sustainability.

Status:

- City of Burlington staff continue to explore and work on partnerships including the Bay Area Climate Change Council, the Climate Action Plan, International Urban Cooperation, Halton Climate Collective, GTA- Clean Air Council, etc.

Financial Matters:

Total Financial Impact

The Clean Air Partnership (the administrative body for the Clean Air Council) reported the following funding sources in 2019 thus far: federal government (\$200,000), municipalities (\$215,000), foundations and others (\$488,000) for a total of \$903,000. Of this amount, \$460,000 is directly dedicated to the delivery of the CAC Declaration actions including 100% of municipal funding.

The City of Burlington's membership fee for 2019-2020 is \$3,021 which includes access to research and other resources; monthly meetings that provide opportunities for discussion and collaboration and showcase best practices; and ongoing CAC webinars. The only additional fees incurred are monthly travel costs (train) to and from Toronto.

Potential costs to implement any of the items within the CAC Declaration that are outside of the approved budget will be brought forward to City Council through the regular budgetary process.

Source of Funding

The annual membership fee is part of the Capital Works (Energy and Environment Service) operating budget.

Other Resource Impacts

The city's Sustainability Project Coordinator or Senior Sustainability Coordinator attend monthly meetings in Toronto and extend the invitation to other city staff should the topic be applicable to their workplan. On occasion, city staff make presentations at meetings to share the city's progress and lessons learned on topics such as energy management, climate and clean air actions.

Connections:

It is acknowledged that clean air and climate change issues extend beyond the City of Burlington's borders. Membership in the Clean Air Council and participation in meetings and webinars provide an opportunity for collaboration and action across the GTA and beyond resulting in a greater positive impact on our shared airshed.

Public Engagement Matters:

While the annual Summit was always open to the public, it was held in Toronto. As such, the likelihood of Burlington residents attending the event was low. By bringing the declaration to each municipality, CAP is helping to raise the profile of the Declaration and the work that is being done by all of the member GTHA municipalities to a wider audience as committee and council meetings are generally recorded and publicly available.

Conclusion:

Being a signatory to the *Clean Air Council 2019-2023 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change* shows the City of Burlington's ongoing commitment to developing a clean, healthy and resilient community.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendices:

- A. Clean Air Council 2019-2023 Inter-Governmental Declaration on Clean Air & Climate Change

Notifications:

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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.