

A Delegation to Burlington City Council on Options for a Residential Deep Energy Retrofit Program, July 6, 2020

Good morning Your Worship, Chair, Councillors, and Staff. My name is Roman Talkowski and I am delegating on behalf of HACEN which stands for Halton Action for Climate Emergency Now. Very briefly, HACEN is a non-partisan group with members from The Council of Canadians, GASP (Grandmothers and Grand Others Acting to Save the Planet) and concerned residents. We are also working with other Halton groups such as Sustainable Milton, The Canadian Federation of University Women, Citizens Climate Lobby Canada, and Climate Reality among others, advocating for action on Climate Change.

Our objective is to raise awareness of the severity of the Global Climate crisis by lobbying municipal, regional, provincial and federal levels of government to create programs and enabling legislation to effectively tackle Climate Change.

HACEN has reviewed the 'Options for a Residential Deep Energy Retrofit Program' and we are pleased to see that next steps are being taken to meet the Climate Action Plan's commitment to reduce community emissions by 50% below 2016 levels by 2030, and to become carbon neutral by 2050.

We support this approach as it proposes to increase economic prosperity while supporting a sustainable infrastructure and a resilient natural environment. We also support adopting the '3rd Party Municipal Consortium Program' strategy as it appears to be an efficient and sensible approach.

However, we note that this report lacks timelines and implementation details. Perhaps this is intentional, but the omission is troubling in light of the urgency of the situation. I would like to point out that in spite of lower carbon and other GHG emissions due to the pandemic, the level of GHGs is still increasing. In May 2020, the world reached the highest ever recorded level of atmospheric CO₂ at 417.1 ppm. This is certainly the highest in recorded human history and, according to scientists, the highest in 3 million years when surface temperatures were warmer than they are today and sea levels were 50-80 feet higher (Washington Post, June 4, 2020).

But back to the report. We have questions on the 3rd Party Consortium Program which is composed of the IESO, the AMO, the HRAI and the City of Burlington. Our question is, when does it get off the ground? On what date, approximately, is it scheduled to come into existence and start providing the people of Burlington with an actual menu of retrofit options and with a services delivery model? When will marketing, promotion and education start, and when will we actually start the retrofitting to reduce GHG's emissions in older buildings? Oakville is launching their Implementation Management Office to do this. Is there a planned IMO equivalent for Burlington and what are the timing and target dates for the various stages of implementation?

The reason we ask is because the Burlington Climate Action Plan calls for nearly 40,000 dwellings to be retrofitted by 2025. It is now mid 2020 – we only have 4.5 years left. In our March 10th delegation, HACEN asked that the study and planning phase be significantly sped up and that retrofitting start not in 2023 as per the February report, but in 2021. We are asking for this again.

We also have 2 comments on financing. This report points out that FCM has announced a \$300M Community Efficiency Program. According to the 2016 Canada Census, there are 162 cities in Canada and many more towns, townships, villages and hamlets. Our share of the \$300 million would not be sufficient to make a dent in retrofitting Burlington. Additional federal government monies like the \$40K no interest program may or may not come through. If we step back and take another look at the big picture, it will take as much as \$880 million to retrofit the almost 40K homes (page 5 @ \$22K each) in the Burlington Climate Action Plan by 2025, so what is the status of the financing options and the timeframe going forward?

Our second point is the concept of off book debt and LIC financing. Given the State of California experience (page 6) of virtually no bad debt since 2014 on a similar program, will Burlington agree that LIC liened debt is a non-issue for the Burlington? In other words, is Burlington financially de-risked going this route and if so, would the City use its borrowing power to provide residents access to at least a portion of the funding required to achieve its retrofit goal.

The Residential Deep Energy Program is no small project. It's big, complicated and it's very important. We want to be positive and we want to be supportive, but given where we are today, it does not appear that Burlington is going to meet its Climate targets.

Consequently, we believe new measures and a serious re-visit of the plan are in order if we are to meet our climate targets.

This concludes our remarks. Thank you for the opportunity to delegate.

Roman Talkowski
on behalf of HACEN
July 6, 2020

Implementation milestones

	Implementation milestone (cumulative)					
Action	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Retrofit old homes (actions 5 & 6)						
# single detached dwellings retrofit	21,098	27,534	31,067	33,007	34,073	34,657
# double detached dwellings retrofit	1,638	2,138	2,412	2,563	2,646	2,691
# row house dwellings retrofit	7,924	10,341	11,668	12,396	12,797	13,016
# apartment dwellings retrofit	9,180	11,980	13,518	14,362	14,826	15,080
Total dwellings retrofit	39,841	51,993	58,665	62,329	64,340	65,445
Retrofit non-residential buildings (action 7)						
m ² commercial floorspace retrofit	301,912	386,484	432,918	458,414	472,412	480,098
m ² retail floorspace retrofit	557,639	713,845	799,610	846,701	872,556	886,752
m ² warehouse floorspace retrofit	267,518	342,455	383,600	406,190	418,594	425,404
m ² education floorspace retrofit	225,453	288,606	323,281	342,320	352,773	358,513
m ² institution floorspace retrofit	362,376	463,884	519,618	550,220	567,022	576,247