



**SUBJECT: Bay Area Climate Change Council**

**TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.**

**FROM: Environment, Infrastructure and Community Services**

Report Number: EICS-05-22

Wards Affected: N/A

File Numbers: 210-09

Date to Committee: May 5, 2022

Date to Council: May 17, 2022

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### **Recommendation:**

Direct the Executive Director of Environment, Infrastructure and Community Services to work with Mohawk College to execute a Memorandum of Understanding to guide the support for and implementation of the Bay Area Climate Change Council for the 2022/23 fiscal year in a form satisfactory to the Executive Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel; and

Approve one-time funding in the amount of \$56,000 for the Bay Area Climate Change Council from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund subject to the successful execution of the Memorandum of Understanding.

### **PURPOSE:**

#### **Vision to Focus Alignment:**

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Improve integrated city mobility
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture

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### **Background and Discussion:**

Mohawk College, as the administrator of the Bay Area Climate Change Council (BACCC), has submitted a request for Burlington to sign an updated Memorandum of Understanding to continue its support for BACCC and request funding in the amount of

\$56,000 for the 2022/23 fiscal year. The College has also advised that a subsequent request will be submitted for a four-year period (2023 – 2026) for consideration by the new council after the 2022 municipal election.

## **Background**

The Bay Area Climate Change Council (BACCC) was created in 2017 to bring together the cities of Hamilton and Burlington along with Mohawk College to work collaboratively on climate action. The vision for the new collaborative was to replicate a similar and successful structure of the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) which is focused on the restoration of Burlington Bay/Hamilton Harbour as part of the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan.

BACCC and its associated staff are administered by the Centre for Climate Change Management at Mohawk College. In 2020 a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the City and Mohawk College identifying the level of support that each entity would provide to BACCC. A similar agreement was also signed between the City of Hamilton and Mohawk College.

Burlington council approved one time funding support for BACCC over two years (2020 and 2021). Hamilton approved funding over a three year period (2020 – 2022) and Mohawk College continues to provide in-kind support.

## **Bay Area Climate Change Office/Council**

Two full time staff support the Bay Area Climate Change Council, which is composed of representation from 13 Bay Area stakeholder organizations:

- BurlingtonGreen
- Burlington Sustainable Development Committee
- Clean Air Hamilton
- Conservation Halton
- Economic Development Burlington
- Environment Hamilton
- Hamilton Health Sciences
- Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
- Hamilton Conservation Authority
- Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association
- Sustainability Leadership (formerly Sustainable Hamilton Burlington)
- The Hamilton Regional Indian Centre
- United Way Halton and Hamilton

In addition, there are two Bay Area Climate Change Implementation Teams (BACCITs) focusing on actions to reduce carbon emissions in the Buildings and Transportation

sectors respectively. Staff representatives from both cities act as liaisons to the Council and attend BACCC and BACCIT meetings. A total of nine youth have also been employed by BACCC to support climate action.

BACCC takes a collaborative approach with stakeholder members to support climate related research and policy initiatives, advocate for change, support municipal efforts to take action on climate change, and actively engage the community on climate change. The following is a sample of some of their recent work:

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Regional Inventory**

- BACCC commissioned a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory in 2018 which provided the basis for BACCC's workplan and focus on buildings and transportation.
- The work to develop the actions in Burlington's Climate Action Plan were based on this greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

### **Burlington Climate Action Plan**

- BACCC provided suggestions and comments as the City's Climate Action Plan was developed. Staff report regularly on the progress of the implementation of the Climate Action Plan to BACCC and the BACCIT for buildings as part of the ongoing stakeholder engagement process.

### **Local Retrofit Market Analysis**

- BACCC commissioned a research report to understand barriers to and opportunities for residential deep energy retrofits in the Bay Area. A key recommendation of the report was for BACCC to assess and support market readiness for the home energy retrofit sector, so that industry can 'meet the market' as retrofit programs are rolled out.
- Assessed the readiness of the local retrofit market – informed by stakeholder engagement.
- Created a targeted list of actors within the Hamilton Burlington retrofit market (ie. realtors, suppliers, tradespersons, auditors, etc.).
- Consultations ran from Feb. through Apr. 2021 and consisted of surveys and a series of one on one interviews (40+ interviews completed).
- Completed a literature review of available national programs, progress reports, and primary literature was also completed.
- Assessed gaps in the market actors' knowledge surrounding home retrofits, as well as typical gaps found among actors elsewhere.

### **Home Retrofit Municipal Policy Design**

- BACCC completed extensive policy analysis and program design for a municipal home retrofit program, available to the two cities, supporting the work completed by the CCCM for Burlington's home energy efficiency retrofit program. This involved:
  - Market Analysis – reviewing different types of retrofit programs found in municipalities around the world to understand the pros and cons of each option.
  - Cost Benefit Analysis – assessing popular retrofit options on the basis of cost and greenhouse gas impact.
  - Local Context Analysis – reviewing local factors, such as market readiness, which may impact a local incentive program.

### **Retrofit Delivery Centre Policy Analysis**

- BACCC has worked with the CCCM to advise on the business plan for a regional retrofit accelerator – a retrofit delivery centre.
- This centre would serve residents and businesses in understanding the process of home retrofits and government incentives.

### **Green Building Standard Recommendations**

- BACCC provided recommendations to city staff surrounding the drafting of green building standards to Burlington and Hamilton.

### **Economic Development Policy Recommendations**

- BACCC has worked with city staff to offer measures that would serve local economic development, while bring Hamilton and Burlington closer to achieving their climate change goals.
- These range from strategies to decarbonize industry, connect business areas to reliable public transit, and improved incentives for green commercial development.

### **Indigenous Collaboration Policy**

- BACCC staff are in consultations and drafting an Indigenous Collaboration Policy.
- Every major policy recommendation BACCC puts out should reflect the needs and perspectives of local Indigenous people. This policy will set up a system where we can build a relationship of trust and reciprocity, while providing government advice that is well consulted.

## **Low Carbon Transportation Report**

- BACCC completed this report with specific and tangible recommendations to mitigate barriers for walking, biking, and taking public transit in the region, such as safety, accessibility, and convenience.
- Extensive consultations completed through surveys, focus groups, and one on one interviews to understand the perspectives of community and technical experts on current and potential improvements to low-carbon transportation options and increase uptake among the diverse populations in our region.
- Background analysis of existing literature, data from local transit authorities, spatial analysis, a review of planning documents, and comparative policy analysis from other municipalities to form recommendations.

BACCC's work to support climate action aligns with the key areas in Burlington's Climate Action Plan to improve efficiency and reduce emissions from the buildings and transportation sectors to become a net carbon neutral community by 2050. BACCC provides another avenue for Burlington staff to engage local stakeholders and the community in the development of plans, strategies and programs, such as the home energy efficiency retrofit program.

## **Strategy/process**

A request for the City to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding to support the work of BACCC and contribute funding in the amount of \$56,000 for the 2022/23 fiscal year was submitted by the President of Mohawk College to the City Manager. In addition, the City Manager has received letters of support for this request from the following BACCC members:

- BurlingtonGreen
- Sustainability Leadership
- Clean Air Hamilton
- United Way (Halton Hamilton)

## **Options Considered**

The City could choose to discontinue its support for BACCC, however, this would risk losing the support of BACCC and its members, resources which augment the City's climate action efforts, and potential future partnership and collaboration which would need to be made up by additional direct investment by the City and also to leverage opportunities to significantly increase total community investment in local climate action. Ending the agreement and funding may also signal to community stakeholder

organizations that the City does not support its own Climate Emergency Declaration, pledging to take action on climate change.

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## **Financial Matters:**

Burlington contributed a total of \$64,000 from 2020 to 2021 (\$32,000/year) to BACCC. In comparison, the City of Hamilton contributed a total of \$160,000 (\$80,000/year). Mohawk is requesting an increase in the funding amount based on a per capita ratio with the City of Hamilton - \$56,000 for 2022. BACCC also leverages the investments by the two municipalities to access external sources of funding to support its climate action initiatives.

### **Total Financial Impact**

The total financial impact for the 2022 year is \$56,000.

### **Source of Funding**

It is proposed that the one-time funding of \$56,000 be allocated from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund. Ongoing funding for future city contributions post 2022 will be included in the multi-year simulation for consideration as part of the 2023 budget.

### **Other Resource Impacts**

Additional in-kind time is provided to support the work of BACCC through the sustainability staff team – acting as liaisons, providing information, arranging meetings, reviewing written materials and participating in community engagement initiatives.

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## **Climate Implications**

Climate change is a major global problem facing humanity and there is no one solution to fix this problem; there is no one organization that can fix this problem. It requires sustained investment in human and capital resources, collaborative approaches and ongoing community engagement. BACCC was created through a partnership between the Cities of Hamilton and Burlington and Mohawk College and provides invaluable support to community action on climate change.

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## **Engagement Matters:**

Since its establishment, BACCC has engaged the Bay Area communities through a variety of different means, such as social media and video campaigns to raise

awareness about climate action. BACCC hosts an annual free event for residents, providing learning and education opportunities on climate change and its impacts. In 2021, the Climate Forum event was completed sold out with 600 registrations and featured the internationally renowned Canadian climate scientist Katheryn Hayhoe. More recently, Burlington and Hamilton staff participated in an Ask Me Anything community webinar to speak about the respective climate actions taking place by both municipalities.

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## **Conclusion:**

Continued collaboration with and support for BACCC in partnership with Mohawk College and the City of Hamilton will help Burlington as it works to implement its community and corporate climate change plans to become a climate resilient, net carbon neutral community.

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Respectfully submitted,

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## **Notifications:**

Ron McKerlie, President of Mohawk College

## **Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.