



March 30, 2022

Re: Continued Funding for the Bay Area Climate Change Council (BACCC)

Dear City Manager Commisso:

United Way Halton and Hamilton works hard to serve our community at large, in support of our vision to create strong, empowered communities without barriers, in which everyone can thrive. We are committed to a net zero carbon future because climate change will hinder this vision, and inequitably impact our most vulnerable community members.

For this reason, I am writing to you today to request continued funding for BACCC, allowing the council to press forward with educating citizens and finding turnkey policy solutions for climate action.

Since its inception, BACCC has emerged as an organization capable of igniting substantial action beyond its size, with meaningful contributions to the community as we transition to net zero emissions.

In the two short years since the Cities of Burlington and Hamilton have provided funding:

- BACCC has supported over \$1 million in local investment requests
- BACCC has led over 15 policy initiatives to help local government tackle climate change in Hamilton and Burlington, including a complete municipal retrofit program design, a green economic development strategy, and an optimized transportation network framework
- BACCC hosts an annual free event for residents to learn about climate action (completely 'sold out' in 2021 with over 600 registrants)
- BACCC works hard to match its stable municipal funding with additional sources to maximize its regional climate impact
- BACCC has employed 9 additional youth, on top of the 2 full-time staff that are municipally funded

Unfortunately, the City of Burlington's funding for BACCC expires this year and continued funding was not included in the approved 2022-3 Municipal Budget. Without municipal funding, BACCC cannot continue to support our community as we transition to a low carbon future.

United Way Halton and Hamilton commends the City of Burlington for its contributions to BACCC thus far. Now is the time to reaffirm Burlington's commitment to climate action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Park", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brad Park
President and CEO, United Way Halton and Hamilton
bpark@uwhh.ca