



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Parks & Recreation Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Paul Anthony, Director Parks & Recreation Services

Date to Council: November 12, 2019

Report Number: PRS-2019-14

Subject: The Windsor Essex Climate Change Collaborative Partnership

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Parks and Recreation Report PRS-2019-14, The Windsor Essex Climate Change Collaborative Partnership **be received** for information;

And that the attached resolution to participate in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program and undertake a Corporate Climate Action Plan (CCAP) **be approved**;

And that the Town's contribution towards the PCP program for Essex County **be referred** to 2020 budget deliberations as a one-time funding request of \$15,000 in the Maintenance Department 2020 Requested Operating Budget;

And further that a member of Council and a member of the Energy Team **be appointed** as municipal representatives to oversee the implementation of the PCP milestones and be the points of contact for the PCP program within the municipality.

Background

In response to severe flooding, significant shoreline erosion and infrastructure failure, new and renewed threats from invasive species, beach closures, and other issues, the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) Board of Directors directed ERCA to lead the development of a regional climate change strategy with municipalities and other partners. Through this collaborative, ERCA has initiated a number of sector-based Implementation Teams, including

an Energy Sector, which is exploring regional partnership opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and identifying energy cost savings.

ERCA's Energy Sector Implementation Team has reached out to the Essex County lower tier municipalities seeking support for the development of a Community Collaborative Climate Change and Energy Plan. The Town's Energy Team supports this initiative and has included a one-time funding request of \$15,000 in the Maintenance Department 2020 Requested Operating Budget for Council consideration during the 2020 budget process.

The purpose of this Report is:

- i) to describe what constitutes a Community Energy Plan (CEP), how it would benefit the Town of Tecumseh and the County as a whole, and the process proposed to be undertaken to complete the plan;
- ii) to propose the preparation of a Corporate Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and explain its relationship to the County-wide CEP and the Town's Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (ECDM) adopted by Council in 2015;
- iii) to describe and propose Town membership in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection program.

Comments

Community Energy Plan

The County of Essex and ERCA are proposing to undertake a County-wide Community Energy Plan (CEP) in cooperation with the seven lower-tier municipalities and local energy distribution companies. A CEP is a long-term plan that identifies ways to improve energy efficiency, improve energy security, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while contributing to the overall quality of life across Essex County. Similar plans have been developed for the City of Windsor and Chatham-Kent. A county-wide regional CEP will find synergies with these existing plans and will build on, and support, existing regional initiatives, including the County-Wide Active Transportation System (CWATS) and any regional transit initiatives.

In addition to the direct environmental benefits (reduced emissions, healthier ecosystems) and health benefits (improved air quality, improved physical and mental health), energy costs are an important economic driver, particularly in terms of business retention and expansion. Ensuring an adequate supply of serviced employment land is essential to the economic health of the region and incorporating energy data and policy into land use and economic development decisions will attract investment, allow businesses to benefit from synergies, and assist in reducing energy costs for businesses.

Currently, the County of Essex has committed \$75,000 to the project and it is hoped all municipalities will agree to include an allocation of \$15,000 in their 2020 budget deliberations. These County and local contributions are being leveraged for an Ontario Ministry of Energy Municipal Energy Plan grant request of \$90,000.

Benefits of undertaking a CEP include:

Economic Benefits	Health and Social Benefits	Resilience Benefits
Recirculate energy spending within the local economy	Improve social connectivity and mental health	Improve access to reliable sources of energy
Create high-quality, local jobs	Reduce cardiovascular diseases and respiratory illnesses	Reduce exposure to energy price volatility
Attract and retain businesses	Increase physical activity	Provide solutions for areas facing energy poverty
Capitalize on a growing clean technology market	Reduce healthcare costs and heat island effect	Recognize local priorities
Private investment for new energy projects	Improve air quality (indoor and outdoor)	Reducing the replacement cost of asset renewal

The above benefits are supported through Quest Canada (a national non-government organization that works to accelerate the adoption of efficient and integrated community-scale energy systems in Canada), where previous case studies were examined after the implementation of a CEP. A CEP has the potential to provide Canadian communities with a systematic approach for realizing substantial economic savings, new job creation and strengthened local economies, and improved environmental and human health. It also has the potential to create many co-benefits, where these can influence a company’s decision to remain in a community by lowering energy costs; attract new, high tech investment by offering an affordable, reliable, clean and stable energy supply. A CEP can also improve marketability of a neighbourhood through urban renewal, and increase energy resilience and affordability in remote communities.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is a critical piece of a CEP, which will take place with a Community Task Force as well as public consultation. The Town’s Energy Team has identified community engagement and consultation as a next step for energy planning for the Town of Tecumseh. Taking a regional approach will align needs of residents who live, work, and recreate across the region. Furthermore, this holistic approach will ensure a shared vision while respecting local differences between municipalities.

Timeline - Community Energy Plan

ERCA, in partnership with the County and municipalities, will retain a consultant to aid in the development of an integrated plan based on a traditional strategic planning model. A Project Management Team, which will include administration from the County, municipalities, ERCA, energy distribution companies, industry, and NGOs (Non-Government Organizations), will guide the process.

The proposed phases of plan development are as follows:

September 2019 - December 2019

Phase 1: Project Work Planning: Gather Stakeholders, Define Current Conditions, and Prepare Baseline Energy Studies

January 2020 - July 2021

Phase 2: Forecasts and Targets:

- a) develop business as usual GHG forecasts;
- b) develop spatial modeling and energy mapping;
- c) review inventories, forecasts, and energy maps;
- d) develop community sector-based targets; and
- e) prepare GHG inventory update, forecast and targets report.

Phase 3: Community Energy Plan:

- a) community and stakeholder engagement;
- b) develop vision, short-term and long-term goals;
- c) develop long list of actions/strategies and energy conservation potential; and
- d) develop policy recommendations and prioritize "quick win" actions.

Phase 4: Implementation Plan and Reporting:

- a) prepare implementation Plan;
- b) present draft plans to councils as needed;
- c) community engagement;
- d) review and refinement of the draft plan.

Town of Tecumseh Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (ECDM)

The Town, as mandated by the *Green Energy Act* through *O.Reg 397/11* and later replaced by the *Energy Act 1998, O.Reg 507/18 Broader Public Sector: Energy Reporting Conservation and Demand Management Plans*, adopted an Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (ECDM) in 2015. An ECDM incorporates the municipality's annual energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions for its operations and summarizes measures for reducing energy consumption. At its September 10, 2019 Regular meeting, Council was provided with an update of the progress made toward the energy reduction targets and details on initiatives being considered for future implementation. Administration is currently in the final stages of updating this plan with new energy conservation goals and objectives.

Corporate Climate Action Plan

A Corporate Climate Action Plan (CCAP) is similar to an Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (ECDM) in terms of establishing baseline energy profiles. A CCAP takes these baseline emissions and expands on their emissions inventory, recommended actions, and implementation considerations. Those profiles not mandated to be included in an ECDM but recommended to be included in a CCAP are: traffic, street and other outdoor lights, water and wastewater, and vehicle fleets. Additionally, a CCAP reports on groups of buildings or departments and other operations, rather than grouping all municipal operations together for a total emissions count. This provides a more focused baseline that allows for a more detailed action plan on municipal-owned facilities.

The timing of this plan is important as it aligns with the new 'Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan', aiming to "preserve and protect our environment for future generations." ECDM programs have benefited many consumers in Ontario, but this ongoing trend of emissions growth calls for bolder action. The CCAP will reflect the County-wide Community Energy Plan (CEP) goals and visions, but will renew corporate climate action efforts by establishing a framework — including long-term goals, policy and short-term actions — to achieve strategic priorities to integrate a climate lens into decision-making and to accelerate corporate mitigation and adaptation activities. The CCAP will demonstrate leadership within operations and the management of municipal-owned facilities, assets and lands to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

Partners for Climate Protection (PCP)

The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program, from ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Canada) and FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities), uses the following five-step Milestone Framework that guides municipalities through keeping an emissions inventory and setting reduction targets:

- Milestone 1: Create a GHG emissions inventory and forecast
- Milestone 2: Set an emissions reduction target
- Milestone 3: Develop a local action plan
- Milestone 4: Implement the Local Action Plan

Milestone 5: Monitor progress and reporting results

The PCP program provides free online tools, support from regional advisors and access to funding opportunities (see Attachment 1). The PCP tool will make emission recording easier for the County-wide CEP and the Town's CCAP, as it incorporates corporate and community emission options. By storing information in the PCP tool, future emissions and trends can be tracked by reviewing past emissions and future use of the tool for progress monitoring.

Through the Town Energy Committee's 2019 budget, Administration committed \$2,500 to support a Parks and Recreation Ontario Green Jobs Initiative student placement at ERCA. As part of her role, this student is able to work with the Town to collect baseline energy data for the CCAP and record the inventory through the PCP online tool. To gain access to PCP online tools, however, the Town has to pass a resolution to participate in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection program (see Attachment 2).

Consultations

Planning & Building Services
Financial Services
Essex Region Conservation Authority

Financial Implications

Undertaking these projects on a municipal scale, instead of region-wide scale, would cost upwards of \$100,000. The energy analytics and community engagement costs will be substantially reduced through the proposed approach. The Town's share through this collaborative approach would be \$15,000. A one-time funding request of \$15,000 will be included in the 2020 Maintenance Department Requested Operating Budget for Council consideration during the 2020 budget process.

Joining the Partners for Climate Protection initiative is free and provides access to a variety of online tools. The City of Windsor and Town of Essex are already members and undertaking these projects will open doors for future funding through FCM.

Community Energy Plan

Income	Amount
Green Jobs Initiative, Parks and Recreation Ontario (confirmed)	\$3,000
Essex Region Conservation Authority (student funding)	\$2,500
County of Essex (confirmed)	\$75,000
Ontario Ministry of Energy (Application in review)	\$90,000
Municipal Support* \$15,000 x 7 (Towns of Tecumseh, LaSalle, Amherstburg, Lakeshore, Kingsville, Leamington, Essex) *approved for inclusion in 2020 budget deliberations	\$105,000
Total	\$275,500
Project Planning, Stakeholder Engagement	\$40,500
Baseline studies & analytics	\$65,000
CEP Development, Community Engagement, Implementation Plan Development	\$170,000
Total	\$275,500

Corporate Climate Action Plan

Income	Amount
Green Jobs Initiative, Parks and Recreation Ontario (confirmed)	\$2,500
Town of Tecumseh (Confirmed)	\$2,500
Total	\$5,000

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
------------	------------------------------

- Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
- Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
- Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
- Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
- Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable

Website

Social Media

News Release

Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Ray Hammond, RRFO, CARPT
Manager Facilities

Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed by:

Chad Jeffery, MA, MCIP, RPP
Manager Planning Services

Reviewed by:

Paul Anthony, RRFA
Director Parks & Recreation Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	PCP Member Benefits and Responsibilities
2	Council Resolution to Join the FCM-ICLEI PCP Program