



## The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Chief Administrative Officer

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Margaret Misek-Evans, Chief Administrative Officer

**Date to Council:** December 10, 2019

**Report Number:** CAO-2019-12

**Subject:** Climate Change Emergency Declaration

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**Whereas** the most recent report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC) has indicated that within less than 12 years, in order to keep the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius and maintain a climate compatible with human civilization, there must be a reduction in carbon emissions of about 45% from 2010 levels, reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050; and

**Whereas** based on current projections of the future impacts of human caused climate change, climate change will adversely impact Windsor-Essex's local economy, damage local infrastructure and property, put a strain on municipal budgets and result in significant economic and health burdens for the constituents of Windsor-Essex, particularly our vulnerable populations; and

**Whereas** climate change will jeopardize the health and survival of many local plant and animal species, as well as their natural environments and ecosystems; and

**Whereas** Windsor-Essex is already experiencing large and increased climate change impacts, including but not limited to overland flooding, heavy rain event flooding, emergence of invasive species, an increased number of high heat days, the rise of vector borne diseases, the re-emergence of blue-green algae and harmful algal blooms in our lakes and rivers; and

**Whereas** municipalities are understood to produce and/or have regulatory jurisdiction over approximately 50% of carbon emissions in Canada; and

**Whereas** the County of Essex joins the Government of Canada and 444 Canadian municipalities (including Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal, and 18 other Ontario municipalities, among them Chatham-Kent, Sudbury, Sarnia, Guelph, and Kingston) that have declared climate emergencies, some of which are also implementing strategic plans in order to help reduce global carbon emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and

**Whereas** the City of Windsor, the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) and the Windsor Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) are committed to and currently undertaking city and regional climate change planning, encompassing both mitigation and adaptation, in partnership with others; and

**Whereas** the County of Essex, the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), local municipalities in Essex County, in partnership with other community stakeholders, are undertaking a Regional Community Energy Plan to assist the County of Essex and local municipalities to align with provincial and federal energy policies and programs; and

**Whereas** this emergency is an opportunity to bring together County, City and Local municipal governments, as well as regional stakeholders to work together on climate change planning and implementation with the aim of protecting our region and contributing to greater national and global climate change response; and

**Whereas** implementing climate action and making a transition to a low-carbon economy also represents a significant opportunity to stimulate economic growth, increase job opportunities and develop new technologies;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh declare a Climate Emergency in the knowledge that this is an emergency with no foreseeable conclusion which will require robust and permanent changes in how municipalities conduct their business;

**And further that** in response to this emergency, the need to reduce overall emissions from the Town of Tecumseh as well as continue to prepare for Windsor-Essex County's climate future are deemed to be high priorities when considering budget direction and in all decisions of Council;

**And further that** the Town Administration be directed to identify priority action items, implementation measures and cost requirements for those programs and services it is responsible for, to accelerate and urgently work towards the reduction of emissions and preparing for our climate future.

## **Background**

Recently the Council for the County of Essex passed a Climate Change Emergency Declaration, as attached to this report. In that Declaration, the final paragraph urges the local municipalities in Essex County to adopt a similar declaration, as an endorsement. The City of Windsor made its declaration of climate change emergency on November 18<sup>th</sup> and the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) endorsed the resolution at its most recent meeting. Hundreds of Canadian municipalities, including neighbouring Chatham-Kent have passed similar declarations.

## **Comments**

The endorsement of such a declaration is in keeping with Council's strategic priorities to make Tecumseh a better place to live, work and invest, to ensure that the Town's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability, to integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of the Town's plans and priorities and to demonstrate a leadership role in the community.

The recent initiative to partner with the County and the area municipalities and ERCA to co-create a Community Energy Plan is among the primary steps taken by the Town to mitigate climate change, create economic efficiencies and improve energy performance. Policy and program initiatives are already underway to address climate change including a climate action policy framework in the new Official Plan, the new Storm Water Management Standards, the Flood Emergency Preparedness Plan, with associated Action Plan and the Tecumseh Storm Drainage Master Plan. Additional work is planned that aligns with the final paragraph of the resolution directing Administration to identify priority action items, implementation measures and costs to accelerate efforts to prepare for our climate future.

## **Consultations**

Financial Services  
Planning & Building Services  
Public Works & Environmental Services

## **Financial Implications**

The financial implications associated with studies, plans and the implementation of recommended actions will be provided to Council as part of the annual operating and capital budgeting process. There are no immediate financial implications associated with making the declaration.

## Link to Strategic Priorities

| Applicable                          | 2019-22 Strategic Priorities  |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ensure that Tecumseh’s current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh’s plans and priorities.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Steward the Town’s “continuous improvement” approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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 prepared by, and is recommended for submission by, the Chief Administrative Officer.

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer

| <b>Attachment Number</b> | <b>Attachment Name</b>   |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1                        | Proposed Essex County Council Climate Change Emergency Declaration                                     |
| 2                        | Report No 105 of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee – Climate Change Emergency Declaration |