



Committee Matters: SCM 397/2019

Subject: Report No. 105 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee - Climate Change Emergency Declaration

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Kaschak

Decision Number: **ETPS 715**

THAT report no. 105 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee – Climate Change Emergency Declaration indicating:

THAT the following Climate Change Emergency Declaration prepared by the Air Subcommittee of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee BE APPROVED:

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 increase 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 City of Windsor join 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 this emergency is an opportunity to bring together County, City and Town 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 City of Windsor 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 the City and County conduct their business; and further,

THAT in response to this emergency, the need to reduce overall emissions from the City of Windsor and the County of Essex 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 City of Windsor administration BE DIRECTED to prepare reports for consideration by their respective Councils within 90 days containing recommendations for priority actions items, implementation measures and cost requirements to accelerate and urgently work towards the reduction of emissions and preparing for our climate future.

BE APPROVED; and further,

THAT the County of Essex **BE REQUESTED** to consider adopting the resolution as outlined above.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 362/2019
Clerk's File: MB2019

Clerk's Note: the recommendation of the Standing Committee and Advisory Committee are **not** the same.



Committee Matters: SCM 362/2019

**Subject: Report No. 105 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee -
Climate Change Emergency Declaration**

REPORT NO. 105
of the
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (WECEC)
of its meeting held
September 19, 2019
at 5:00 o'clock p.m.
Lou Romano Reclamation Plant

Members present at the September 19, 2019 meeting:

Councillor Chris Holt, Chair
Councillor Kieran McKenzie
Leo Meloche, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg
Keri Banar
Derek Coronado
Rosanna Demarco
Michael Schneider
Richard St. Denis
Radwan Tamr
Jerry Zhu

Regrets received from:

Hilda MacDonald, Mayor of Leamington
Katie Kuker

Your Committee submits the following recommendation:

Moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by K. Banar,
That the following Climate Change Emergency Declaration prepared by the Air Subcommittee of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee **BE APPROVED:**

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 increase 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 and the City of Windsor join 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 this emergency is an opportunity to bring together County, City and Town 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 both the City of Windsor and the County of Essex 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 the City and County conduct their business; and further,

That in response to this emergency, the need to reduce overall emissions from the City of Windsor and the County of Essex 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 City of Windsor and County of Essex administrations **BE DIRECTED TO PREPARE REPORTS** for consideration by their respective Councils within 90 days containing recommendations for priority actions items, implementation measures and cost requirements to accelerate and urgently work towards the reduction of emissions and preparing for our climate future.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

NOTIFICATIONS:		
WECEC Committee	On file	
Mary Birch, County of Essex	mbirch@countyofessex.on.ca	
Anneke Smit, University of Windsor	asmit@uwindsor.ca	
Richard Wyma, ERCA	rwyma@erca.org	
Amandeep Hans, Windsor Essex County Health Unit	ahans@wechu.org	
Brian Lennie, Senior Advisor Enbridge	Brian.lennie@enbridge.com	



October 18, 2019

Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing
Committee
City of Windsor

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**RE: Report No. 105 of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee – Climate Change
Emergency Declaration**

The Essex Region Conservation Authority strongly supports the proposed climate emergency declaration by the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee for the City of Windsor and County of Essex.

In 2019 alone, our region has experienced first-hand the impacts of warmer, wetter and wilder effects of climate change. Record high water levels in Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, which resulted in closures of roads and facilities, parks and conservation areas, placed our region under flood watch for 189 days and caused flooding throughout the region and our shorelines.

These challenges follow successive years of intense rain events in 2016 and 2017 that resulted in over 9,000 reports of flooding and hundreds of millions of dollars in insured losses. Significant spring rainfall severely disrupted crop cycles and associated farm revenues. Changes in weather patterns have resulted in annual reoccurrence of harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie and, more recently, Lake St. Clair. New vector borne diseases are being found in our region.

Both the evidence and the science are very clear that the impacts of climate change are very apparent, perhaps here more than anywhere else in Ontario. Our municipalities are at the front line of much climate damage and are taking steps to address impacts of climate change through mitigation and adaptation – investing in infrastructure, strengthening flood and emergency response plans, undertaking shoreline management and hazard mapping, supporting community energy planning, building active and alternative transportation options, and reviewing planning tools to ensure the reflect provincial policies and local climate realities.

With this declaration, our municipalities recognize that these 'permanent and robust changes' can best be achieved through partnerships and collaboration. The Windsor Essex Climate Change Collaborative, formed earlier this year, commits the Essex Region

Conservation Authority to support our municipalities as they prepare for the future climate and we are looking forward to working with the City, County and municipalities to develop action plans that reflect both the steps we are taking today, and the actions we need to take in the future.

ERCA is dedicated to sustaining and enriching the environment of the Windsor-Essex-Peel Island region to ensure it continues to be the Place for Life in the face of these immense environmental challenges.



Richard Wyma
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



Claire Sanders
Climate Change Specialist

