Hamilton

HAMILTON'S CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY

Feedback Report from Public Information Session held June 29, 2022

Prepared by:
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This Feedback Report has been prepared by the Independent Facilitator. It includes the verbatim questions, comments and responses that were noted at the June 29, 2022, Public Information Session. To view the Draft CEEP visit the Engage website: https://engage.hamilton.ca/ceep To view Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan (CCIAP) visit the Engage website https://engage.hamilton.ca/climate-change-adaptation

HAMILTON'S CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY
Feedback Report from Virtual Public Information Session held June 29, 2022

About This Report

The Virtual Public Information Session held on June 29, 2022, presented and sought input on two important pieces for moving forward to implement Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy.

The purpose of this PIC was to:

- Present Hamilton's Draft Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP)
- Present Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan (CCIAP)
- Receive feedback and answer questions

Feedback from the meeting is being reviewed by City Staff and considered in refining the draft CEEP and finalizing the CCIAP.

This report, prepared by Facilitator Sue Cumming, MCIP RPP, Cumming+Company, includes what was heard from the public at the Public Information Session. It is intended to provide a record of what was heard and responses from the Project Team. Sections 2, 3 and 4 include the public input that was noted through the virtual Public Information Session. The comments and questions included are verbatim.

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1. ABOUT THE VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATON SESSION

The Virtual Public Information Session held on June 29, 2022, presented and sought input on two important pieces for moving forward to implement Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy as shown on Figure 1.

Figure 1: Status of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy and Focus of Public Information Session

The Virtual Public Information Session was held by way of an online webinar on June 29, 2022, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Participants registered in advance of the meeting. 78 participants registered and 52 connections participated at the meeting. Some of these may have included more than one individual.

The format included live presentations from City Staff on Hamilton's Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) and Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan (CCIAP) followed by questions and answers. Presenters included:

Presenters (City of Hamilton):

Christine Newbold, Manager, Sustainable Communities Section, Planning Division, Planning and Economic Development Department

Trevor Imhoff, Senior Project Manager, Air Quality & Climate Change, Public Health Services - Healthy Environments, Healthy and Safe Communities Department

Andrea McDowell, Project Manager, Air Quality & Climate Change, Public Health Services - Healthy Environments, Healthy and Safe Communities Department

Independent Facilitator: Sue Cumming, Cumming+Company

Following the presentation, City Staff responded to a Q and A period. Those who wanted to share a comment or question were able to do so by typing these into the Q and A question box. Comments and questions were then read aloud by the Independent Facilitator and answered live by the presenters. Individual names were not read aloud when the questions were asked. Participants could ask multiple questions. Over half the participants - 29 individuals provided comments and questions through the Q and A. The majority of the questions were read aloud. All the comments and questions are included in Section 2 of this Feedback Report. Questions received in advance of the Public Information Session through Engage Hamilton are included together with City Staff responses in Section 3 of this report. A number of these were also read aloud at the meeting.

During the presentation, attendees were also asked some questions on live polls using *Mentimeter* to get feedback. Questions appeared on the screen and were read aloud by the Facilitator. Questions could be answered by going to the *Mentimeter* website and entering the code for each question. Attendees could also enter responses in the Q and A. The responses provided are found in Section 4 of this Feedback Report. Appendix 1 includes comments received after the meeting.

Following the meeting, the PowerPoint Slide deck and recording of the presentation were posted on Engage Hamilton. In addition, a post meeting survey was provided to all registrants. Responses are being reviewed by City Staff.

2. WHAT WAS HEARD - COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS NOTED THROUGH Q & A

This summary is intended as a record of "What was Heard" – public comments and questions raised at the June 29, 2022, Public Information Session. The following table includes the verbatim comments and questions grouped by topic about Hamilton's Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) and Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan (CCIAP). Each bullet point is a different person's comment or question. Personal identifying information i.e., the name of the individuals asking questions is not included. Where responses were provided at the meeting, these are included in the table. Comments and other questions were noted, and all feedback is being considered by City Staff in their finalization of the Community Energy and & Emissions Plan and Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan.

Table A – What was Heard about Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
2.1.	**Overall Strategy and Direction**	• Have most cities in North America developed climate action plans? *Response from City Staff: We are aware of lots of municipalities that have or are developing plans in terms of mitigation and adaptation. We can't say most but we know that it is a big issue for municipalities. An excellent source to learn about municipal action around the world is the Carbon Disclosure Project which is one of the largest global and transparent reporting on municipality action around the world. On their website they indicate that they have information from over 1000 municipalities.* • Have the recommendations included the following: addition of bicycle lanes to all new road building or rebuilding, education of citizens on how they can make adjustments in their own private spheres to reduce their carbon footprint? and encouraging a work from home culture moving forward?

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
	Overall Strategy and Direction (continued)	*Response from City Staff: Education is definitely a part of every action in the plan and a key role of Climate Change Office would be to have a strong public education program. There are also many organizations and groups that have resources and provide information to the general public as well and that is something that we encourage for sharing knowledge and best practices. Education is something that we know is very important for people to have so that they can take actions.* *With respect to the bicycle lanes, the City does have a Cycling Master Plan and it is being implemented. We have a very old city with very old streets and the Master Plan looks at ways to make the connections and identifying the safest way to travel by bicycle. Tapping into the active transportation network is a very important piece and it plays a very important and strong function of the emission plan as it allows people to get out of their cars. Our Transportation Planning Group has approval and funding for many projects and initiatives and are moving forward with these. It is only possible to do so many each year and there is always room for improvement to do more.* • An important comment is to consider how the municipality will prioritize spending between mitigation and adaptation? Mitigation is necessary but without immediate benefit. Adaptation is also necessary, but with the potential for immediate benefit. If my basement is flooding, for example, adaptation measures have an immediate impact - not decarbonization - even though both are absolutely necessary. • Right now residents are working to challenge an Ontario Land Tribunal application to pave over the headwaters of the Ancaster Creek the Garner Marsh. City Zoning via the Airport Employment Growth District (AEGD) is what is putting these previously unmapped key natural areas at risk. The province isn't funding new wetland assessments. Why is there no discussion of these ongoing climate issues in the plan? The development of the AEGD will damage and isolate a substantial portion of our current natural heritage system. Why is this not explored? • With respect to encouraging remote work - why is the determined action to *consider* an educational campaign on the benefits of work from home and remote work? If this was a priority couldn't our Economic Development Department take on a climate/green industry lens in recruiting new biz? Hamilton gave subsidies to Amazon recently. If we can pay to incentivize a carbon-based employer to set up in our community, could we not do the same with green industry and remote work organizations.
2.2	**About GHG Emissions**	**GHG Emissions:** • My comment is that net zero by 2050 is too far away, a literal life sentence away. I truly believe it is not ambitious enough and it allows the city to kick the can down the road. Climate change is upon us now and we must aggressively mitigate now. Hamilton in particular is so far behind as it allows industry to pollute at higher levels based on history with the steel industry all at the expense of its residents and the environment.

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
	About GHG Emissions (continued)	• Why are there not specific annual targets for GHG emissions reductions? • Since the IPCC has said that net zero by 2050 will avert the worst impacts of climate change only if there is a 45% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030, can that 45% reduction be built into the goals? • I agree that 2050 is too far away! Its just not the reality anymore. • I completely agree that 2050 is too late! It's what the banks are shooting for ending their funding of fossil fuels and the banks are not a good role model. 2030 is a much more realistic target that gives all humanity, including Hamiltonian humans and other living beings here and the land a much better chance of survival. If staff haven't, I recommended Seth Klein's book A Good War that suggests efforts on a "WWII scale "are needed. Will the City reconsider this target date? *Response from City Staff: It is important to confirm that previous to the Climate Change Emergency Declaration by City Council, the city approved an interim target of 50% reduction by 2030 and target of 80% by 2050. Since the declaration and based on global climate change science and consensus we now know that we need to get to net zero by 2050. We have the interim target of 50% reduction by 2030 based on our 2006 baseline. City staff do have annual reporting and we report annually on community wide GHG emissions broken down by sector and it allows us to track our progress or lack thereof progress.* *Another example is how the city is developing programs for developing targets and monitoring the impact of actions. For instance with respect to the Building Retrofit Program, we have been successful in obtaining funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to develop that program and we want to develop that program in a very open and transparent way. We will be doing that over the next year. When we develop it, we will be looking at market readiness as well as market penetration estimates for building retrofits to then set informed annual targets for building retrofits. So those annual targets are very much top of mind for us as well as very important key performance indicators or metrics whether that be for building retrofits or for other strategies like the EV strategy.* • Are there any plans to address increasing emissions at the expanding Hamilton Airport? *Response from City Staff: We have consulted with Hamilton Airport, and they have hired a company called the Vantage Group and the director of environmental, social and governance is Alex Chapman and used to be the lead Climate Change person for the City of Guelph and he is well respected. The Hamilton airport has the full intent to develop an environmental, social and governance strategy. They haven't released anything yet and I don't want to assume anything with respect to their targets to de-carbonize but part of that ESG certification that they are pursuing is reduction in green house gas emissions.*

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
	About GHG Emissions (continued)	*I also wanted to make a disclaimer that in term of our net zero target we know that there will be remaining emissions and so therefore it is critically important that we increase our natural environment, our tree planting and our carbon sinks. I did see some comments tonight about our natural environment and I wanted to address that these are equally important and there will be a small carbon gap which will need to be addressed through renewable energy generation, increased natural environment and tree planting, etc.*
2.3	**Low Carbon Transformations**	**Low-Carbon Transformation #1 - Innovating our Industry** • It would appear from the graphic charts that the emphasis needs to be on industry in terms of converting to carbon neutral measures, for the greatest impact to overall well being. What measures may be taken to facilitate this process? • How much reduction in industrial emissions will net zero require? • Funding needs to come from those who emit the most carbon. **Low-Carbon Transformation #2 - Transforming our Buildings** • Regarding Low-Carbon Transformation #2 on buildings, you mentioned the need to scale up. I understand there are many solar co-operatives in other municipalities across the country (i.e., the Clean Foundation in Nova Scotia). If there are such initiatives coming up from the community, in what ways will the city support this effort? *Response from City Staff: One example is the city's aims to pursue a Home Energy Retrofit Opportunity or HERO program, Council did approve staff going after federal funding to develop a program. We are currently looking at different type of retrofits that could be included. This type of program generally provides low or no interest loans to encourage building owners to retrofit their building to increase energy efficiencies. There are many different retrofits that we are exploring, and we are doing a business case analysis on the different types of retrofits such as the air source heat pumps as well as looking at solar and other renewable energy. There are also links in our climate adaptation plan as well that we want to pay close attention relating to permeable pavers, rain gardens, rain barrels. These will be examined in more detail through the retrofit program design.* • Need for stricter building codes for new builds both industrial and residential. This should have happened a long time ago. We know this was coming. Heat pumps for all houses and industrial buildings. • A recent staff input to a proposal for a new 15-storey apartment building made no reference to climate change. It is important to have climate change considerations be part of the processing by planning staff as soon as possible. • What about embodied emissions in buildings, in addition to operational emissions? • Can climate change impact development standards be incorporated into what development is occurring right now. Can these be incorporated into the building design.

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
	Low Carbon Transformations (continued)	*Response from City Staff: We do have the process underway to develop green building standards which would be components of the site plan guidelines together with other standalone requirements specific to buildings. Those are not developed yet. There are other things like energy efficiencies that are guided by or mandated through the Building Code which is enforced through the Building Division. Development applications come in and when approved go to the Building Division. From the development side, we are limited in terms of what we can require. The whole point of creating green development standards is to identify the suite of things that we can either require or incentivize to some degree. There may be new standards for the Building Code this fall.* • Regarding building energy codes: there's no need to reinvent the wheel. Adopt the Toronto Green Standard or the BC Step Code. Both offer builders time to adapt. **Low-Carbon Transformation #3 - Changing How We Move** • Active Transit and Car Sharing: how were the targets for in personal auto trips determined? Can more be said about the connection between transit planning choices and car use? For example there are cities with no cars in their downtowns, other cities are bringing car shares into new builds, where is this discussion with regard to these targets? • Can designated bus lanes be reinstated for speedy transportation. **Low-Carbon Transformation #4 - Revolutionizing Renewables** • Excited to hear about co-op neighborhood generation. would be very supportive of this. Are any panelists aware of places to start for someone who is interested in creating one? *Response from City Staff: In terms of local Ontario perspective, I would recommend looking up the Ontario Cooperative Association as they are an association with advice and strategies for any type of co-operative. Another one and an important one is the Renewable Co-Op Regeneration. There are some co-ops and partnerships in Ontario. I note that there is reference in the Q and A to the Clean Foundation in Nova Scotia and there may be others internationally as well. These are very important, and we are looking to encourage and incentivize and increase these types of co-operatives.* • Remove Enbridge from the process and stop the support of renewable natural gas. Natural liquified gas is actually a very dangerous fossil fuel. Stop using it in HSR and new buildings. • Avoid being influenced by Enbridge, who will want to keep so-called "renewable natural gas"-which is still methane-flowing through its pipelines. • Plan for Hydrogen use. • I suggest biogas be dropped as alternative fuel; the world needs crops as food.

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
	Low Carbon Transformations (continued)	*Response from City Staff: On our Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Enbridge was participating, and all the Utilities were invited to participate as stakeholders. We do involve Utilities and we want to tap into their local knowledge and expertise with working with local energy solutions. The Utilities are moving towards having a more community focus component to their operations and developing community focused programs and are working with municipalities on local energy challenges. They have worked as stakeholders on many local community energy plans with municipalities across the province. We do want to maintain good partnerships with them so that we can work with them to realize some of the actions that are in the Plan. All our Utilities are important stakeholders helping us with the Plan.* • Does the Plan phase out natural gas for new buildings as soon as possible? *Response from City Staff: The actions that are in the Plan are the ones that we are initially getting started on. I don't want to call them near term actions because some will take some time. We will have to go back to check on the modelling for the specific natural gas component to determine what the consultants were recommending.* *Response from City Staff: This is why we consulted and included every local utility. The low carbon scenario model is based on best evidence, consultation, and best practices but mainly around the data and looking at the most recent up to date information to model the targets as well as to create the actions within the CEEP. The way that the model deals with the building sector is efficiency first. So, we are looking at retrofitting almost all of our buildings across Hamilton. That will not only reduce fossil fuel use within those buildings it will reduce the electrical consumption as well and that is an extremely important part. This will enable us to work on the next phase and this is something that we are committed to working on is the building retrofit program i.e. funding for air source heat pumps. The way the model works in terms of priority is it looks at efficiency first looking at retrofits and then it also looks at other mechanical switching - so getting off natural gas and other fossil fuel base for air source heat pumps for electrical space heating.* **Low-Carbon Transformation #5 - Growing Green** • UN draft targets for post 2020 Biodiversity Framework have clear restoration targets by 2030 and 2050. I believe one target is restoring 20% of degraded freshwater systems by 2030. Why are these targets not discussed? Could they be adopted at the local scale? *Response from City Staff: We do have a Biodiversity Strategy in process. I am not sure if that is part of the Biodiversity Strategy. City Staff can follow up on that.* *Response from City Staff: With respect to water quality and measuring flooding and water levels for freshwater bodies. There are other programs and other strategies that deal with that type of restoration for example the Clean Harbour Program and there are projects that relate*

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
	Low Carbon Transformations (continued)	*to cleaning up the contaminated harbour. The City being led by the Hamilton Water Division of Public Works is also looking at a watershed action plan to prevent contamination. There are other studies that are either being done or completed that relate to the remediation and restoring of freshwater systems in Hamilton.* • California is banning all new natural gas hookups; this should be implemented immediately to start mitigating the carbon that escapes from homes and buildings while also preventing more burning of fossil fuel. All new builds should be built at a higher standard, and this can be directly controlled by the city in so many ways via bylaws etc. • Power outages are increasing. A solar pv system with battery back up is beyond my personal means. I purchased a fossil fuel run generator as a result for emergency back up instead. If the city had a greener approach that was doable, I would have gone that way. • I'm asking why they aren't in the climate plan? Because if these are the draft targets at the international level they should likely be acknowledged in our growing green section of our plan.
2.4	**Equity Considerations**	• Some renters in Hamilton are told by landlords they're prohibited from using AC. How can we ensure these people are safe in times of extreme heat? • Number one should be cooling stations. • Will City bylaws be changed to make sure that summer temperatures are capped at safe levels in large-scale rental housing? *Response from City Staff: I can't speak to the legality of the landlord and tenants and whether tenants can use air conditioning in extreme heat. I am aware that this is a very controversial and concerning subject. I would suggest that anyone in that situation could reach out to an organization called ACORN or a lawyer if they are able to consult with one. What we can say is that the city is looking at how to address extreme heat in the City in the future. We are currently working on a pilot project with four city buildings in the downtown and we are looking at a variety of way to support residents deal with extreme heat in the summer including things like in-building cooling rooms, more shade outside and air conditioning for tenants and helping to create a networking circle so that residents can support one another. This is one of the areas where longer term retrofits will be needed over time. Our infrastructure is built to protect for extreme cold and what we need to do is to look at how to protect for extreme heat. We know that we may be looking in the future at 60 plus days of extreme heat in the city by 2080 and that is very concerning for us and the organizations that we have spoken with. We want to look at those longer-term measures to ensure that our housing is as safe in the summer as it is in the winter. Not that this is not a perfect system, but we know that our systems are not designed to deal with extreme heat. We know that there are a number of things that can address extreme heat including air conditioning, passive house retrofits (air flow, shade an incoming solar radiation) and we want to leave the door open to a variety of options. We will be developing those guidelines over the coming years. It is a very big task.*

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
2.5	**Erosion and Infrastructure Damage**	• I am working on Road Salt BMPs for UW campus alongside safety guidelines. My concerns are that increases in Road Salt use on sidewalks will impact freshwater bodies and increases costs for water treatment in the future as it enhances algal blooms as well. • I am aware that City staff are considering any potential for new stormwater fee is being with the hiring of a consultant as recently approved by Public Works Committee! Guiding principles consultation will be happening in December! One of the short-term climate adaptation items was safer winter travel with enhanced sidewalk clearing.
2.6	**Food Insecurity**	• What is happening with the Food Strategy? • Also any measures to encourage/foster sustaining local agricultural productions. *Response from City Staff: The Food Strategy was a document developed around 2016 and it provides us direction to guide decision-making on how the City and community can address food issues. It is very broad in scope, and it encompasses food production, processing, access, food waste management, distribution and consumption. Generally the strategy does speak to food access at a regional or city level and at a neighbourhood level as well as enhancing local food production. Supporting local food production is important for reducing green house gas emissions as transportation of food is far less. If the vehicles that transport food are also converted to low emission vehicles, then that has an additional benefit. Actions in the CEEP that support the decarbonization of commercial fleets would then support the reduction in the agriculture sector as well. similarly, access to local food is important for a healthy population and access to food opportunities so our action to improve local transportation and active transportation and transit relates to getting people easier access to that local food are important as well.* *Response from City Staff: As mentioned in the presentation, one of our priority climate impacts is around food insecurity and three or four of the adaptive actions speak to that impact. We have actions on community gardens, urban farming and growing more local food, making sure they have good water sources to cope with changes in precipitation in the future as well as establishing a local community group to determine what supports and information at the provincial level and where there are gaps for farmers in adapting to climate change impacts. The Food Strategy has good link and information on community gardens and community kitchens. We will continue to explore these to ensure that people have access to good quality food going forward despite climate impacts.* *There is a consultation underway on the Food Strategy with a survey that is open until July 22. Attendees are encouraged to visit the City's website and participate in the survey.*

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
	Food Insecurity (continued)	• With respect to food production - current provincial government is encouraging urban development in green belt. What measure is City taking to ensure local agricultural land is not paved over? *Response from City Staff: City Council did adopt a 'no urban boundary expansion' growth scenario back in January 2022 as part of the Municipal Comprehensive Review process. That is the process that addresses the city's growth and projections and change its plans to meet its growth requirements and to conform with the provincial policy requirements. The 'no urban boundary' expansion' growth scenario was incorporated into the Official Plan through an amendment and that has been approved by Council and is now at the Province for approval. Holding that urban boundary firm means that there would be no more urban development outside of that urban boundary.*
2.7	**Urban Forest Strategy and Tree Planting**	• When is the tree planting set to begin? • Planting a tree and planting a forest/planting a habitat are two different actions with different impacts. Why is recommending more $$$ to HCA to fund reforestation or habitat restoration efforts (in urban and rural areas). Planting trees seems to just scratch the surface. Can we go deeper? *Response from City Staff: The City is moving forward with our tree planting and the 50,000 trees it is for tree planting within our urban area as well as supporting our natural and conservation areas. These include tree planting by many organizations, and we are also encouraging resident to take advantage of tree planting programs including those for backyards.* • It is important for the City Planning and Building Department stop approving Developers cutting down large trees!! There needs to be more planning with these developments to keep these trees on site!! • City of Burlington requires a permit to cut private trees greater than 20cm in diameter, Hamilton has no such requirement. Keeping older trees as much as possible would seem critical to an urban canopy plan. • Why are current development applications able to cut down trees? *Response from City Staff: In the development approval process, tree protection plans are often required based on the context of what is existing on a site and that is taken into consideration. I can't speak to any specific case but sometimes there are ways of addressing tree removal by replanting on site. This is managed through the development review process and there are many factors involved.* • Can anyone share an update on the status of the Urban Forest Strategy? It seems to be MIA at this point!! Timeline for completion? It's important for making the Growing Green category reality so it really needs to be moving in tandem with this work! *Response from City Staff: With regard to the Urban Forest Strategy, we do have a draft out and that plan is in a draft stage and has suffered a little bit due to staffing and resource issues. I don't have a specific plan*

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
		of action to present to you on that. I can get back to the group as to an approximate date. I know that Staff were looking to trying to get to this in this term of Council and Staff are also looking at different sources of data for monitoring, other data for tree canopy targets, and other data that would better inform the plan.
2.8	**Affecting change in citizen behavior**	• Develop initiatives to encourage Active Transit and Car Sharing. • Group purchasing power for air source heat pumps, or induction stoves/cooktops are examples of ways to help homeowners directly reduce GHG at the community level. How can the city have a role in encouraging or supporting community organization around group research and purchasing power for this type of thing? • What's the most impactful thing a citizen can do to help encourage our governments towards taking climate seriously? *Response from City Staff: Stay involved in actions. Talk to your elected representatives. Participate in initiatives - community lead and city lead. Continue to be engaged in the actions. When there is debate, participate and continue to let your views be known.*
2.9	**Proposed CEEP & CCIAP Administration**	• Yes, for community-led committees! Community members have a vested interest in mitigation and adaptation. Big business has an interest in business as usual. No place for big business in this transition. • Will the creation of the climate change office result in more hires/more time devoted towards this? • Regularly meet with department heads. • High level management and adequate skilled staff. • Liaison with school board for school presentations. • Have a strong, passionate Director of the climate office. • Ensure there are more appropriately qualified staff. • Keeping public informed. • Be open to the community and do your best to avoid being defensive. Avoid being influenced by Enbridge, who will want to keep so-called "renewable natural gas"-which is still methane- flowing through its pipelines. Keep positive and use this crisis as an opportunity to make our community more inclusive and caring than it has been. Challenge capitalism as it is a core root hindrance to inclusion and equity. • Sufficient budget to get the job done • Ensure that community consultation includes BIPOC folks, and marginalized communities. • Please, please, if COVID gets bad again, make sure the climate office keeps its full complement of staff rather than being redeployed to social and community services to help with COVID outbreaks, no matter how bad they are. • How will the members for and Chair of the Climate Advisory Committee be chosen? • Will all members of the Advisory Committee be volunteers? Will it be chaired by one of them or by a member of city staff? *Response from City Staff: The Central Climate Office is a proposed new office with dedicated full-time staff and that will be presented to General*

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
	Proposed CEEP & CCIAP Administration (continued)	*Issues Committee on August 8 for approval. We are also looking at embedding resources across every department in the City of Hamilton. We formed the multi-departmental committee to develop the plans and not to take anything away from the significant commitment and work completed. A lesson learned was that these staff were participating on top of their other responsibilities. To implement the actions we have identified the importance of having dedicated full time staff to do this in every department.* *As for the Community Climate Advisory Committee, there will be a short survey that will be sent out to you following this meeting where we are asking what organizations and, or individuals that you as the public feel should be involved. We are in currently in consultation with our Urban Indigenous Office colleagues as to how to support their objectives in the Urban Indigenous Strategy. We are consulting with our Equity Diversity Inclusion colleagues in the City's Human Rights Division to ensure fair and equitable representation on these committees. We would especially like to hear about any committees where there is compensation offered and how that is undertaken. This is particularly important if we want to ensure diverse representation and equity on the committee*.
2.10	**Moving Forward: Next Steps and Follow-Up**	• Please address the presence on Enbridge on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Remove them from the process. • Avoid being influenced by Enbridge, who will want to keep so-called "renewable natural gas"-which is still methane- flowing through its pipelines. • What are some barriers to achieving these extensive goals that the committee has identified? • Can you explain more on municipal Green Bond? • What is "Canadian Colleges for Resilient Recovery"? Is this something that costs money? • Where will Hamilton's annual GHG emissions be posted on the City of Hamilton website for everyone to access. *Response from City Staff: In the future there is the intent to develop a city climate change dashboard that breaks down GHG emissions by sector on an annual basis and I did reference the key performance indicators and targets will be made available. The intent is to make all of that accessible and very transparent through a city climate change dashboard. We are in talks with our IT department about developing that dashboard.* • When will staff be requesting funds from Council to hire new staff? • Will the August GIC presentation include a request for the approval of resources needed to implement the Plan in each city department? What period will these resource requests cover? Will it request approval of resources to establish the Climate Office and significantly add resources to the Office? If not in August, WHEN?' *Response from City Staff: Yes, this will be included in the August report.*

	Topic	Questions and Comments Noted and Responses Provided at the Meeting (Verbatim)
	Moving Forward: Next Steps and Follow-Up (continued)	• Great Presentation, thanks for all your hard work! • Thank you, presenters. There's a lot to do but I sense a good energy and commitment. • Sorry, I have to leave the meeting, but I just want to thank you for your time and effort, as we keep moving this urgent issue forward. • Really well done, all of you. Thank you. • Thank you for your work • Just a comment that it would be great if the city started now to incorporate climate initiatives in all other departments so that a separate Climate Office is not necessary. When that happens, we will be on the right track. *Response from City Staff: Thank you for the ideas and comments. As we conveyed at the beginning of the presentation today, the context for this meeting is on the two plans. We didn't highlight the actions that are underway by different departments. I would like to highlight that the importance of that foundational report through the corporate goals and areas of focus. That was completed in December 2019. It directed all department to take action on climate change. One example is the Public Works Green Fleet Strategy and the converting of 89 vehicles which is a direct result of the 2019 report. Just because staff don't have climate change in their titles, or they are not specifically overseeing climate change work doesn't mean that they are not working on things that are having a significant impact in addressing climate change.* *The process of developing the two plans involved meeting regularly with all departments and there is a concerted effort underway to address and implement climate change initiatives across all departments. City Staff view the Climate Change Office to have an important role in leading and coordinating actions across the City of Hamilton.*

3. QUESTIONS PROVIDED THROUGH ENGAGE HAMILTON BEFORE MEETING

Individuals interested in the Public Information Session, were able to submit questions for consideration at the meeting through Engage Hamilton. The following verbatim questions and comments were submitted. A number of these were read aloud and responded to at the meeting. They are numbered for reference purposes. Responses are included.

1. The 2050 end goal is important, but progress needs to be measured in much shorter increments. I see that annual GHG reporting is part of the plan, but we need aggressive milestones and front-loaded reductions to have the most benefit. Where are the shorter-term targets to ensure we stay on track?

   Response from City Staff: City has interim target of 50% reduction by 2030. For metrics and targets on individual action, these will be established through program design and will be reviewed and revised as programs and actions progress. We want to create evidence informed targets.

2. How does the CEEP link to Hamilton's 2018 Food Strategy?

   Response from City Staff: The Food Strategy was a document developed around 2016 and it provides us direction to guide decision-making on how the city and community can address food issues. It is very broad in scope, and it encompasses food production, processing, access, food waste management, distribution and consumption. Generally the strategy does speak to food access at a regional or city level and at a neighbourhood level as well as enhancing local food production. Supporting local food production is important for reducing green house gas emissions as transportation of food is far less. If the vehicles that transport food are also converted to low emission vehicles, then that has an additional benefit. Actions in the CEEP that support the decarbonization of commercial fleets would then support the reduction in the agriculture sector as well. similarly, access to local food is important for a healthy population and access to food opportunities so our action to improve local transportation and active transportation and transit relates to getting people easier access to that local food are important as well.

3. Why is Enbridge even remotely involved and in fact a stakeholder in this plan? It seems obvious that Enbridge's involvement is the reason there is no plan for stopping fossil fuel hookups in new buildings in Hamilton. It seems to me that limiting and stopping the use of methane as soon as humanly possible is the obvious way to reduce our GHG emissions and anything less is simply skirting around the issue.

   *Response from City Staff: Enbridge, and all other utilities were invited to participate on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. We involve utilities to build potential partnerships and support for implementing future actions. Please also see response to a similar question raised at the Public Information Session***,** *Table A, Section 2.3, top of page 8*

4. What process will be used to create the Community Climate Advisory Committee to ensure that Black, Indigenous, people of colour, the physically and mentally challenged, LGBTQIA+ people and low-income groups are represented?

   *Response from City Staff: The format of an Advisory Committee is not finalized yet. The city is committed to ensuring diverse representation on this committee. We will be consulting with staff in our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and our Indigenous Strategy groups to help guide the formation of a committee. Please also see response to a similar question raised at the Public Information Session***,** *Table A, Section 2.9, page 13.*

5. A well-funded Climate Department focused on this issue lead by a passionate, focused, well informed, hardworking Director of Operations is key to the success of the plan, as is the importance of all city departments making decisions with an environmental lens and involving credible individuals and agencies in the city and beyond for advice and ideas.

   Comment Noted.

6. What will be the fuel connections required in new buildings in the city? Are there plans for additional park/ green spaces to accommodate the anticipated population growth while not expanding the current city urban boundary? Will large buildings be set back from the sidewalks to allow for some green space?

   Response from City Staff: Elements of site design that can assist with climate mitigation will also be considered in establishing site plan requirements for all types of buildings. This has not been done for some buildings completed in the last few years. Details of green development standards have not been established yet. That project is on-going. The need for parks is being assessed through the Parks Master Plan process, currently ongoing. Landscaping space in setbacks and updating requirements for landscape will be considered through the on-going site plan guideline review project.

7. What plans does the city have to require permeable paving for new builds in particular large retail spaces. Will a stormwater tax under consideration? If not, why not?

   Response from City Staff: Site Plan Design guidelines project will also consider these elements. The Corporate Services Department submitted a report to Public Works Committee titled "Stormwater Funding Review" on June 13, 2022. For more information on the report see: https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=327900

8. What are the plans going forward for city properties? Are there any plans to add motion sensors or similar devices so that unoccupied space does not remain lit when no one is there? City Hall frequently is brightly lit after hours when few if any people are in the building. I suspect many other properties (not just the cities) are the same. Can we consider streetlights that produce less light pollution going forward? And why is Enbridge considered a stakeholder in this plan?

   Response from City Staff: Corporate Energy and Sustainability Policy contains an afterhours lights out program. The city has an LED streetlight upgrade program - consuming 60% less energy than high pressure sodium light.

9. Will the August GIC presentation include a request for the approval of resources needed to implement the Plan IN EACH CITY DEPARTMENT? What period of time will these resource requests cover? Will it request approval of resources to establish the Climate Office and significantly add resources to the Office? If not in August, WHEN?"

   Response from City Staff: Yes, resourcing for a Climate Change office and city-wide staffing resources needed to implement the actions presented in the implementation plan for the Community Energy and Emissions Plan are being identified. The actions are considered near term 0-5 years. The resourcing recommendations will be reported back to General Issues Committee although final content and format of the Report has not yet been determined.

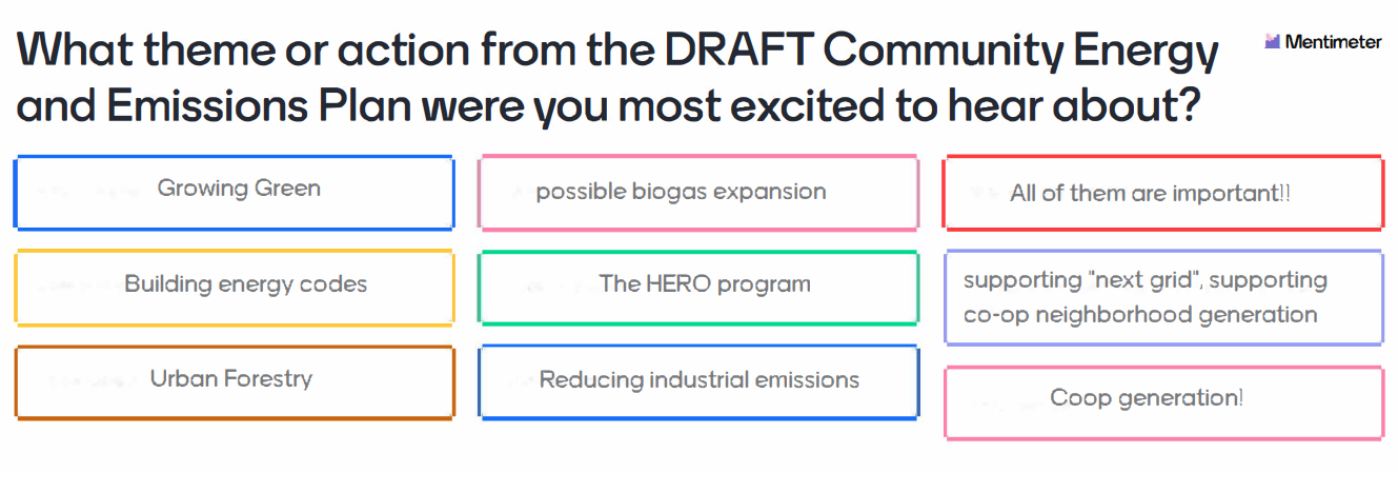
10. Given that the IPCC says that net zero by 2050 will only avert the worst consequences of climate change if global greenhouse emissions are reduced by about 45% over 2010 levels by 2030, what can Hamilton do immediately to get to the 2030 target? For example, can it immediately ban natural gas hookups in new buildings?

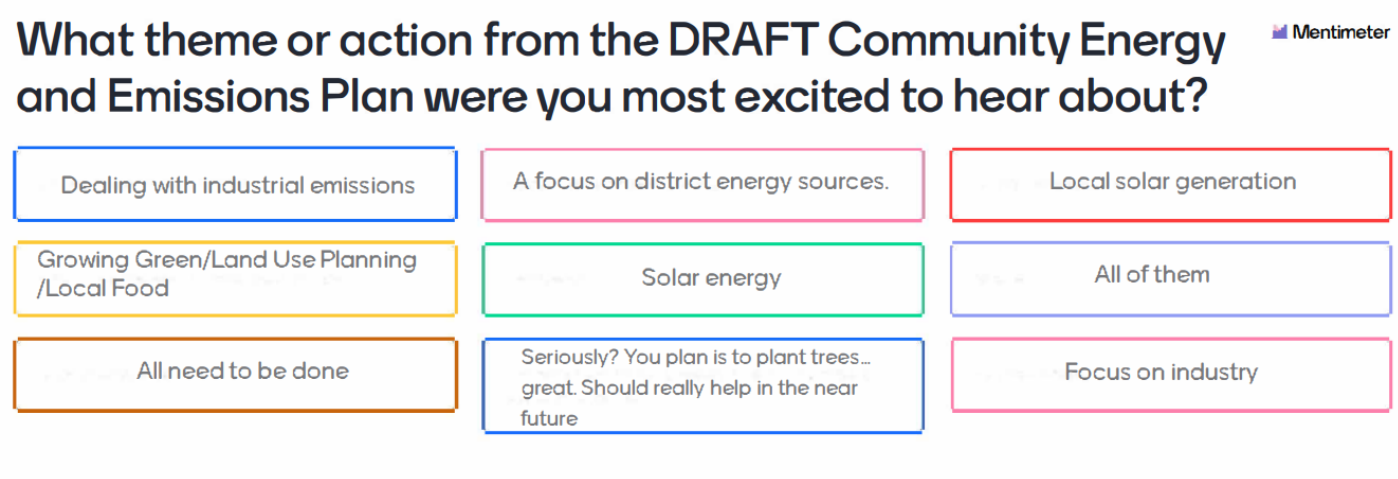
    Response from City Staff: It is expected that the actions in the draft Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) will take time to scale up. In the meantime, there is much action already underway in institutions, industries and businesses throughout the community including work being done by the City of Hamilton to lower GHG emissions from city facilities and fleets, as directed by City Council. In 2015 Hamilton City Council approved the first Community-wide Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) which established GHG reduction targets of 20% by 2020, 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 based on a 2006 baseline. The City of Hamilton achieved the 20% reduction well ahead of 2020 deadline and remains committed to achieving the 50% reduction by 2030. Immediate actions the City is taking include implementing a Green Fleet Strategy, putting a stop to purchasing carbon intensive diesel buses, and developing a home energy retrofit program. Banning natural gas hookups in new buildings is not considered as an immediate action.

4. WHAT WAS HEARD – RESPONSES FROM LIVE POLL USED AT MEETING

Three questions or live polls were posed to attendees during the presentation using the platform *Mentimeter*. The questions appeared on the screen and attendees could go to the *Mentimeter* website by using their browser and entering the question code provided. The questions were read aloud by the Facilitator and attendees could also enter their response into the Q and A for the meeting. The following are the responses noted.

Live Poll #1





Responses provided in the Q and A

- The work regarding steel industry
- Stakeholder involvement. Good work done. thank you

What tools, approaches, activities should a Central Climate Office use to help us all implement the Climate Change Strategy?

Mentimeter

I would like to know if there is a sufficiently large budget to fulfill all data collection, instigation, and support plus all other functions named and enough staff hired?

Education workshops (virtual) funding and support to industry and individuals to make changes assuring planning empphasizes greenbelt oreservatio

measurementt and verification, not monitoring and reporting.

remove ENBRIDGE

city councillors who work for the environment and are held accountable

carrot and stick approaches to encourage green steel

bylaws and zoning changes

no corporate influence

RNGs emit carbon just like other fossil fuels.

What tools, approaches, activities should a Central Climate Office use to help us all implement the Climate Change Strategy?

Mentimeter

working closely with Indigenous communities

HOLD ENBRIDGE ACCOUNTABLE

de centre white voices

Appendix 1 - Comments Received following the June 29, 2022, Meeting

The following are comments received by the City of Hamilton pertaining to further feedback from the June 29, 2022, Public Information Session. These comments are verbatim. They are numbered for reference purposes. identifying information i.e., names and addresses has been omitted from this report.

1. I attended last evening's Hamilton climate change webinar.

   I think it was you who put up a chart showing a breakdown of GHG emissions in Hamilton with a forecast for years into the future. The group of emitters producing by far the most GHG emissions was Industry. As you said, that makes sense given the concentration of industry in Hamilton. Two suggestions:

   May I suggest you break the chart's industry block into two parts, one for steel making, the other for all other industry. That would show people the effect of recently promised decarbonization of steel production. It would also show how important it is that other industries really push to alter their practices. If I were a city councillor, I would want to know that breakdown.

   I was sad to see that Enbridge was a participant in your process. Did you not know that Enbridge is the company that wants to run an expanded pipeline through Beverly Swamp? (My understanding is that Enbridge's plans for that expanded pipeline are temporarily on hold, but the company intends to revive them.) Protecting, even expanding, wetlands is one of the key measures your draft impact plan correctly says is necessary to handle anticipated heavy rainfall and flooding. The contradiction between what Enbridge wants to do and what Hamilton needs is so great it must raise doubts about the plan. My suggestion is that when it comes time to recommend how the advisory panel is to be organized and manned staff make it absolutely clear to council and to the public that staff recommend Enbridge play no part in it at all.

2. Your email of June 27/22 inviting a response was much appreciated. I felt my earlier interest had not gone unnoticed. Could you tell me how many others were on that Invite List? However, it arrived as we were driving off the edge of the electronic world. There are places where signals reach only weakly, occasionally, or not at all and we were on the boundary of such a space and moving into it for a holiday. I was unable to capture the whole of the report upon which you invited comment, so I have limited myself to overviews from what I was able to read.

   I have 3 points I'd like to offer to whatever goes ahead
   1) Communications are a huge problem that needs to be part of the implementation of any Plan.
   2) The attitudes that have developed over generations of cheap carbon fuel seem to be frequently repeated in the report. I am disappointed in the options listed. I get the feeling from the many qualifications, that innovative alternatives are not expected or sought. They upset people.
   3) The timeline suggested in what I read, is public policy. I fear this imagined control on programming will be overwhelmed before practices outlined can come to pass. If the target you're shooting at is about 30 years away, you'll be too late by a long shot. That whole feeling damages the credibility of the effort.

   1) COMMUNICATIONS
   I suggest that the report to which I and others in the Public were invited to respond, will engage a very select few. It may fulfill the letter, but not the spirit of the law.

   I'm sure there is a Handbook to follow when writing reports like this, judging by its similarity to a report about Hamilton's Urban Forest. Only those with the linguistic skill, access to electronic media, and persistence to push through the pages of print are in the cohort from whom you might expect a reply. From that limited group you should expect views only from those who believe their effort will be part of plan. That is a credibility problem that has only grown worse at City Hall, in my

experience. Amongst my own friends, I am ridiculed for trying to elbow myself into a conversation where I'm not wanted. They, themselves, believe the table is already tilted.

So, my friends may suffer from a lack of awareness of other means by which the public's input was sought. I don't know if you held library workshops or other gatherings to listen to input rather than pronounce practice. I'm in the wrong place to answer such comments. Maybe you could. What else happened to solicit public input? If no other means were used, then your claim of receiving public input is restricted to a small group and justifies even further, the cynicism I hear.

Going forward to implementation of anything arising from this effort, improved communication and charismatic leadership will be needed. I could not find that among the suggestions I read.

2) ATTITUDES & OPTIONS
There is a pervading sense in the 30-40 pages I read, that the future will be just more of the past. In the material I read about decarbonizing the heating of City-owned buildings, I could not find a single reference to reviewing how much space needs to be heated. There was a presumption, derived from the absence of this idea, that the solution was simply a matter of just changing out the fuel supply. In think that is a serious, even fatal flaw, in this report.

I came to the same conclusion after reading about the city's fleet of vehicles. Make them all e-machines when they are replaced. Nobody asked whether they needed to be replaced at all. For example: we walk in Cliffview Park a lot. We have had many pleasant chats with the Park Maintenance staff over the years. Every one of them arrived to the site in a general purpose, several-tonne truck, whether it was to pick up litter, or spray weeds. One or two people got back in that truck and drove off to the next task. The waste of energy moving that machine around is a product of the cheap fossil fuel epoch from which we must escape. Does anyone even ask if such workers could move by public transit? Bicycle? Motorbike? Plainly, NO! And that's a statement on the transit network as much as it is about the work schedule or labour hierarchy.

Weekly, a specially dedicated truck drives to one park after another collecting a few bags of garbage in each spot. On the same day, the community garbage trucks pass the same spots, collecting residential wastes, but not from the cans across the street in the park. As I said, the essence of this emissions report is business as usual going forward.

Let me return to the office heating presumptions. What is it that needs to be heated? Currently, the stationery engineers are proud of maintaining a uniform 20C approx. temperature through the prestigious spaces in which civic employees and officials work. We do so because fossil fuels are cheap; but every other report I read says the exhaust is killing us all. So how much space do employees need to have heated?

Let me jump to one end of the list of possibilities. If everyone had a thermally heated jacket, or leggings, or chair, that they plugged into a desk outlet like their computer, could you let the rest of the building drop to ambient? Count on body heat or passive solar shining on heat-storing surfaces, or waste heat from the lights and machines to heat the place. You might need to heat the washrooms to keep the water from freezing but why the office space, if everyone was warm? Is this suddenly a fashion issue? There were times when workspaces were not heated or poorly so. There were wardrobes that solved those problems. So...?

In recent experiences with the home heating trades, I have dealt with similar 'past practice' thinking. I'd like to get off natural gas for home heating. Everyone who has come to the house has offered a heat pump unit to replace my furnace. Not one has suggested compartmentalizing the house to heat daily living areas and then shifting that unit to bedrooms later, through deflected ducting, or installing a coordinated system of two heat pumps for the separated areas that might open them to boarding opportunities for students, or co-habitation. They sell me what is in their

stock room. I solve their problem; they don't solve mine. And if everyone on my street had a heat pump, we'd have brownouts every cold day.

When you talk about retraining a labour force, will such matters be part of that dialogue? When I see the pages mentioning training of the trades and home assessments, I fear that is code for the "same old" practice. Heating such spaces and the addressing the mind-set that goes with it, is what contributed to the problem in the first place.

A home heating strategy called by its acronym, MOST, is not mentioned in your report. Dr. M Lightstone in the McMaster University Mechanical Engineering Dept. might be approached for expansion on the topic. What she has worked on, along with others in Scandinavia, is a game changer.

Horizontal parabolic reflectors have a tube at the focus carrying a special organic fluid. As the fluid passes through the tube when the mirror faces the sun, the molecules of the liquid absorb the sun's energy by flipping into an energized state. Think of a long wire suddenly being bent into a tightly coiled-up spring - that is an analogy for what happens to these molecules. The cool fluid is stored in a container. Tests have shown that the energy is still available for many years later.

When needed, the energized liquid is passed over a catalyst that releases the stored energy as heat - lets the molecule spring back to its uncoiled state ready for recycling. The released heat could warm homes. The system was originally designed for domestic purposes. Such a home heating system would allow accumulation of summer sunshine energy not as electricity but as heat at the site where it would be needed with minimal demand on the grid. I'd love to be a test subject locally but find nobody who can talk knowledgeably about it.

Nowhere are the attitudes of following the past practice model show more clearly than in the matter of public transit - another target of your report.

I am of the opinion that the private car will have to be considered a relic if society is serious about reducing its carbon footprint. A whole generation and more are and will be graduating with loan debt that make it a choice between home or car ownership - maybe neither based on current conditions. Public transit must follow the European model. In your report that extends to walking and cycling. Transit thoughts that I found, seem to stop at changing the fuel.

One item that came out was a link to a news release titled "Enbridge Gas Partners City of Hamilton to Fuel Ontario's First Carbon-Negative Bus" and dated March 4, 2021. It claims buses will be powered by 'renewable natural gas, (RNG)'. I don't know how that claim is substantiated but RNG is methane from garbage. If it is diverting the methane from the dumps where it outgases, that is helpful. But when you put it into a bus to burn it is still releasing Carbon Dioxide. If you do the energy density of the fuel compared to natural gas, methane's is much lower so more has to be burned to achieve the same result. While the bus may not be burning the natural gas, it will be burning a substitute that I suspect might be equally as polluting. The virtue RNG might claim is that this greenhouse gas is being diverted through a reclamation process like waste heat. You'd have to tell me if the fuel cost of moving the garbage is included in the calculations of carbon-negativity. (See an alternative from Holland further on).

As a sidebar, it is easier to find out about RNG buses being planned than the report of the electric buses that have actually run routes in Hamilton. That secrecy casts a bad light on this report. It's another communication issue.

If public transit is to meet the needs of the future, it will have to be electric, and of multi-sized vehicles, some running on an 'Uber' model to pick up points in rural, maybe some suburban areas. Larger, but nimble vehicles, might run on major arteries or routes. LRT does not qualify

within the city. Sorry. It is an unspeakable waste of resources! I could not find and suggestion of an integrated system of various-sized vehicles doing public transit and no target time for service. Both are pivotal to getting people out of cars. And to pay for it, I'd suggest everyone get a 'free' Bus Pass. Build it into the tax system like water rates. Make parking a personal car so prohibitive that parking lots can be turned into high-rise housing - another companion topic but outside the scope of this report.

Anyone doing the arithmetic on regenerative braking, often a part of the electric vehicle scenario, will arrive at the conclusion you can't run electric buses up and down the escarpment as we currently do with carbon-fueled ones. Separate fleets for upper and lower city will be needed and those should link by underground escalator routes. If Metrolinx needs to use its digging machines, and labour needs the jobs, let them build the 2or 3 tunnels to take people up and down the mountain between transit systems. The escalators could be electrically powered and if, the underground space was expanded at the time of construction (for civic spaces), could provide emergency passive cooling places for people trying to escape heatwaves of the future. This aspect of climate change is another item I could not find deeply addressed in the report pieces I studied, except via air conditioners.

So, we need a nimble public transit system - something more nimble than a train - to meet transit needs, and it must be in the order of a 5-minute service on major routes. With such a system, cars can be essentially be removed from the equation; half-streets could be freed up for housing, orchards, urban forest, other agricultural options.

I found no mention of urban agriculture in the report but maybe it was in parts I didn't see. Do any high-rises, currently in planning or construction, have the requirement to provide food manufacturing facilities, on-site, that would meet the needs of their residents? Ignoring the food supply part of the equation is yet another example of forward planning while looking in the review mirror. Food must be produced in significant amounts, within immediate reach of Hamiltonians, and how much better could it be than where you live.

Enbridge would like to reclaim the energy in garbage, for a fee. I think there are better ideas. I've seen models in Holland of facilities using wastewater to grow plants and then the water can be recycled. They used poultry fed on the grains raised from the bird waste, as their source of nutrients for plant cultivation but I've seen systems using fish run-off also. I expect that human sewage might be trapped, digested and used for plant growth materials IN the communities housed in high rises. I couldn't find any mention of cycling on that scale in the report.

Hydrogen-fueled steel made a lot of headlines lately and was mentioned in your report as a way to reduce the industrial carbon footprint. Before anyone faints with relief over the hydrogen solution, remember that water vapour itself, is a greenhouse gas and that is what hydrogen makes when it. burns. Water vapour is what fuels storms. If you let it out, you need to think again about the progress you hoped to make. Don't forget about the price of hydrogen. It is pricey.

The waste heat recovery plans from industrial sites is laudable, and widely used in Europe. But it won't be distributed like natural gas. It demands housing/worksites nearby and stringent pollution controls of other factors.

Regarding space for housing, I could not find mention of the area currently covered by malls in our city and how high-rises over those spaces could address the expected housing needs we're told to anticipate. Again, maybe it was mentioned in other material I didn't retrieve. What I did find made no mention of current high-rise construction being required to be energy zero. Was it there?

3) TIMELINE
You were probably directed, as employees, to prepare your report with a 2050 timeline. I think you would be derelict if you didn't point out to those sending those directions, that they don't have the luxury of putting off things for another generation or two. Action is needed yesterday.

As time trickles away, the number of problems only escalates. The report seems to think that the limited scope of this report is all that needs to be dealt with. Fix the emissions thing, and re-gig the energy supply and we're good. While that is going on, or not, world-wide migrations are at hand. Public health issues we've only glimpsed, are pending. When all your eggs are in electrical basket, do you know about solar effects on long distant transmission lines? I recall a Hydro outage that crippled the network for the whole NE United States and Canada. And the Quebec Ice Storm. Who will be sweltering in a high rise or freezing in the dark? They are lessons for anyone who wishes to hear.

As a final note that takes me back to the starting point, I wonder if these, and the other responses you get, will be public information? Will you make them available? It's a communication thing. Take out serial pages in the newspaper if you want. Somehow you have to generate a feeling of immediate, purposeful action in response to whatever public input you receive.

If you ever decide to open the circle to outside input, I write stories. I also have some more actual actions I could offer, but I'd like to see if anything in this response goes anywhere first. My skills, and those of similar ability, might be helpful. You have my contacts. Phone is best.