




# INFORMATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Board of Health
<b>DATE:</b>	March 15, 2019
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Climate Emergency Declaration Points for Consideration (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Kevin McDonald Director, Healthy Environments Division Public Health Services
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

The purpose of this Information Update is to inform and provide some key considerations to the Mayor and members of Board of Health for the upcoming delegation from Environment Hamilton on declaring a climate emergency.

Public Health Services is aware of the previous declarations/motions from across Canada and has attached the more recent motions from Vancouver, Halifax and Kingston's for reference. Our office can see both considerable promise and some important pitfalls to watch out for. Please see below, a list of points for consideration:

- The Climate Emergency declaration is a symbolic gesture and does not include any additional funding support from upper-levels of government. It is important to note that without concrete new or additional support for local action, such a declaration may result in more harm than good;
- At this point it is not clear what these local government motions or resulting plans entail, as both Vancouver and Halifax staff have been asked to report back to their Council in April 2019 (Vancouver) and January 2020 (Halifax);
- It is very important to note what additional actions Hamilton would support as an outcome of such a motion. For example, there are several current and future planned initiatives in regards to accelerating climate change action within the city of Hamilton, including, but not limited to; and,

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

- Corporate Climate Adaptation Planning & Budgetary Considerations – Staff are currently collecting data across the corporation to estimate historical climate change impacts and future budget considerations for climate adaptation planning and actions (report expected to GIC in June 2019);
- Bay Area Climate Change Office/Bay Area Climate Change Council – Meant to create a regional approach and strategic 3-year plan to accelerate climate change mitigation and adaptation across Hamilton and Burlington, which would include the creation of implementation teams to undertake the work. The upcoming CITIES IN ACTION: BAY AREA CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT 2019 being held March 25 - 28, 2019 (<https://citiesinaction.mohawkcollege.ca/>) is meant to unveil the first ever Bay Area Climate Change Council and discuss the priority actions. Invitations for the City of Hamilton to participate in the implementation teams are expected in May 2019;
- The Community Energy Plan – Led by Planning & Economic Development is meant to look at creating a baseline energy and water inventory and strategies to reduce energy and water consumption per capita, which will build off existing greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory work that has been previously completed;
- Existing Community Climate Change Action Plan - That sets GHG reduction targets of 20% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050 with specific actions. For more information see: <http://climatechangehamilton.ca/> ; and,
- Existing Corporate Energy Policy – Is currently being updated to track energy intensity and calls for targeted energy reductions (similar to the GHG reductions above) of City-owned facilities and operations. For more information see: <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-initiatives/strategies-actions/office-energy-initiatives>.

As stated above, there are several ongoing corporate projects and reporting frameworks related to climate change, including:

- Office of Energy Initiatives - Public Works administers the Corporate Energy Policy and tracks **corporate** energy and GHG reductions and reports through the Public Works Committee;
- Air Quality and Climate Change - Healthy and Safe Communities administers the Community Climate Change Action Plan and tracks **community** GHG reductions and reports annually to the Board of Health; and,

- Community Planning - Planning and Economic Development is currently leading the Community Energy Plan and will be reporting to the Planning Committee.

Climate Change impacts all departments of the corporation in addition to the greater community. Therefore, any solution needs to incorporate a multi-departmental approach that incorporates community participation.

The 2030 and 2050 targets are critically important according to climate science and they are very ambitious. Current and future plans and strategies have identified how we can get there, however the city of Hamilton will need to go beyond existing resource commitments in order to achieve these targets in order to transition the community to a prosperous low carbon economy and community while still adapting to a changing climate.

It's very important that any motion on a Climate Emergency be properly supported by meaningful action. Climate communications research consistently shows that fear-based messaging without avenues of meaningful action leads to more public disengagement.

#### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

- Appendix "A" to Information Update: City of Vancouver Climate Emergency Declaration Motion
- Appendix "B" to Information Update: City of Halifax Climate Emergency Declaration Motion
- Appendix "C" to Information Update: City of Kingston Emergency Climate Emergency Declaration Motion