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Date May 26, 2022 **Report No.** 2022-365

To Chair and Members
Environmental Sustainability Policy Advisory Committee

From Inderjit Hans, P. Eng., PMP
General Manager, Public Works Commission

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item ☐
Item For Consideration ☒

2.0 Topic **Community Climate Action Plan Progress Update** **[Financial Impact: None]**

3.0 Recommendation

- A. THAT Report 2022-365 Community Climate Action Plan Progress Update BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT the following comments from the Environmental Sustainability Policy Advisory Committee regarding the Brantford Community Climate Change Action Plan BE INCLUDED in Staff's future report to Committee of the Whole – Operations:

_____; and
_____.

4.0 Background

In December 2019, City Council made the Climate Emergency and Imperative Climate Action declaration. This declaration addressed the need for the City of

Brantford and all of its citizens to reduce the use of fossil fuels and other sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Staff were directed to work with the Environmental and Sustainability Policy Advisory Committee (ESPAC) to develop a carbon reduction strategy, evaluation framework, and reporting mechanism for Council's consideration.

The Corporate Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) was approved in November 2020 and was developed through extensive consultation with various City Departments. The Corporate CCAP reflects the City's commitment to reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, incorporating specific goals from the Corporate Energy Management Plan.

While the Corporate CCAP focuses on addressing municipal sources of emissions, a Community CCAP will focus directly on community sources of emissions and propose emission reduction strategies through personal transportation, buildings, waste, offsets, and education/outreach.

5.0 Analysis

5.1 Climate Change Advisory Group

The Community CCAP will involve action, effort, and commitment from the community as a whole. As many of the community emissions are outside the direct control of the municipality, staff have engaged various stakeholders to determine actions and priorities.

The Climate Change Advisory Group was established in early 2020 to discuss the development of the Community CCAP. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic paused these meetings until virtual meetings could be initiated in February 2021. The Advisory Group determined that a series of sector specific discussion would be the best way to facilitate a dialogue for stakeholders to provide feedback and ideas. These sector specific meetings covered the following topics:

- Transportation.
- Residential Housing.
- Business and Industry.
- Community Engagement and Education.
- Review and Wrap-Up.

Invited Members of the Climate Change Advisory Group included:

- Brantford-Brant Chamber of Commerce.
- Downtown Brantford Business Improvement Area.
- Grand Erie District School Board.
- Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic School Board.
- Conestoga College.
- Wilfrid Laurier University.
- Six Nations Polytechnic.
- Brant County Health Unit.
- Enbridge.
- Energy Plus.
- Brantford Power.
- Brantford Public Library.
- Brantford Region Indigenous Support Centre.
- Brantford Home Builders Association.
- Brant Tree Coalition/Earth Week Committee.
- Grand River Council on Aging.
- Environmental and Sustainability Policy Advisory Committee.
- Neighbourhood Associations of Brantford.
- Brantford Youth Council.

5.2 Let's Talk About Climate Action

Throughout 2020 and 2021, stakeholders and community members were encouraged to share ideas for how the community can reduce emissions.

Surveys were used to collect feedback on residents' understanding of climate change, specific priorities, and actions they are willing to take to reduce their personal impact on climate change. The initial survey conducted in 2020 had 237 respondents. Additionally, the Let's Talk About Climate Action Campaign included a survey, discussion forum, question box, and ideas board.

The feedback and ideas gathered from these engagement sessions are being used to inform the working draft of the Community CCAP.

5.3 Community CCAP Action Items

Through the engagement sessions with residents and the Climate Change Advisory Group on Let's Talk Brantford, various actions were identified to be included in the Community CCAP. The actions can be separated into five categories: Transportation; Buildings; Waste; Offsets; and Education/Outreach. A summary of the identified actions for each category are provided in the following sections.

5.3.1 Transportation

Transportation is a key aspect of the City's climate change efforts. The priority actions that have been identified for transportation focus on reducing emissions from single passenger vehicle trips within and outside of Brantford. Table 1 identifies actions to be included in the Community Climate Change Action Plan for transportation along with metrics that can be used to track progress.

Table 1: priorities related to transportation

Category	Priorities	Metrics
Public transit	1. Increase transit ridership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• % of people using public transit for transportation• # of transit passes sold• # of transit riders monthly/annually
Active transportation	2. Increase cycling as a form of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• % of people using cycling for transportation

Category	Priorities	Metrics
	transportation 3. Increase walking as a form of transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Km of bike lanes • # of bike racks • Km of sidewalks / Multi-use paths • # of pedestrian crossings
Electric vehicles	4. Encourage purchase and use of electric vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of EV chargers available for public use

5.3.2 Buildings

Actions identified in the buildings category focus on emissions that can be reduced from energy consumption in residential, commercial, and institutional buildings. The various actions that have been identified and metrics are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: priorities related to buildings

Category	Priorities	Metrics
Residential	1. Reduce energy consumption in private homes 2. Implement a green building standard for new homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of incentives / grant programs available to complete home retrofits • # of homes subject to green building standard
Commercial / Industrial	3. Implement a sustainable business recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of sustainable business recognition awards given • # of education materials

Category	Priorities	Metrics
	<p>program</p> <p>4. Increase education on energy conservation programs</p>	<p>shared about energy conservation programs</p>
Institutional / School Boards	<p>5. Active transportation planning for schools</p> <p>6. Increase education on energy conservation programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of wayfinding signs for active transportation added • # of bike racks at schools • # of educational programs on energy conservation initiatives in schools

5.3.3 Waste

The actions identified in the waste category focus on waste that is produced by the community as well as emissions related from use of water. The various actions that have been identified and metrics are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: priorities related to waste

Category	Priorities	Metrics
Waste	<p>1. Use of organics and composting to divert waste from the landfill</p> <p>2. Promote reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonnes of waste diverted from the landfill • # of education programs focused on importance of waste diversion

Category	Priorities	Metrics
	circular economy	
Water	3. Increase education on reduced water consumption 4. Smart water metering program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of education programs focused on reducing water consumption • # of homes fitted with smart water metering

5.3.4 Offsets

The actions associated with offsets focus on those items that remove carbon from the atmosphere to help achieve net zero when some greenhouse gasses (GHGs) will be unavoidable. The various actions that have been identified and metrics are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: priorities related to offsets

Category	Targets	Metrics
Tree Planting	1. Discourage private tree cutting 2. Annual residential tree giveaways 3. Community tree planting events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of tree canopy in the City of Brantford • Private tree cutting by-law being implemented • # of trees given away • # of trees planted during community tree planting events
Natural Assets	4. Protection of natural assets 5. Develop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of natural assets identified in inventory • Implementation of

Category	Targets	Metrics
	Climate Change Adaption Plan to strengthen resiliency of assets	natural asset management plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Climate Change Adaptation Plan

5.3.5 Education / Outreach

The actions associated with education and outreach focus on educating the community on the importance of climate action. The various actions that have been identified and metrics are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: priorities related to education/outreach

Category	Targets	Metrics
Resources	1. Provide free resource materials to the community reflecting climate change information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of community members engaged in discussion around climate change • # of education materials shared regarding climate change
Community Partnerships	2. Develop a network to deliver key messaging and education about climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of community groups involved in delivering key messaging
Community Engagement	3. Engage with the community regularly on climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of workshops and events held to share information about climate change • # of attendees at

Category	Targets	Metrics
	initiatives	climate change events <ul style="list-style-type: none">• # of social media posts shared about climate change

5.4 Next Steps

The feedback received from ESPAC will be incorporated into the final Community CCAP that is presented to City Council in Summer 2022. The Plan is still under development and will be structured similarly to the Corporate CCAP with background on climate change, emissions reduction targets, and specific actions the community can take. Public Information Centres (PICs) will be held to review a draft of the Community CCAP with stakeholders and community members. These PICs will be held late June 2022 in partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University's Sustainability Office.

6.0 Financial Implications

None.

7.0 Conclusion

This report provides an update on the progress of Brantford's Community CCAP. The Community CCAP is underway and will be presented to Brantford City Council in Summer 2022. This Plan will be informed by information gathered from stakeholder meetings, the Let's Talk About Climate Action Campaign, ESPAC, and Public Information Centres.



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In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required ☐ yes ☒ no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk ☐ yes ☒ no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? ☐ yes ☒ no