



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

INTRODUCTION DATE: July 8, 2019
SUBJECT: Climate Emergency
CONSIDERATION DATE: July 22, 2019
REQUESTED BY: Councillor Tesser Derksen
SECONDED BY: Councillor Best

WHEREAS the planet we share is the only known current home of humanity, and the planet's health and responsible care is an issue of paramount importance, which transcends political philosophies and ideologies;

AND WHEREAS a majority of scientific literature and evidentiary compendia state that the Earth is undergoing a significant and potentially irreversible environmental change, which bears a direct effect on human health and productivity, of which human activity since the industrial revolution is deemed a major cause;

AND WHEREAS the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined the need for a significant and structural reduction in carbon emissions in the next 11 years to avoid further economic, ecological, and social damage;

AND WHEREAS Canada is, according to Environment Canada's April 2019 Changing Climate Report, recording warming at twice the rate of the rest of the planet, with

Northern Canada experiencing three times the increase in average temperature, compared to the global average, which could result infrastructure failures and inadequacies linked to climate change, which if not reconsidered, revised, or retrofitted may cost Canada \$300 billion over the next decade;

AND WHEREAS enrollment in post-secondary programs for degrees and diplomas in environmental science, sustainability, renewable resources and “green jobs” has increased steadily as the climate crisis resonates with many Canadians who recognize the change climate realities of our planet, as well as opportunities;

AND WHEREAS many local citizens, community groups, organizations, schools, and neighborhoods are taking collective action on the climate change emergency and a formal declaration from their elected representatives will foster resonance with their efforts;

AND WHEREAS adoption of carbon neutrality is a modern, logical, scientifically sound, and socially and economically beneficial endeavor which the Town of Milton has proactively embraced for its own social and economic benefit by setting goals for town operations through the Green Innovation Plan;

AND WHEREAS local governments hold the power and direct relationship with citizens to educate, modify, and mitigate the human activity that contributes to climate change, including creating low carbon communities and calling on senior levels of government for responses which are suitable to the urgent nature of our climate reality;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Milton has recognized the need for efficient and comprehensive addressing of climate impacts, and specifically of energy consumption and conservation as well as emissions of Town assets, through the adoption of the Green Innovation Plan, which plan lays the policy framework and principles for mitigating climate change impacts, and requires ongoing accountability measures, review, action, and implementation in order to reach its full impact;

AND WHEREAS the time horizon of private citizens, decision-makers, and political influencers must look beyond our own lifetimes and consider the cost of our actions in our ongoing social contract and legacy to future generations;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Milton declare a climate emergency and that climate change mitigation is an immediate and continued priority for the municipality, as well as in the interest of partnership with our sister municipalities in Halton, and to fulfill its social obligations to act in the best interests of the Town of Milton and its citizens.

AND BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that Council direct this resolution to staff in order to undertake the following actions:

1. To include a staff resource dedicated to Sustainability and Energy Management in the 2020 budget for Council consideration;
2. Direct staff to inquire and provide council with a report as to long term potential cost benefits of transitioning Town's fleet to electric vehicles where possible;
3. That staff provide an annual update to Milton Council on corporate initiatives related to climate change mitigation;
4. That staff consider all opportunities to include language in future policy-planning work that acknowledges climate change.
5. That staff are directed to inquire and provide council a report as to what the Town of Milton can do to strongly encourage the development community to include EV charging stations in future medium to high-density applications.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be circulated to The Region of Halton, Local Halton Municipalities, Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic District School Board, the Halton Climate Change Collective, Halton Environmental Network, Halton Members of Parliament, Halton Members of Provincial Parliament, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, The Climate Mobilization Organization, Partners for Climate Protection, Global Covenant of Mayors, the Provincial Minister of the Environment, and the Federal Minister of the Environment.