



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council
From: Strategic Management Team
Date: May 8, 2023
Report No: ES-005-23
Subject: 2023 Climate Action Plan
Recommendation: **THAT the 2023 Climate Change Work Plan be APPROVED.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Since 2019, staff has presented an annual Climate Change Work Plan to Council that identifies actions, key projects and initiatives; timing and funding resource requirements.
- The Town's approach applies a green lens to everything we do, ranging from how communities are planned to our own business practices as a municipality.
- Three main areas of focus for the municipality as we work collectively with the community to be more sustainable are: (a) Energy consumption/conservation, (b) Establishing transit supportive development, and (c) Creating walkable complete communities.
- Building upon previous accomplishments, available capacity and focused coordination, the 2023 Work Plan (Schedule B) capitalizes on the significant work done in 2022 and will be completed using existing resources and supplemented with consultant expertise where required.
- A critical component of the 2023 Work Plan is updating the Official Plan to further support Milton's existing and planned sustainable neighbourhoods.
- Milton's approach is different than many municipalities because the sustainability lens is embedded in all departments versus being housed as its own entity.
- Much has been learned over the years and as we collectively work on achieving the 2023 Work Plan there will be a strong focus on telling the Milton Sustainability story by enhancing our public communication, feedback and education components.
- A staff working group will be formalized to foster information sharing, coordination of projects and the efficient use of resources.



REPORT

Background

The Town of Milton recognizes the value of actively incorporating sustainability principles into its business practices and has taken meaningful actions to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2007, our community facilities have been designed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified standards. New construction and retrofits have incorporated numerous energy efficient measures including low flow fixtures, energy efficient lighting and occupancy controls.

In 2018, through the Green Innovation Plan (GIP), the Town formally endorsed a sustainability strategy to increase conservation and decrease carbon emissions. To implement the GIP, a Corporate Energy Plan and a Community Energy Plan were created. These plans are now used to inform targeted actions. At multiple Town facilities energy efficiency has been improved through:

- Building envelope upgrades to increase insulation and reduce energy consumption
- LED light conversions
- Geothermal heating and cooling system installations to capture, store and recycle heat and cooling
- Solar panel installations to provide renewable electricity generation

The community has been engaged and numerous partnerships formed to help advance the Town's goals. Several hundred trees have been planted with environmental partners such as Sustainable Milton and local schools. This work is in addition to the Town planting hundreds of trees every year along streetscapes and in parks.

Since 2019, staff has presented an annual Climate Change Work Plan to Council that identifies actions, key projects and initiatives; timing and funding resource requirements. The timing of the formal 2023 Work Plan coming to Council was shifted due to the Fall 2022 Municipal Election, however Council members were advised that they could expect the plan to be a continuation of our efforts to date as many of the planned initiatives take place over a longer duration of time.

This report provides an overview of the 2022 accomplishments, proposed 2023 Climate Change Work Plan and enhancements to the oversight and communication of the Town's overall sustainability efforts.

Discussion

The Town's approach is to apply a green lens to everything we do, ranging from how we plan communities to our own business practices as a municipality. Throughout 2022, there

Discussion

has been a number of tactical achievements worth celebrating including: solar panel installation at the Sherwood Community Centre, community garden expansion at Sunny Mount Park, introduction of hybrid vehicles in to the Town's fleet and continued implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Strategy. A list of the 2022 Work Plan accomplishments is provided on Schedule A.

In addition to projects proposed through the 2022 Climate Change Work Plan, staff has completed several sustainability related projects, such as the following:

- The Ministerial Zoning Order for the Milton Education Village and the updated zoning by-law for the Milton Major Transit Station Area require a percentage of parking spaces to have a level two roughed-in for electric vehicle charging stations in residential and non-residential development. In non-residential developments, a percentage of all parking spaces are required to have an electric vehicle charging station installed.
- Amendment of the Region of Halton Official Plan, as requested by the Town of Milton, to permit stormwater management infrastructure and uses related to the use of renewable resources in the Greenbelt Plan Protected Countryside adjacent to the Milton Education Village.
- In June 2022, Council endorsed the Living in Milton policy directions for the new Official Plan. These directions included ideas for incorporating climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, as appropriate into the new Official Plan.

Proposed 2023 Climate Change Work Plan

The Climate Change Work Plan priority focus areas will continue to build upon the work plans from multiple corporate departments including the Transit Master Plan, Transportation Master Plan and the Official Plan and remain flexible and responsive to priorities identified in the 2023 Corporate Strategic Plan currently in development.

Three main areas of focus for the municipality as we work collectively with the community to be more sustainable are: (a) Energy consumption/conservation, (b) Establishing transit-supportive development, and (c) Creating walkable complete communities.

A critical component of the 2023 Work Plan is updating the Official Plan to further support Milton's existing and planned sustainable neighbourhoods. Milton's growth plan strategically and sustainably directs responsible residential and employment uses to the right locations. Our communities foster and improve climate resiliency through land use and infrastructure planning.

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For example, development patterns and appropriate densities supports walking, cycling and public transit resulting in decreased auto dependency which is essential to cutting carbon emissions. Effective urban planning includes providing open spaces, parks, gardens, green roofs, tree canopies and green streets that provide functional benefits such as reducing the potential for flooding and helps cool urban areas. By applying a green lens, infrastructure is used more efficiently and the natural environment can be protected and enhanced. Sustainable development principles will guide the policies of the new Official Plan.

Building upon previous accomplishments, available capacity and focused coordination, the 2023 Work Plan (Schedule B) capitalizes on the significant work done in 2022 and will be completed using existing resources and supplemented with consultant expertise where required. Research and initiation of additional environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation opportunities are subject to available capacity.

Highlights from the 2023 Work Plan include:

- (a) ***Milton Official Plan Policy Update*** - development of policies to encourage development and optimizes land and resources leading to more sustainable communities that minimize adverse environmental impacts.
- (b) ***Battery Electric Bus Project*** - implements a mid-life refurbishment and propulsion conversion of one conventional 12m bus from diesel to electric. This is the first one of its kind in Canada.
- (c) ***Fleet Strategy*** - scope of work includes identifying opportunities through a detailed year by year, unit by unit plan/roadmap to electrify the fleet over the next 15 years. This project is underway and will help inform the 2024 budget and 10 year forecast.
- (d) ***Refresh of the Community and Corporate Energy Plans*** - Continue to further develop, research and plan for future strategies to allow for both plans to achieve emissions reductions.
- (e) ***Urban Forestry Management Strategy (UFMS) Implementation*** - Continued efforts to coordinate and enhance the Town's forestry management program (UFMS 2015-2024)
- (f) ***Community-based activities and partnerships*** - Expand efforts to engage the community, other stakeholders and partners to support various forestry and environmental initiatives. This includes events such as Earth Week Clean-Ups, Spring Planting Days and Fall Planting Week.



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- (g) *Communications and Public Education enhancements* - Ensuring residents, businesses and stakeholders are aware of the Town's sustainability efforts and creating opportunities to provide input through on-line and in-person forums.

The completion of the Work Plan has always been a team effort with the more tactical items being overseen by the Community Services Department and the policy planning, government advocacy and external building standards being led by the Development Services Department. Milton's approach is different than many municipalities in that the sustainability lens is embedded in all departments versus being housed as its own entity.

Much has been learned over the years and as we collectively work on achieving the 2023 Work Plan there will be a strong focus on telling the Milton Sustainability story by enhancing our public communication, feedback and education components. As such, a staff working group will be formalized to foster information sharing, coordination of projects, focused-approach on communicating the municipalities sustainability efforts and opportunities, and the efficient use of resources.

Financial Impact

The Town's climate change portfolio is managed with existing staff resources. Where specific initiatives require an initial or on-going investment, funds are approved by Council in accordance with the Town's Budget Management Policy (Policy 113).

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer

For questions, please contact:	Doug Sampano, Director, Operations, Facilities & Environment	Phone: x 2547
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Attachments

Schedule A - 2022 Climate Change Work Plan Status Update

Schedule B - 2023 Climate Change Work Plan

Approved by CAO
Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer

Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.

2022 Climate Change Work Plan Status Update

Initiative	Accomplishments	Next Steps
<p><i>Develop a Town of Milton Fleet Strategy.</i> Review fleet operations and to include an electrification strategy for all Town fleet including transit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital project approved for 2022 • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final report is anticipated 2023 to inform the 2024 budget
<p><i>Review feasibility of renewable /alternative energy system at Mattamy National Cycling Centre.</i> Investigate the installation of solar and/or other alternative energy supply and retrofit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital project approved for 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work was deferred until 2023
<p><i>Review and Update Community and Corporate Energy Plans:</i> Continue to further research, develop and plan for future strategies to allow for both plans to achieve energy reduction targets of 6% community and 20% Town</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial Milton Green Innovation Plan is the flagship program for the Town's commitment to responsible energy management and development. An update to this plan is in process and being done in a coordinated approach with the Official Plan update to expand climate change resiliency and adaptation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of work will be developed to address energy data collection, administration and action plans. Work involves improving energy efficiency at all facilities, energy retrofit feasibility studies, monitoring and reporting, facilities staff training and engagement. Will also include a variety of initiatives for local community groups such as community gardens, pollinator gardens and clean up days.
<p><i>Electric Vehicle Charging Station.</i> Develop and implement EV charging systems at designated Town</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on-going 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local plans are being considered pending various study results and will be coordinated with the Fleet Strategy. Report to inform potential Electric Mobility

Initiative	Accomplishments	Next Steps
facilities to support future Town fleet additions		Strategy for corporate and or public use.
<p><i>Implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Strategy (COMS-009-21):</i> Continue to coordinate and enhance the Town’s forestry management program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treating, removing and replacing urban ash trees in response to Emerald Ash Borer. • Trees plantings with cooperation from community groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going efforts to engage the community in tree plantings.
<p><i>Community Garden Expansion at Sunny Mount Park</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing and water supply complete • Garden shed installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring 2023 - Horticultural Society to build the raised beds (48 additional plots)
<p><i>Single Use Plastics Review:</i> Continue with efforts to reduce and/or eliminate single use plastics by conducting a municipal scan to better understand and learn from other municipalities who have implemented various programs; review usage and options to reduce and/or eliminate in Town programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council report completed - direction to eliminate foodware, plastic straws and cutlery from Town-run concessions after the current inventory is utilized (COMS-010-21) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternatives to single-use beverage plastics at concessions and vending machines will be explored through the Halton Cooperative Purchasing Group including working with suppliers to determine options and market readiness for alternative solutions and considerations for upcoming changes in recycling standards and practices, costing of alternatives and risk/health and safety considerations • Further review for use of single-use plastics in Town programs (i.e. craft supplies) to take place • Completion of a municipal scan re: single use plastics utilized by the general public in Town facilities (i.e. third-party rentals and special events)
<p><i>Continue to build upon renewable energy sources where</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of solar panels at the Sherwood Community Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System is operational and can satisfy building electrical demand.

Initiative	Accomplishments	Next Steps
<i>opportunities are available</i>		
<i>Pursue grant funding opportunities where the business case aligns with corporate priorities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero Emissions Transit Fund submitted Q2 2022 and approved Q3 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going
<i>Continue with the implementation of the Partners for Climate Protection milestones:</i> creating a GHG emissions inventory and setting an emissions target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory and data collection in progress • Staff training on the PCP Program through FCM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial submission to program for review and comment.
<i>Building upon the Green Inventory Plan review, enhance and update sustainable planning policies where applicable</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Plan review and update ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main drivers of sustainability and green initiatives, which are a strong focus of the policy work being done in this regard, to include intensification and transportation
<i>Continuing work with community groups and external partners (i.e. Sustainable Milton, Halton Environmental Network)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going engagement and partnership programs 	

2023 Climate Change Work Plan

Initiative	Details
Milton Official Plan Policy Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insert policies into the new Official Plan to encourage efficient development that optimizes land and resources leading to more sustainable communities that minimize adverse environmental impacts.
Battery Electric Bus (BEB) Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 budget request - This pilot program implements a mid-life refurbishment and propulsion conversion of one (1) 12 metre, conventional bus from diesel to electric. Budget for the BEB Pilot Program includes the removal of diesel-powered systems replaced with battery-electric systems for vehicle and non-vehicle infrastructure.
Fleet Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review fleet operations and develop electrification strategy for fleet vehicles as appropriate including transit. This project is underway and expected to be complete in Q2 and will inform the 2024 budget as appropriate.
Feasibility of renewable / alternative energy system at Mattamy National Cycling Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the potential installation of solar and/or alternative energy supply and retrofit. This work has been deferred to 2023 and will inform the 2024 budget process pending the results of the feasibility study.
Community and Corporate Energy Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to further develop, research and plan for future strategies to provide strategies to reduce emissions and allow for both plans to achieve reduction targets of 6% community and 20% town on a per capita basis.
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Town of Milton Fleet Strategy Report to inform potential Electric Mobility Strategy for corporate.
Implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As outlined in COMS-009-21 'Urban Forestry Management Strategy 2015-2024', continue to coordinate and enhance the Town's forestry management program.
Community Based Activities and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand efforts to engage the community, other stakeholders and partners to support various forestry and environmental initiatives. This includes events such as Earth Day Clean-Ups, Earth Week Clean-Ups, Spring Planting Days and Fall Planting Week.