



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Kristene Scott, Commissioner, Community Services

Date: November 15, 2021

Report No: COMS-010-22

Subject: Climate Change Portfolio Update & 2022 Work Plan

- Recommendation:**
- 1. THAT the 2022 Climate Change Work Plan be approved in principle, with implementation being subject to Council approval of the related funding (where applicable) through the 2022 budget process;**
 - 2. THAT single-use plastics including food ware, stir sticks, plastic straws and cutlery be eliminated from town-run concessions after the current inventory is utilized;**
 - 3. THAT alternatives to single-use beverage plastics continue to be explored with considerations for upcoming changes in recycling standards and practices, financial implications and risk/health and safety considerations.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council approved report COMS-007-20, “2021 Climate Change Work Plan” on November 16, 2020, which provided an update on the 2020 accomplishments and a proposed 2021 work plan.

In addition to items identified in the 2021 work plan, staff also spent significant time building relationships with Milton Hydro, Enbridge Gas and special interest groups to pursue and discuss opportunities for further collaboration and partnerships. This will continue to be an area of focus moving forward as these types of relationships are invaluable in the pursuit of our common goals.

This report provides a status update for 2021 and the proposed 2022 Climate Change work plan. Also included as part of this report is the staff response to the Notice of Motion regarding the elimination and or reduction of single use plastics in town-owned facilities.



REPORT

Background

Schedule A provides a status update on the 2021 work plan including initiatives related to:

- Implementation of the Partners for Climate Protection milestones.
- Environment (i.e.: pursuing grant opportunities, advocating for tree canopy health).
- Public Engagement.
- Projects (i.e.: LED light conversions, Facility Audits).
- Council Information.

Some priorities and timelines have been adjusted due the pandemic. Items identified as 'on-going' will carry over in to 2022 and beyond.

Discussion

Building upon previous accomplishments, available capacity and focused coordination, the 2022 work plan will be completed using existing resources and supplemented with consultant expertise. Research and initiation of additional environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation opportunities are subject to available capacity.

Similar to previous years, the 2022 Climate Change proposed work plan was developed in coordination with the priorities outlined in the Council - Staff Work Plan and work identified and carried over from 2021.

Table 1 - 2022 Climate Change Proposed Work Plan

Initiative	Details
Fleet Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review fleet operations and develop electrification strategy for all Town fleet including transit.
Review feasibility of renewable / alternative energy system at Mattamy National Cycling Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate the installation of solar and or alternative energy supply and retrofit.



Review and Update of Community and Corporate Energy Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to further develop, research and plan for future strategies to allow for both plans to achieve reduction targets of 6% community and 20% town.
EV Charging Stations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop and implement EV charging systems at designated Town facilities to promote conversion to electric vehicles and support future Town fleet additions.
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 garden expansion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of the community garden at Sunny Mount Park.
Single-Use Plastics Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

Elimination of Single-use Plastics in Town Facilities

On May 31, 2021, Council directed staff through a Notice of Motion to review options to reduce and/or eliminate single-use plastics at Town facilities and include information regarding potential financial impacts, contractual obligations and health and safety considerations as part of the 2022 Climate Change work plan report.

An inventory of single use plastics was reviewed for Town-run concessions and vending machines and staff recommend the elimination of plastic straws, cutlery, stir sticks and food ware in Town-run concessions once the current inventory is used. The financial impact will be nominal as the differential between plastic and a recyclable alternative is 2-4 cents per unit and the volume of products used are not significant. Contracts are currently in place for these requirements.

The Town is currently in a contract for single use beverages for both the concessions and vending machine supplies. This contract is managed through the Halton Cooperative Purchasing Group (HCPG). The group will be continuing to work with the supplier to determine options and market readiness for alternative solutions, along with considerations for upcoming changes in recycling standards and practices, costing of alternatives and risk/health and safety considerations (i.e.: facility drinking fountains are currently closed due to the pandemic). Staff will continue to provide updates to Council on alternatives to single-use plastics for these types of items.

A more comprehensive review will take place regarding single-use plastics in our Town-programs such as craft supplies. Due to resource limitations resulting from the pandemic, staff were unable to complete this in time to be included with this report.

Single-use plastics are also utilized by the general public who enter our facilities, third-party rentals and special events. This will be reviewed in more detail throughout 2022, including the completion of a municipal scan to better understand and learn from other municipalities who have reduced and/or eliminated single-use plastics.

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). For the 2022 program outlined above, funding requests through 2022 Proposed Budget will include:

- Climate Change & Mitigation (C501117) - \$69,886 towards the next steps related to the Partners for Climate Protection Program and updates for the Corporate Energy Plan and Community Energy Plan.
- MNCC Renewable Energy System Feasibility (C58216722) - \$35,278 to determine the feasibility and potential implementation plan for a renewable energy system at the Mattamy National Cycling Centre.
- Sunny Mount Park (C510188) - \$324,608 to expand the community garden for an additional 48 plots including fencing, a storage shed, lighting, tables, benches, etc.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Strategy (C581151) - \$160,907 for a strategy and implementation program at identified Town facilities.
- Fleet Strategy (C450162) - \$180,250 to review cost saving and service strategies, improve lifecycle asset management and develop a potential green fleet adoption strategy.

**Schedule A
2021 Climate Change Work Plan Status Update**

Initiative	Details	Status/Timeline
Continue with the implementation of the Partners for Climate Protection milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a GHG emissions inventory and setting an emissions target. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to advocate for forestry / tree canopy health (COMS-009-21 Urban Forestry Management Strategy Update). • Continue to build upon renewable energy sources where opportunities are available. • Continue to implement climate change lens application to all work plans, capital works, operational activities and events. • Pursue grant funding opportunities where the business case aligns with corporate priorities. • Building upon the Green Innovation Plan, sustainable planning policies will be reviewed, enhanced and updated where applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work will continue with the implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Strategy (COMS-009-21). • Work continues with Milton Hydro • Ongoing • Ongoing • Work is ongoing through the Official Plan review.

Initiative	Details	Status/Timeline
Public Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize the Let’s Talk Milton platform as a portal to provide interested residents an opportunity to participate in conversation, ask questions and share information. • Post town-supported environmental initiatives on the event calendar (i.e.: Good Neighbours Day). • Continue working with community groups and external partners (i.e.: Sustainable Milton, Halton Environmental Network). • Maintain strategic relationships with Milton Hydro and Enbridge Gas. • Facilitate, participate and promote community led initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be utilized on an ongoing basis. • Completed for 2021 and included in 2022 work plan. • Developed successful partnerships with groups which will extend to 2022 and beyond. • Staff actively meet with partners and will continue for 2022 and beyond. • Ongoing Initiative – Numerous community clean ups and tree planting events took place in 2021.
Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LED light conversion at Mattamy National Cycling Centre. • LED light conversion for two arenas at the Milton Sports Centre. • Introduce green lens into the 2021 Facility Condition Audit to inform the 10 year capital forecast for existing assets. • Introduce and test the Climate Lens tool from the Clean Air partnership as part of capital and maintenance programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete • Complete • Ongoing • Testing complete and other strategies to be explored.

Initiative	Details	Status/Timeline
Council Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council report including recommendations for transitioning the Town’s fleet to electric vehicles where possible. • Report to Council via the Official Plan update and secondary plan processes regarding opportunities available to strongly encourage the development community to include EV charging stations in future medium to high-density applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleet strategy to be developed in 2022. • Ongoing