

## **Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM REGION ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**April 12, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change was held on Friday, April 12, 2019 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:00 PM.

Present: Regional Chair Henry attended the meeting at 2:13 PM  
D. Hoornweg, Citizen Member, Chair  
Councillor Chapman, Health and Social Services Committee  
Councillor Crawford, Works Committee  
C. Desbiens, Citizen Member  
T. Hall, Citizen Member  
Councillor Highet, Planning & Economic Development Committee  
J. Kinniburgh, Citizen Member  
C. Mee, Citizen Member  
R. Plaza, Citizen Member attended the meeting at 1:25 PM  
K. Shadwick, Citizen Member

Also

Present: Councillor Dies

Absent: M. Vroegh, Citizen Member, Vice-Chair  
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
Councillor Leahy, Finance & Administration Committee

Staff

Present: S. Austin, Director of Corporate Policy and Strategic Initiatives  
D. Hoge, Program Coordinator, Climate Change  
B. Kelly, Manager of Sustainability, Office of the CAO  
G. Muller, Director of Planning  
S. Penak, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

#### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by C. Mee, Seconded by Councillor Highet,  
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Roundtable on  
Climate Change meeting held on March 15, 2019, be adopted.

**CARRIED**

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. City of Kingston Climate Emergency Declaration**

A) Robert Kiley, Councillor, City of Kingston (Presentation and Discussion)

This item was deferred until a later meeting.

B) Brian Kelly, Manager of Sustainability, Region of Durham (Presentation and Discussion)

This item was deferred until a later meeting.

**4. Recent Federal Budget – Opportunities for Climate Action**

A) Brian Kelly, Manager of Sustainability, Region of Durham

B. Kelly provided a presentation titled: “Recent Federal Budget: Opportunities for Climate Action”. A copy of the presentation was provided to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Federal Budget of March 19, 2019
- Gas Tax Fund
- Zero-Emission Vehicles
- Energy Efficiency in Buildings
- Municipal Asset Management Capacity Fund

B. Kelly advised that the contribution from the Federal Gas Tax Fund will double for 2019 and could support several initiatives including transit, storm water upgrades and the proposed Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility, in Durham.

He also advised that the various zero-emission vehicle incentives of up to \$5,000 per vehicle could help to kickstart Durham’s Electric Vehicle (EV) program under the Durham Community Energy Plan (DCEP).

He advised that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) will receive \$1.01 billion for: collaboration on Community Climate Action to support retrofit of municipal and non-profit buildings and a new Low Carbon Cities Canada initiative (total \$350 million); a community Eco-Efficiency Acceleration Fund to support municipal initiatives on home energy retrofits (\$300 million); and a Sustainable Affordable Housing Innovation Fund for new construction and retrofits (\$300 million).

B. Kelly advised that the (FCM Municipal Asset Management Program will receive an additional \$60 million focused on grants and training for smaller municipalities.

Copies of program details from FCM were provided to committee members.

**5. Waste Department Comments on Provincial Environment Plan**

**A) Mirka Januszkiewicz, Director of Solid Waste Management, Region of Durham**

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M. Januszkiewicz provided a presentation titled: “Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities: Discussion Paper”. A copy of the presentation was provided to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- What is the relationship between Waste Management & Climate Change?
- Ontario’s Residential and Industrial, Commercial & Institutional Waste Management (IC&I)
- Durham Region’s Residential Waste Diversion Rate
- Reducing Litter and Waste in our Communities: Discussion Paper
- Litter and Single-Use Plastics
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Reduce and Divert Food and Organic Waste
- Recovering the Residual Value of Resources
- Next Steps

M. Januszkiewicz advised that there is a correlation between waste management and climate change, and that the problem is with the IC&I sector, where 83% of waste is sent to garbage/landfills.

M. Januszkiewicz advised that on March 6, 2019, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, released the document “Reducing Litter and Waste in Our Communities: Discussion Paper” for consultation. She advised that the Province is looking to introduce easy to understand/implement solutions to problems that are all around us but which we do not always see, such as: litter, single-use plastics, and food waste.

M. Januszkiewicz informed the Committee of the Blue Box Litter Pilot where staff have worked with tire recycling industry partners to develop and test a new “lid” that could contain litter and keep recyclables dry. The pilot has started for approximately 700 homes in the Towns of Ajax and Whitby.

M. Januszkiewicz stated that next steps for the Waste Management Division are to continue to support climate change initiatives through various plans such as maximizing waste diversion and increasing green energy production through Mixed Waste Processing and Anaerobic Digestion, and capturing carbon from the emissions at the Durham York Energy Centre through engineered biomass growth (such as algae), for use as an alternative fuel source.

M. Januszkiewicz responded to questions from the Committee regarding the process of anaerobic digestion and what stage of the approval process

anaerobic digestion is at; how algae is harvested and used (biomass); whether Durham will move to the large recycling totes in the future; and what would happen if the United States decided to close its borders to receiving Canadian garbage.

**6. Approval of Durham Agriculture Sector Climate Change Adaptation Plan**

**A) Kristy Kilbourne, Senior Planner and Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Staff Liaison, Region of Durham, and Don Rickard, Chair of Agriculture Sector Expert Task Force**

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K. Kilbourne provided a presentation titled: "Draft – Growing Resilience: Durham Region Agriculture Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy – 2019". A copy of the presentation was provided to the Committee prior to the meeting.

A copy of the memorandum from Sandra Austin, Director of Corporate Policy & Strategic Initiatives, re: Durham Region Agricultural Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy was received as Attachment 5a to the agenda.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Mitigation versus Adaptation
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Durham Climate Adaptation Plan – Agricultural Sector Strategy Development
- Agriculture in Durham
- Anticipated Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture in Durham Region
- Durham Region Agricultural Sector Anticipated Climate Change Risks and Opportunities
- Agriculture and Climate Change Policy Context and Alignment
- Strategic Objectives
  - Objective 1: Increase local education and awareness on agriculture and climate change adaptation
  - Objective 2: Build community and research capacity
  - Objective 3: Enhance policy support for agriculture and climate change adaptation
  - Objective 4: Address agricultural sector climate adaptation through DCCAP cross sectoral programs and other initiatives
- Conclusion and Implementation
- Appendices

D. Rickard, Chair of Agriculture Sector Expert Task Force introduced himself and explained how he came to be involved with this project.

K. Kilbourne advised that this project was initiated at the Climate Change and Extreme Weather Symposium on February 9, 2018. Following the Symposium, an Expert Task Force was formed to provide input and guidance into the development of a regional climate adaptation strategy for the agricultural sector. She noted that there was broad representation on the task force who built on the work that had already taken place. This included cross-sectoral collaboration, promotion of the strategy, addressing sector overlaps, ensuring update to climate projections, and initiating pilot projects.

K. Kilbourne responded to questions from the Committee regarding the estimated electricity needed for growing marijuana and if special adaptation requirements would be defined for growing it.

Moved by T. Hall, Seconded by J. Kinniburgh,

That the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change (DRRCC) Committee approves in principle the Durham Region Agricultural Sector Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (The Strategy).

And further:

That the DRRCC recommends to the Finance & Administration Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

- A) That the Durham Region Agricultural Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy be approved in principle and that it be referred to local municipal councils for their review and approval in principle;
- B) That staff be directed to incorporate the relevant elements of the Durham Region Agricultural Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy into ongoing Regional initiatives (including Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan, Durham Community Energy Plan, Regional Agricultural Strategy, Regional Broadband Strategy, Smart Cities initiatives, Source Protection, Official Plan, etc.); and
- C) That staff be authorized to further develop the objectives in the Durham Region Agricultural Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy and bring them forward for individual approval to proceed with implementation.

CARRIED

This item will be considered by the Finance & Administration Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.

**7. Other Business**

A) New Climate Projection Study

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B. Kelly advised that Durham Region had previously commissioned a study of climate conditions that Durham would be facing in the 2040s. In the Durham Community Adaptation Plan there is call for renewal of those climate projections every 5 years and that the Natural Environment Task Force secured some funding for this study. The Greenbelt Foundation provided \$46,000 with the remaining funding of \$20,000 through Durham Region totalling \$66,000 for the project and it is being launched now. The purpose is to revise, update and expand those climate projections, using an ensemble model approach, and retrieving data for the short, medium and long-term. B. Kelly informed the Committee that an update should be available by November of 2019.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change will be held on Friday, May 10, 2019 starting at 1:00 PM in Room LL-C, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

[Subsequent to the meeting, it was decided that the next regular meeting of the DRRCC will be held Friday, May 17, 2019 starting at 1:00 PM in Council Chambers]

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Chapman, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 PM.

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D. Hoornweg, Chair, Durham Region  
Roundtable on Climate Change

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S. Penak, Committee Clerk