

# Kingston City Council – Is this Climate Action?

## 3. Demonstrate Leadership on Climate Action

Given the economic, social and environmental threats of greenhouse gas emissions and Kingston's 2019 declaration of a climate emergency, the City is committed to stewarding the environment for future generations. As an internationally connected city, Kingston will address this global issue as a local climate action leader and inspire Kingston residents to become part of the solution.

The City will lead by example with measurable, effective emission reductions, building retrofits and other energy efficiencies, to become carbon neutral as soon as possible and no later than 2040. This will result in a 15% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across the City's operations by 2022.

The City will electrify its vehicle fleet, promote green development/energy and active transportation, create well-maintained litter free roads, expand green spaces, protect wetlands, and promote more recycling and reduction: acting on climate change, protecting the environment and the most vulnerable, and lessening costs of waste, today and in the long term.

Our priorities include:

1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% across the City's operations by 2022.
2. Enhance and expand green spaces, protect wetlands and increase the tree canopy through greening initiatives.
3. Incrementally electrify the City's fleet of vehicles including public transit.
4. Target recycling and waste reduction strategies for businesses, institutions and multi-residential buildings.
5. Develop and promote incentives for residents to reduce their energy use and become part of city-wide solutions to meet Kingston's carbon neutral target.

The City has been focusing on reducing its GHG emissions in the last few years and did achieve success through various initiatives. City staff recognize that achieving an additional 15% GHG emissions reduction of City operations over the next three (3) years will be challenging and require some significant investments as well as re-prioritizing of projects as per the capital projects deferral included in Exhibit B of this report.

The corporate and community climate action plans will be updated and combined as part of an overall Climate Change Management Strategy based on a framework of principles and practices for a sustainable community, such as the Natural Step Strategy, Partners in Climate Protection, or similar. This work will start in 2019 and will include significant public and stakeholder engagement and be presented to Council for final approval in 2021.

Reduction target limited to the City's operations. Not in the spirit of March strategic planning sessions that included setting targets for the community.

Kingston has declared a climate emergency. Emergencies are urgent. Direction to prepare a plan for council sometime in 2021, would likely mean that no work on implementation would begin in this term of council, losing a small and precious window of time for effective action.

Based on 2015 emissions from municipal operations, City staff have estimated a reduction of 3,094 tonnes will be required to achieve the 15% reduction target. Once emissions for 2018 have been calculated (this will be known in 2019) this reduction estimate will be updated. Based on staff's initial review and attempt to balance fiscal and human resources capacity for all Council priorities, staff are proposing initiatives which will include reductions in emissions achieved through capital investment combined with the annual purchase of "gold standard" verified carbon offsets to ensure the target is met.

Because most of the corporate GHG emissions are generated by municipal buildings and fleet, City staff recommends initiatives that focus on a number of building energy retrofit projects and the incremental replacement of the current light duty and transit fleets with electric vehicles. Select equipment and heavy duty fleet vehicles may also become candidates for electrification as the market availability of appropriate vehicles develops. These GHG reduction initiatives will require an estimated incremental total of \$16M in capital funding to implement. In order to achieve these initiatives, City staff are recommending the deferral of capital projects in Exhibit B of this report. This will free up the financial and human resources capacity to focus on Council's priorities.

Adaptation to climate change and sequestration of community-wide emissions will also be supported through a variety of "greening" initiatives that will include the promotion of tree planting and the assessment of feasibility of incenting green roof retrofits within urban areas of the City. Community-wide emission reductions will also be sought through increased emphasis on solid waste reduction and diversion from residential and multi-residential buildings and support for measures that increase diversion from industrial, commercial and institutional facilities. The City will also assess and develop options for providing incentives for residents and businesses to reduce their emissions through the implementation of high impact retrofits such as geothermal and solar thermal equipment which may be incented or financed through mechanisms such as local improvement charges, on-bill financing or community improvement project plans (CIPs). Grant funding may be possible through the Low Carbon Economy Fund. It is important to note that these additional community-focused initiatives will act to reduce emissions at the community-wide level but will not contribute to emission reductions from municipal operations.

Staff is recommending initiatives to increase recycling and green bin participation for residential and multi-residential properties. No specific action is being recommended for the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector, beyond continuing to monitor the development of Provincial policy changes related to recycling and organics. Under existing policies and regulations, municipalities have no roles/responsibilities to deliver services to this sector. At this time it is not clear what roles/responsibilities municipalities will have in the future. The primary intent of the Waste Free Ontario Act is to shift the costs to operate recycling programs from municipalities to producers and to hold producers responsible for the full costs of recovering their designated products/packaging. Additional information on the details of the Policy Statement for Food Waste and Organics will be brought to Council in mid-2019. Staff will continue to monitor opportunities and new technologies that may enable the City to achieve its target of a 15% reduction in corporate GHG emissions by 2022. Staff will report back progress on a yearly basis.

Previous success in carbon reductions were achieved largely because of provincial action (i.e. closing coal plants). Achieving real reductions requires actions to reduce emissions, not offsetting. We cannot buy our way out of this problem by purchasing carbon offsets.

Despite the declaration of a climate emergency, there is little urgency demonstrated here. Promotion of tree planting and feasibility studies do not go far enough. Incenting green roofs is too narrow a focus. We need to think big picture

Recycling is important, but it's only a small fraction of Kingston's overall GHG emissions. The Policy should require all organics to be composted.

Priorities	Initiatives	Measurables	Financial/Resource Implications
<b>3. Demonstrate leadership on climate action</b>			
1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% across the City's operations by 2022.	A) Staff will update and combine the corporate climate action plan and the community climate action plan into a Climate Change Management Strategy, including the addition of climate adaptation planning. The new management plan will be based on a framework of principles and practices for a sustainable community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant public and stakeholder engagement will be undertaken prior to 2021 and an updated Climate Change Management Strategy (corporate and community) will be presented to Council in 2021.</li> <li>Staff will report annually to Council to track the progress of the 15% GHG reduction target.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The associated cost to complete the plan updates and a management plan is estimated at \$200,000 and will be incorporated into future capital budgets. Opportunities are possible from FCM or others.</li> </ul>

\$200,000 to consolidate reports? The problem with this is the timeline of 2 years.

**Exhibit A to Report 19-133**

Priorities	Initiatives	Measurables	Financial/Resource Implications
	<p>(the Natural Step strategy, Partners in Climate Protection, or similar).</p> <p>B) Develop a plan to target corporate building and fleet emissions to reduce GHG emissions.</p> <p>C) Purchase verified "gold standard" carbon offsets to achieve the GHG reduction target by 2022.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete energy retrofit of City buildings (includes retro-commissioning, building automation system enhancements, energy models, and building condition assessments) that will achieve an estimated 2-3%* corporate GHG reduction by 2022. Purchase electric transit and light duty fleet vehicles to achieve approximately 7%* corporate GHG reduction by 2022. *based on estimated 2018 baseline levels to be calculated in 2019.</li> <li>Purchase verified "gold standard" carbon offsets annually to close the gap in reductions to achieve the full 15% GHG reduction target by 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cost of building retrofits is estimated at up to \$8M. The replacement of buses and vehicles and charging infrastructure will be \$8M in incremental costs. This initiative will require the deferral of a number of projects included in Exhibit B of Report 19-133 in order to create financial and human resource capacity to implement.</li> <li>The cost of purchasing verified carbon offsets will be funded through reducing the current level of annual expenditure on Biodiesel for the transit fleet.</li> </ul>

We must address the problem. Emissions from fossil fuels are the problem. Buying credits to allow us to continue business as usual is not a real solution.

Cutting biodiesel to fund carbon credits? Won't this result in increasing emissions from the buses that aren't electric?



2022 will bring implementation to after this term of council.

Priorities	Initiatives	ables	Financial/Resource Implications
2. Enhance and expand green spaces, protect wetlands, and increase the tree canopy through greening initiatives.	<p>A) Increase the tree canopy including a program for adding trees to private property.</p> <p>B) Develop a plan for wetlands.</p>	<p>50 plantings for existing B and Double the Tree canopy program + 3,600 additional plantings for a total of 7,850 plantings between 2019-2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff will report back with a proposed plan by 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This initiative will require deferral of other capital projects as per Exhibit B of Report 19-133.</li> <li>• Funds for this plan will be included in the capital budget.</li> </ul>
3. Incrementally electrify the City's fleet of vehicles including public transit.	<p>A) Purchase two electric buses and charging equipment as per Report 19-140.</p> <p>B) Conduct electric capacity feasibility study to support additional electric bus purchases.</p> <p>C) If feasible, order an additional ten electric transit buses by 2022.</p> <p>D) Replace up to 8 light duty vehicles and if feasible, 3 zambonis to electric versions.</p> <p>E) Continue to monitor market availability of heavy duty fleet and equipment options on a case by case basis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire 12 electric buses and replace up to 11 light duty vehicles and arena equipment to EV by 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incremental capital cost for the replacement of buses to electric and charging infrastructure is about \$8M and other fleet conversions will require \$100,000 which will require the deferral of a number of capital projects as outlined in Exhibit B of Report 19-133.</li> </ul>

Priorities	Initiatives	Measurables	Financial/Resource Implications
<p>4. Target recycling and waste reduction strategies for businesses, institutions and multi-residential buildings.</p>	<p>A) Support attraction of Renewable Energy from Waste investment with municipal study of local and regional organics production within IC&amp;I Sector.</p> <p>B) Explore opportunity to implement dual stream recycling to increase tonnes of recyclables collected.</p> <p>C) Expand recyclable and green bin collection at multi-residential properties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report estimating available quantities of organic waste available locally and regionally from IC&amp;I sector.</li> <li>• Recommendation to Council Q4 2019 for implementation in July 2021.</li> <li>• <b>If implemented</b>, capture additional 500 tonnes of recyclables per year; post-implementation.</li> <li>• 600 additional units from the multi-res sector added to the City's recycling cart program by <b>2022</b>.</li> <li>• 200 additional units from the multi-res sector added to the City's green bin program by <b>2022</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any financial implications will be reported back to Council.</li> <li>• Funds for retrofit approved in 2018 budget.</li> <li>• Requires additional staff resource to promote program and operating funds to implement.</li> </ul>

These initiatives are very vague. Will there be a measurable GHG reduction?

Priorities	Initiatives	Measurables	Financial/Resource Implications
<p>This target was set for the last term of council. It is now extended to the next term of council?</p>	D) Eliminate fees for elementary schools to participate in green bin program at school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend report to EITP in 2019. Implement 20 schools by 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can be absorbed in the existing budget.</li> </ul>
	E) Update Integrated Waste Management Plan (Report and implement new strategies to reduce waste to landfill and GHG emissions from waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Divert 65% of waste from landfill by 2025. Policy and program recommendations to Council in 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial implications will be outlined in the staff report.</li> </ul>
5. Develop and promote incentives for residents to reduce their energy use and become part of city-wide solutions to meet Kingston's carbon neutral target.	A) Develop an energy retrofit program that targets specific appliances with high capital cost and high carbon reduction impact (e.g. geothermal systems, solar hot water, etc.) for property owners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report to Council in 2020 with recommendations for implementation of a retrofit program.</li> <li>Report to Council in 2020 with recommendations for a net-zero new build policy and incentive program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff will seek grant funding and consider alternative financing options like on-bill financing, local improvement charge (LIC), and financial incentives through a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) model.</li> <li>Grant funding may be possible through the Low Carbon Economy Fund and FCM.</li> </ul>

This would mean that nothing would be done in this term of council. Every delay makes the work to achieve GHG reductions increasingly onerous and next council's task even more daunting – and expensive.

Committee of the Whole March 26 to 28 and May 7, 2019

	Initiatives	Measurables	Financial/Resource Implications
	C) Review development policy to identify barriers to, and opportunities for, energy and carbon reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review site plan control and subdivision and design guidelines and report back with options to remove barriers and embed opportunities in 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial implications would be identified in the staff report.</li> </ul>

Not only is this noncommittal, but does not move quickly enough.