

Town of Whitby

Staff Report

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Report Title: 2022 Annual Sustainability and Climate Change Report

Report to: Committee of the Whole

Date of meeting: May 1, 2023

Report Number: CAO 11-23

Department(s) Responsible:

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Submitted by:

Sarah Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives

**Acknowledged by M. Gaskell, Chief
Administrative Officer**

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1. Recommendation:

1. That Report CAO 11-23 be received as information; and,
2. That the Clerk forward a copy of Staff Report CAO 11-23 to the Region of Durham's Sustainability Department.

2. Highlights:

- The 2022 Sustainability Annual Report (Attachment 1) meets the reporting commitments outlined in the 2016 Corporate Sustainability Plan, highlights the Town of Whitby's actions and successes to date and outlines upcoming initiatives for 2023.
- This report allows the Town to meet its climate change commitments, including disclosing corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) score requirements as a member of the Global Covenant of Mayors and signatories on the C40 Cities Race to Resilience and Race to Zero campaigns.
- Key achievements in 2022 include:
 - Establishment of the Community Greening Program;
 - Completion of the Zero Carbon Whitby Costing Study and the development of the first carbon budget;
 - Establishment of the Zero Carbon Whitby Revolving Fund; and,

- Approval of Phase 1: Resilience of the Whitby Climate Emergency Response Plan.
- Key projects identified for 2023 include:
 - Completion of Phase 2: Mitigation of the Whitby Climate Emergency Response Plan;
 - Begin the development of an incentive program to support the implementation of the Whitby Green Standard;
 - Completion of a Corporate Waste Management Strategy; and,
 - Implementation of the zero carbon projects identified in the 2023 budget.

3. Background:

The Town of Whitby recognizes that sustainability is a priority, both corporately and within the community. The Town of Whitby has the following Council-endorsed strategic plans and reporting commitments to guide implementation:

Strategic Plans

Corporate Sustainability Plan (2016)

The Corporate Sustainability Plan is the Town of Whitby's overarching strategy to guide the municipality to meet the vision that "The Town of Whitby will be a healthy, sustainable, and complete community." Council endorsed this plan in 2017. This plan follows three guiding principles:

1. We will reduce our environmental footprint by protecting, conserving, and enhancing our shared natural resources.
2. We will improve the quality of life by valuing people and places.
3. We will improve our economy through the efficient and effective utilization of our resources.

The Corporate Sustainability Plan embeds the One Planet Living framework to help ensure all three pillars of Sustainability are being advanced. The One Living Framework contains 10 simple principles covering all aspects of social, environmental, and economic sustainability. These principles are:

- Health and happiness
- Equity and local economy
- Culture and community
- Land and nature
- Sustainable water
- Local and sustainable food
- Travel and transport
- Materials and products
- Zero waste
- Zero-carbon energy

Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan (2017)

This plan addresses climate adaptation/resiliency across the Region. The plan includes actions to limit the damage to people, communities, the environment, and infrastructure resulting from current and near-future projected climatic changes. This plan outlines actions to meet the vision: “In the face of a changing climate, Durham Region remains a liveable, resilient, and prosperous community through at least mid-century.” The goals of the Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan are as follows:

1. Increase the resiliency of community infrastructure, programs, and services to the changing climate in Durham;
2. Promote and facilitate the incorporation of the proposed programs into the business planning of the responsible agencies;
3. Improve emergency planning for weather extremes and, in particular, our vulnerable populations;
4. Advance the infusion of climate change information into the business planning of both the public and private sectors;
5. Improve the awareness, knowledge, skills, and resources of government, citizens, and businesspeople regarding climate adaptation;
6. Improve the sustainability of Durham Region and its attraction as a place to invest, live, and play; and,
7. Lead to recognition of Durham Region as a leader in climate adaptation planning and implementation.

Durham Community Energy Plan (2019)

The Durham Community Energy Plan (DCEP) will accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy in Durham while simultaneously achieving multiple economic, environmental, and social benefits. The plan highlights the following six overarching programs that will allow this target to be met:

1. Durham Green Standard: Enhanced Energy Performance for New Buildings
2. Durham Deep Retrofit Program: Transforming Existing Buildings
3. Renewable Energy Co-Operative: Stimulating Local Renewable Energy Projects
4. Electric Vehicle Joint Venture
5. Education and Outreach Program: Engaging the Community
6. Co-Ordinating Land-Use Policies: Sustainable Growth

Zero Carbon Whitby Framework (2021)

Zero Carbon Whitby is the Town of Whitby’s Corporate Climate Action Plan. This plan includes a framework to develop and implement actions to align capital and operating budgets with GHG reduction targets. Embedded in this framework, the Town of Whitby has identified the following short, medium, and long-term corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets (relative to 2019 levels):

- 20% GHG emissions reduction by 2025
- 40% GHG emissions reduction by 2030
- 100% GHG emissions reduction by 2045

The plan also contains two objectives:

1. Systematically integrate consideration of climate change into the decision-making processes of the Town of Whitby; and,
2. Provide a viable carbon management framework that aligns with the existing business planning cycle to enable the Town of Whitby to substantively address the climate emergency for its corporate operations.

Zero Carbon Costing Study (2022)

The Zero Carbon Costing Study provides a detailed implementation plan for Whitby to achieve its carbon budget and reach zero emissions by 2045. The Zero Carbon Costing Study provides a schedule and incremental budget for the Zero Carbon Whitby Plan that aligns with the Town of Whitby's corporate carbon budget with its existing capital budget and asset management plans. It also provided guidance on the establishment of the Zero Carbon Revolving Reserve Fund.

Whitby Climate Emergency Response Plan - Phase 1: Resilience (2022)

The Whitby Climate Emergency Response Plan is the primary mechanism to respond to a changing climate across the community. Due to the complexity and different approaches necessary to fully understand the response needed to address climate change, the Whitby Climate Change Master Plan has been divided into two phases:

- Phase 1: Resilience
- Phase 2: Mitigation

Phase 1 involved the development of a Resilience Plan, which was approved by Council in September of 2022. The purpose of the plan is to address the climate changes we already experience in Whitby and expect to experience in the future even with the adoption of GHG emissions mitigation measures. Risk and vulnerability modelling was done by developing two future scenarios for the Town of Whitby:

- An **adapted scenario**, where measures to reduce the direct and indirect risks of climate change are applied across the community; and
- A **business-as-usual scenario**, which includes growth and development without a climate adaptation lens.

To support the achievement of the adaptation actions, a detailed five-year community-led implementation plan has been developed.

Reporting Commitments

In addition to plans and strategies, the Town of Whitby is also dedicated to climate action through the following commitments:

Global Covenant of Mayors

The Town of Whitby joined the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) in 2019. GCoM is a global network of more than 10,000 cities spanning 139 countries worldwide. These

local governments all recognize that ambitious climate initiatives in their communities need to be taken to keep global temperatures from rising more than 1.5°C.

Whitby's participation in the Global Covenant of Mayors commits the community and Town of Whitby to the following milestones:

- Develop GHG emissions inventory;
- Assess climate risks and vulnerabilities;
- Define ambitious climate mitigation, resilience, and energy targets; and,
- Create complete climate action plans.

To meet the requirements of this campaign, Whitby reports all of its climate action through the Carbon Disclosure Project.

Race to Zero and Race to Resilience

[Race to Resilience](#) and [Race to Zero](#) are global campaigns run by the COP26 Presidency and high-level Climate Champions. The purposes of these campaigns are to rally leadership and support from cities, regions, businesses, and investors to help frontline communities build resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change while also reducing GHG emissions to stay within the 1.5°C global temperature increase, as outlined in the 2016 Paris Agreement.

In 2021, Whitby Council endorsed joining these campaigns. By joining Race to Resilience and Race to Zero, Whitby joined cities worldwide in committing to be catalysts for change while also demonstrating the commitment to and delivery of the goals of the Paris Agreement and COP26. To meet the requirements of this campaign, Whitby reports all its climate actions through the Carbon Disclosure Project.

Carbon Disclosure Project

The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) is a not-for-profit charity that runs a global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states, and regions to manage their environmental impacts.

The annual evaluation report is used to gain an overview of environmental performance and how the Town of Whitby's response can be improved in the future. Reporting through CDP meets yearly reporting requirements as a member of the Global Covenant of Mayors, Race to Zero, and Race to Resilience.

4. Discussion:

Many sustainability projects and initiatives were accomplished in 2022. Key highlights include:

- Completion of the Zero Carbon Whitby Costing Study and development of a carbon budget for the 2023 budget cycle; and,
- Approval of the Phase 1: Resilience of the Climate Emergency Response Plan.

It is anticipated that 2023 will further Whitby's journey to sustainability with some of the priority initiatives including:

- Implementation of the zero carbon projects identified in the 2023 budget;
- Initiation of a demonstration project and development of an incentive program to support the implementation of the Whitby Green Standard; and,
- Completion of Phase 2: Mitigation of the Whitby Climate Emergency Response Plan.

5. Financial Considerations:

The Town of Whitby has identified approximately \$1,050,000 in the Sustainability capital budget to support sustainability projects in 2023.

Town of Whitby staff also strive to seek additional funding to support sustainability initiatives. A detailed list of funding programs for which the Town of Whitby has applied is identified in Appendix A of the 2022 Sustainability Annual Report (Attachment 1).

6. Communication and Public Engagement:

Public education is critical to the success of becoming a sustainable community. In 2023 several initiatives will require public education and public engagement, including:

- The implementation of Phase 1: Resilience of the Climate Emergency Response Plan;
- The development of the implementation framework for Phase 2: Mitigation of the Climate Emergency Response Plan;
- and,
- Promoting the Durham Greener Homes Retrofit Program.

The Town of Whitby will also continue to offer sustainability initiatives to build awareness and encourage community-wide participation through:

- Education events and seminars;
- Community Greening Program in partnership with LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forest); and,
- Community Anti-Litter Cleanup Online Tool.

7. Input from Departments/Sources:

The Strategic Initiatives Division has prepared this report with support from Operational Services, Finance, Community Services, and the Whitby Public Library.

8. Strategic Priorities:

The 2022 Sustainability Annual Report aligns with Council's goals by striving to be an economically, socially, and environmentally responsible municipality by recognizing the need to transition to a green economy, embracing clean and innovative technology as well as advocating and facilitating sustainable growth. This promotes complete streets and active and sustainable transportation while preventing and reducing unnecessary costs to the taxpayer by being proactive about climate change.

This information report aligns with the Corporate Strategic Plan's People, Organization, and Customer Priorities. Sustainability helps ensure that environmental, social, and economic factors are considered in all decision-making.

Sustainability initiatives are developed with considerations for inclusivity and accessibility. All documents for this report have been reviewed to ensure that they are accessible to all readers.

The 2022 Sustainability Annual Report describes how the Town of Whitby is meeting its goals of becoming a healthy and sustainable community while addressing climate change through a mitigation and adaptation lens.

9. Attachments:

Attachment 1 - CAO 11-23 - 2022 Sustainability Annual Report