



The Corporation of the City of Cornwall
Regular Meeting of Council
Report

Department: CAO
Division: Choose a Division
Report Number: 2019-02-CAO
Prepared By: Maureen Adams, Chief Administrative Officer
Meeting Date: October 15, 2019
Subject: Environment and Climate Change Committee – Terms of Reference

Purpose

To provide Council with a draft Terms of Reference for the Environment and Climate Change Committee.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (a) Approve the draft Terms of Reference for the Environment and Climate Change Committee;
- (b) Proceed with the creation of the Environment and Climate Change Committee and its membership; and
- (c) Once the Committee is formed, direct the Committee to explore funding opportunities with FCM (or other programs) for the work required to establish a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions for the City with a corresponding plan for achieving a set target in emission reductions.

New Business Motion

A New Business motion to create an Environment and Climate Change Committee was passed at the regular Council meeting held on March 25, 2019. This Committee will be tasked to assess our environmental footprint and create a plan to address our impact, both as a Corporation and as a City. A copy of the New Business motion is attached (Appendix A).

Strategic Planning Priority

Further to this motion, Council has also identified the importance of this Committee during the recent Strategic Planning sessions. Specifically, there is a pillar for Environmental Sustainability that further directs the creation of an Environment and Climate Change Committee as a priority. In addition to the creation of this Committee, another priority within this pillar is to track our greenhouse gas emissions and reduce our carbon footprint. A copy of the Strategic Priorities is attached (Appendix B).

Terms of Reference

Many municipalities are creating committees to address the need to create awareness of the impacts of climate change and how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The draft Terms of Reference (Appendix C) is very similar to the approach taken by other municipalities.

Per the Terms of Reference, the Environment and Climate Change Committee's mandate is to provide a local perspective on climate change initiatives with respect to greenhouse gas emissions targets as well as provide a framework to work towards climate change goals, strategic direction and priority actions, namely:

- Reduce our contributions to climate change while increasing our ability to adapt to climate change conditions.
- Reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions produced within our community.
- Establish a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions with a corresponding plan for achieving a set target in emission reductions.

There are grant application funding programs available through FCM available to municipalities to secure the necessary resources to create a local greenhouse gas inventory as well as the creation of a plan to set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Once the Committee has been formed, an application should be submitted for funding for the creation of a plan.

Composition of the Committee

It is recommended that the membership of the Environment and Climate Change Committee include the following:

- Two members of Council appointed by the Mayor
- One representative from the Raisin Region Conservation Authority
- One representative from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit
- One representative from the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences
- One representative from Transition Cornwall+
- Two community representatives who have climate change knowledge and expertise, with desirable skills and assets that support the Committee
- Staff members including the General Manager of Infrastructure & Municipal Works, the Division Manager of Environment and an administrative resource (to be determined).

Document Title:	Environment and Climate Change Committee - Draft Terms of Reference - 2019-02-CAO.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Appendix A - New Business Motion.pdf- Appendix B - Strategic Priorities.pdf- Appendix C - Terms of Reference.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 9, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Maureen Adams - Oct 9, 2019 - 2:32 PM