

Support for a Climate Emergency Declaration

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What a Declaration of Climate Emergency means for the City of Cornwall?

My passion for the environment comes from completing my Bachelors in Science (Specialization in Environmental Science) at Queen's University. I lived in Kingston for the duration of my undergraduate program, giving me the opportunity to learn about sustainable efforts through not only in-class learning but practical examples within the region. On March 15, 2019 I also had the pleasure of partaking in a rally part of a global protest against climate change. This rally took place a week after the City of Kingston declared a Climate Emergency, and this group of over 300 people took to the streets to let decision-makers see how important the fight against climate change is. My passion for the environment continues even after moving back to Cornwall after graduation, which is why I am thrilled to be a lay appointment on the Environment & Climate Change Committee.

I want to show my support to declare a Climate Emergency in the hopes that it can help the City of Cornwall prioritize creating a Climate Action Plan with the necessary actions, staff members, and an allocated budget for all related costs. I believe the City of Cornwall has great potential to improve their sustainable efforts, some examples include:

- Installing solar photovoltaic systems on municipal buildings to provide electricity to the provincial power grid under the Feed-in-Tariff program
- Introducing more electric vehicles to the municipal fleet
- Using the biogas generated from wastewater processing to supply on-site renewable energy
- Conducting energy audits throughout municipal facilities that can lead to retrofits (including lighting, heating/cooling/ventilating, etc.)
- Introducing energy rebate programs that provide home owners rebates for home energy audits

I believe the Declaration of a Climate Emergency is the right step for the City of Cornwall to take in order to making Cornwall more climate-resilient. With declaring a climate emergency, I believe the best suitable step to follow is developing a GHG emissions inventory for the corporation. And developing a corporate GHG emissions inventory can and should further into developing a community-wide inventory. As presented in the Environment & Climate Change Committee's presentation during the Council Meeting on November 8, 2021, I also support the recommendation that entering in a membership with a group such as Partners for Climate Protection (PCP), the City of Cornwall can receive the technical support and resources necessary to develop a GHG emissions inventory.