

Meeting Date: June 30, 2020

Subject: Peel Climate Change Partnership Terms of Reference Update

Submitted By: Alexandra Service, Specialist, Climate Change, Energy and Environment, Finance and Infrastructure Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the Town of Caledon continue to participate in the Peel Climate Change Partnership; and

That the updated Peel Climate Change Partnership Terms of Reference, provided in Schedule A of Staff Report 2020-0112, be endorsed.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Peel Climate Change Partnership has been active since 2009 and works to advance climate action across the geographic Region of Peel, in alignment with Member Organizations' mandates.
- The current priority areas of the Partnership are Low Carbon Communities (including a Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy), Flood Resiliency, and Green Infrastructure. In addition to this work, the Partnership is collaboratively exploring future strategies to respond to the urgency of the climate crisis.
- The Town of Caledon is in the process of updating its Community Climate Change Action Plan, which will include several action areas that are currently being supported through the Partnership.
- The Partnership Steering Committee recently adopted an updated Terms of Reference to refresh the mandate and purpose of the Partnership, review its scope and priority areas, and provide detail on governance, roles, responsibilities and communications. Regional Council approved the Partnership's updated Terms of Reference on February 27, 2020.
- The updated Terms of Reference calls for endorsement by Member Organizations' Councils or Boards to enhance accountability for the Partnership's stated mandate.

DISCUSSION

Background and Context

The Peel Climate Change Partnership (the Partnership) formed in 2009 and is composed of six Member Organizations: Town of Caledon, City of Brampton, City of Mississauga, Region of Peel, Credit Valley Conservation authority, and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Partnership activities align with Member Organization mandates, while increasing the collective ambition to pursue shared priorities and accelerate climate change action across the region.

The Partnership is also a hub to connect with broader climate networks such as the Clean Air Council and the Ontario Climate Consortium, to leverage knowledge and resources among climate leaders across Ontario.

The Town is in process of updating its Community Climate Change Action Plan (2011), with a focus on both mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (preparing for climate impacts like flooding). The updated Plan will include actions on electric vehicle adoption, stormwater management and strategic use of green infrastructure assets, all of which are areas supported by the Partnership. Staff will bring the Town's updated Climate Change Action Plan to Council for approval upon completion.

Partnership Terms of Reference Update

For the past decade the Partnership's work has collaboratively delivered key outputs to advance collective climate impact (for example the Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy to promote electric vehicle adoption across the Region, and the Risk and Return on Investment Tool to identify highly flood vulnerable areas and prioritize mitigation actions). However, more recent information from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is that the next decade is critical to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This has spurred a review of the Partnership's Terms of Reference with the goal of increasing ambition and influence of the Partnership to accelerate needed action.

The Partnership's Terms of Reference review occurred over several months in 2019, guided by a Working Group of executive leaders across the Partnership. The updated Terms of Reference and Governance Structure (Schedule B) were unanimously approved in principle by the Partnership's Steering Committee in December 2019. Further, the Terms of Reference call for endorsement by Member Organizations' Councils or Boards, to add formality and increased accountability for the Partnership to meet the stated mandate, achieve key objectives within the timelines associated with each Partnership term, and report back to appropriate Councils or Boards at the end of each Partnership term.

a) Mandate

Governed by pre-existing mandates of each Member Organization, the mandate of the Peel Climate Change Partnership is to courageously lead, communicate and work collaboratively with key stakeholders to drive local climate action and secure investment that enables the rapid and equitable transformation of municipalities and broader community, within the Region of Peel, to become low carbon and resilient.

b) Purpose

In the current term of the Peel Climate Change Partnership (2018 – 2022), the purpose of the Partnership is to amplify influence on policy reform and develop/implement best practices to:

- i. Accelerate the reduction community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within the portfolios of buildings and vehicles to support Member Organizations' climate change targets and action plans;
- ii. Be better prepared for extreme weather and other climate change impacts, specifically as relates to increased flood risk and intense heat; and
- iii. Measure, report and communicate progress towards achieving GHG emissions reduction targets and increasing resiliency.

c) Value for Each Member

Each Partner confirmed and articulated the ongoing value of Partnership participation with the dominant themes being:

- Accelerated climate change action;
- Influence and alignment;
- Shared knowledge;
- Enhanced capacity; and
- Regional coordination

Select Past Achievements, Current and Future work of the Partnership

a) Past Achievements

By leveraging resources and expertise from across the Partnership, a number of valuable products and tools have already been delivered, which have enhanced the work of one or more Member Organizations and/or improved grant application success.

- 2011 Peel Climate Change Strategy – set a common long-term community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target;
- Peel Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory, 2006 and 2016 – required for eligibility to access the (past) Municipal Greenhouse Gas Challenge Fund;
- Multiple vulnerability assessments – supported the Regional Official Plan 2041 Discussion Paper, City of Mississauga's Climate Change Action Plan, and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's next generation climate change implementation planning;
- Mapping of heat vulnerability and flood risk – supported enhanced tree planting efforts (based on heat mapping) and various funding applications.

b) Current Partnership Term (2018 – 2022) Priorities

The current Partnership term has three priority strategies in the implementation phase:

- **Low Carbon Communities Strategy** – The electric vehicle (EV) charging station infrastructure network is being expanded. A joint grant application was made to Natural Resources Canada's Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP) for partial funding to install forty-three (43) EV charging stations across eleven (11) sites in Peel Region, including one (1) site in Caledon, the Southfields Community Centre. The Town has received conditional approval of funding for the installation of seven (7) EV charging station connectors (four dual stations, with an 8th connector funded by the Town) at the new Southfields Village Community Centre. On our own, the Town would not have been able to meet the minimum twenty (20) EV charger threshold requirement of the NRCan grant. By working through the Partnership (i.e. pooling the grant request with PCCP members, the CVC, TRCA, City of Mississauga, City of Brampton and the Region of Peel), minimum requirements for grant eligibility were exceeded and conditional approval of funding has been received. The Region has recently submitted the signed funding contribution agreements with Natural Resources Canada and each Member Organization, which allows for agreement execution to proceed in a timely manner.
- **Green/Natural Infrastructure Strategy** – Tree planting in heat vulnerable neighbourhoods is being enhanced. Planting of street trees and stewardship efforts are targeting communities within Mississauga (Derry Rd. E./Airport Rd.), Brampton (Mavis/Hwy 407), and Caledon (Mayfield Rd./Hwy 50).
- **Flood Resiliency Strategy** – A new tool to determine the risk and return on investment of flood mitigation measures will be available to Partners and shared with other municipalities. The tool is in phased-development and prioritizes investments based on risk-mapping and opportunities to mitigate existing and increased flood risks due to climate change. The tool is currently undergoing pilot testing in Alton and Bolton.

c) Future Topics of Interest and Reporting

The Partnership will begin to explore future topics of shared priority. A lens of value-add, accelerated action and alignment with the outcomes of Member Organizations' climate change plans and initiatives will be applied. These include, but are not limited to:

- Low carbon district energy;

- Green Development Standards; and
- Financing mechanisms for building retrofits

Future reporting about the Partnership will include both progress of current strategies and the impact the Partnership has on addressing climate change in the geographic Region of Peel.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Town, along with local municipalities, provides in-kind resources through staff participation and contribute funds on a project-by-project basis. For 2020, the Town is being represented in the Partnership through the Strategy Champion role, which is fulfilled by the Town's Climate Change Specialist in the Energy and Environment Division. The Town's General Manager of Finance and Infrastructure Services chaired the Partnership in 2018, 2019 and remains on the Steering Committee.

Continued participation in the Partnership has been built into the existing workplan for the Energy and Environment Division. Should additional budget be required for specific projects or initiatives, budget requests will be submitted through the Town's budget planning and approval processes.

Grant applications ancillary to Partnership activities are encouraged and can be pursued by any single or multiple Member Organizations to augment approved resources. As such, the pursuit of grants would be for initiatives within the Council-approved budget.

NEXT STEPS

With the endorsement of the Peel Climate Change Partnership's Terms of Reference, the following next steps will be taken in the immediate term:

- Staff continue to be active contributors to the Peel Climate Change Partnership;
- Staff report to Council on the progress of the Partnership, and impact on achieving its mandate at least once per Partnership term; and
- Staff report to Council on successful external grant or funding awards for Partnership activities.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Not Applicable, subject matter is not relevant to the Council Work Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule A: Peel Climate Change Partnership Terms of Reference

Schedule B: Peel Climate Change Partnership Governance Structure