

# Memorandum

Date: May 17 2022

To: Members of Council

From: Katelyn Tozer, Manager, Energy and Environment, Corporate Strategy and Innovation

Subject: Resilient Caledon Plan Implementation

Council endorsed the Resilient Caledon Climate Change Action Plan (Resilient Caledon Plan) in April 2021. This led to the adoption of the Town's target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and action plan to reduce contributions to climate change and adapt to extreme weather events. The purpose of this Memorandum is to deliver on staff's commitment, to provide regular updates on the Resilient Caledon Plan as well as the development of a framework for implementation.

## The Town's Role in Implementation

The Town's role in implementing the Resilient Caledon Plan is threefold:

- 1) Leadership: The Town is responsible for leading, financing and facilitating the actions in the Plan within its direct control (e.g. reducing emissions from internal operations, climate-friendly land use planning and development policies, establishing programs and incentives to retrofit existing buildings).
- 2) Foster Collaboration: The Town can act as a convener of different sectors to foster collaboration with agencies (e.g. conservation authorities, upper levels of government, utilities) and community stakeholders (businesses, residents, volunteer groups, schools and nonprofit groups) to enhance community capacity to address climate change and strengthen ownership of the Resilient Caledon Plan.
- 3) Monitoring and Reporting: Undertake monitoring and reporting to communicate to Council, agency and community stakeholders on the progress, opportunities and barriers related to implementation.

## Progress to Date

Schedule A to the memorandum provides an outline of key successes from the first year of implementation of the Resilient Caledon Plan. Some of these highlights include:

- Finalized a Corporate Green Building Standard for Town buildings, that aligns with net zero ready requirements by 2030, and requires all new eligible buildings to include rooftop solar.

- Introduced more aggressive incentives through the Bolton Community Improvement Program update to encourage eligible businesses to implement energy and carbon emissions reduction projects.
- Formalized a partnership with the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga to initiate a design study for the development of a Peel Region wide home energy retrofit program.

## **A Collaborative Approach to Implementation**

The Resilient Caledon Plan is a community-wide action plan that requires leadership, broad community support and partnerships with other levels of government and stakeholders for successful implementation. To determine the best approach to enhance collaboration and ownership of the actions outlined in the Plan, Staff undertook a review of other municipal collaboration frameworks for climate change, facilitated workshops with internal and external stakeholders to understand opportunities, and met with local Conservation Authorities, non-profit groups, school board, and a cross-representation of Town staff.

From these discussions, three common themes were clear:

- When forming community partnerships, it will be important to work with groups that can implement programs to enhance capacity of the municipality and ensure that workplans are action-oriented;
- Collaboration with internal and external stakeholders will be crucial to the success of Resilient Caledon, however, the roles and responsibilities, objectives and number of participants must be clearly articulated, and opportunities created to allow for cross-collaboration between various networks.
- Establishing a collaboration framework is valuable for embedding climate change priorities and actions into workplans and budgets, and to identify common priorities. This can also streamline implementation and improve partnerships with internal departments and external agencies.

## **Collaboration Framework Overview**

Based on this feedback, the following framework for collaboration was developed, and will guide the implementation of Resilient Caledon moving forward:

- Corporate Leadership Team: Energy and Environment staff will set up regular meetings with the Corporate Leadership team to ensure that the actions of the Resilient Caledon Plan are embedded into Departmental workplans and budgets. This will also foster broader awareness of key priorities and workplans of various Departments to strengthen collaboration.
- Conservation Authorities: Energy and Environment staff will Coordinate annual/biannual meetings with Conservation Authorities and relevant Corporate Leadership Team members focused on climate change adaptation in the areas of stormwater management, capital projects, agriculture, invasive species, natural heritage system restoration and emergency management.
- Community Climate Collaborative: To enhance community capacity to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, staff will facilitate a community climate collaborative, comprised of local nonprofit and community organizations that focus on climate action. The goal of this collaborative

will be to align workplans, enhance community literacy, foster partnerships with other community organizations to ensure an equitable and diverse audience, and raise financial capital to implement actions in the Resilient Caledon Plan. Confirmed members of this group include EcoCaledon, Oak Ridges Institute for Applied Sustainability, Rotary Club of Bolton and Palgrave, Community Climate Council, Electric Vehicle Society Caledon Chapter, Bike Brampton, Albion Hills Community Farm, Palgrave Community Kitchen, and the Peel Public and Dufferin Catholic School Boards.

## Next Steps

Outlined below are the immediate short-term priorities for the Resilient Caledon Plan:

Action Item	Description	Timeline
Implement Resilient Caledon Collaboration Framework	Coordinate meetings with the Corporate Leadership Team, Conservation Authorities and the Community Climate Collaborative.	Summer/Fall 2022
Green Fund Program Update	Seek Council approval of the revised Green Fund Program.	June 2022
Regional Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy	Seek Council approval of the Peel Zero Emission Vehicles Strategy.	June 2022
Green Development Standards	Launch the Town's Green Development Standards project.	June 2022 Launch  Completed Q2 2023
Peel Residential Retrofit Program	In partnership with the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga, design a home retrofit program.	Completed Q3 2023
Net Zero Building Condition Assessments	Apply to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for funding to conduct a study that will assess opportunities to retrofit Town-owned buildings to align with net zero standards.	Summer 2022