

Meeting Date: July 12, 2022

Subject: Proposed Peel Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the proposed Peel Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy outlined in Schedule A to Staff Report 2022-0061, be approved.

## **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Transportation accounts for the largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the Town of Caledon (54%). Transitioning to zero emission vehicles is critical for the Town to reach its Council endorsed climate change targets.
- To date, efforts to support the community in transitioning to zero emission vehicles includes the installation of 22 electric vehicle charging ports and receipt of \$258,420 of grant funds to install some of these stations; encouraging Caledon businesses to apply for Federal electric vehicle charging infrastructure grants; and collaborating with the Electric Vehicle Society Caledon Chapter and ecoCaledon to run community electric vehicle awareness events.
- The Peel Climate Change Partnership ('Partnership'), of which the Town of Caledon is a Member Organization, collaborated to develop the proposed Peel Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Strategy.
- The proposed Peel ZEV Strategy is a five (5) year plan that aims to accelerate the uptake of light-duty battery and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles within the community across Peel Region and will be implemented collectively all Peel municipalities, the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and Credit Valley Conservation.
- Corporate fleet are outside of the scope of the Peel ZEV Strategy, as each Peel area municipality has separate strategies to manage corporate fleet emissions, including the Town's Corporate Green Fleet Strategy, passed by Council in 2021.

## **DISCUSSION**

Increasing the uptake of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) is a crucial strategy to meet Council endorsed greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets of 36% below 2016 levels by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050. Transportation is the largest source of community wide GHG emissions in the Town, accounting for 54% from both commercial and residential vehicles. According to the emissions modelling work completed for the Resilient Caledon Plan, transitioning to ZEVs has one of the greatest contributions to reducing total GHG emissions by 2050.

ZEV sales are set to accelerate rapidly over the next decade, but support is needed to meet the Government of Canada's mandatory 100% sales target for all new light-duty cars and passenger trucks to be zero-emission by 2035. The Peel Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy outlines actions that can be undertaken at the municipal scale to support this transition.

### Progress to Date

The Town has made progress to accelerate the adoption of ZEVs in the community by installing 22 publicly accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging ports, of which \$258,420 of grant funds have been received to offset the installation cost of some stations. The Town has been successful and will continue to submit joint grant funding applications with the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga and local conservation authorities to the Federal Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP) to install more EV charging stations in the community. Staff also make effort to notify the Caledon business community of the ZEVIP grant through the Town's Economic Development newsletter and GreenBiz Caledon program (run in partnership with Partners in Project Green to provide education to Caledon businesses on how to reduce their operational carbon footprint).

Currently, staff are collaborating with the Electric Vehicle Society Caledon Chapter and ecoCaledon to run the Electrify Caledon community event on Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> at the Southfields Community Centre that will feature EV test drives, vendor showcases and educational workshops.

### Peel Climate Change Partnership

The Peel Climate Change Partnership (the Partnership), formed in 2009, is comprised of six Member Organizations: Town of Caledon, City of Brampton, City of Mississauga, Region of Peel, Credit Valley Conservation, and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The goal of the partnership is to advocate for climate change policy reform and develop and implement strategies that increase collective action around member organization mandates to accelerate climate change action in three core areas:

- Low Carbon Communities: Reduce GHG emissions in buildings and vehicles;
- Flood Resiliency: Prepare for extreme weather by managing flood risk;
- Green (natural) Infrastructure: Enhance tree canopy to address extreme heat risk.

### Proposed Peel Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy

The Partnership's current term (2018 – 2022) priorities, include the development of a Peel Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Strategy to accelerate the uptake of light-duty battery and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles owned by the general public and businesses over the next five (5) years. Municipal fleet vehicles have been excluded from the scope of this Strategy, as each partner has addressed corporately-managed vehicles through existing plans and

commitments. Caledon Council passed the Town's Corporate Green Fleet Strategy in 2021 that contains a strategy to transition the Town's fleet to low carbon technologies.

Strategy development incorporated several background research studies including:

- Expected ZEV uptake and the impact on the local electricity distribution system;
- Region-specific health, climate change and socioeconomic impact;
- Residents and businesses survey to better understand perception, opportunities and barriers to ZEV adoption and what municipal actions were supported; and,
- Best practice scan and literature review of actions that can be taken to increase uptake.

In addition, significant internal and external consultation was also conducted (stakeholders engaged outlined in Schedule B to Staff Report 2022-0061) to review Strategy actions, including various Town divisions, Federal and Provincial government, local utilities and electric vehicle non-profit organizations.

Endorsed through the Partnership's Steering Committee (comprised of Senior Leadership staff from member organizations), the Peel ZEV Strategy objectives are to:

- Reduce GHG emissions and air pollution from the transportation sector;
- Improve business and resident knowledge on the benefits and costs of ZEVs;
- Increase ZEV driving experiences, availability and ownership;
- Enhance planning processes and access to charging infrastructure; and,
- Promote local job creation and economic development.

To support these objectives, the Strategy includes 16 actions that reflect each Member Organization's role in enhancing ZEV uptake in the community, organized into five (5) focus areas as described in Table 1. For a full description of the actions, refer to Schedule A: Proposed Peel ZEV Strategy.

**Table 1: Proposed Peel ZEV Strategy Focus Area Description**

<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Description</b>
Expand Access to Public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deploying EV charging stations equitably across Peel Region and ensuring awareness of their locations</li></ul>
Enhance ZEV Education and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing ZEV knowledge amongst Peel residents, businesses and staff</li></ul>
Enhance Private Investments into ZEV's and Charging Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishing municipal programs that can support businesses and residents to purchase ZEVs and charging infrastructure</li></ul>
Embed ZEV Infrastructure Considerations in the Planning Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhancing municipal policies and development standards for charging infrastructure and coordinating with electric utilities on planning, programming and innovation</li></ul>
Advocate, Implement and Report Collectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishing governance and partnerships to implement the Strategy, monitor progress and best support the community</li></ul>

In collaboration with the Partnership and other community partners, the Town will be a key implementation stakeholder across all focus areas. Working together to implement the Strategy will contribute significantly to the achievement of community GHG emissions reduction targets.

### **Next Steps**

Town staff will participate in a working group comprised of municipal, conservation authority and other stakeholders as required, to oversee and track progress on the Peel ZEV Strategy implementation, beginning with priority actions, which include:

- Continue to enable the installation of public charging stations at municipal-owned facilities and conservation authority lands
- Enhance ZEV education and support events such as pop-up ZEV test drives

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Implementation and funding of ZEV Strategy actions will be subject to the annual budget process and council approval.

### **COUNCIL WORK PLAN**

**Connected Community** - Promote community enrichment through support of local groups, enhances partnerships and events

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Schedule A: Proposed Peel Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy

Schedule B: Peel ZEV Strategy Stakeholder Consultation List