

Township of Southgate

Administration Office

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Staff Report CAO2021-085

Title of Report: Southgate Climate Change Action Plan Project Budget Report

Department: Administration

Council Date: December 15, 2021

Council Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report CAO2021-085 as information; and

That Council approve that staff continue to develop the Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy Plan Report document that includes a list of actionable items for each department related to municipal infrastructure improvements to create resiliency, procurement improvements, energy efficiency upgrades as well as strategies to reduce energy consumption, Council and staff education & training, community-resident education, financial incentives to create action and policy changes to drive reductions in emissions; and

That Council direct staff to create in 2022 an annual process to create a 5 year and eventually 10 year rolling Climate Change capital investments plan to identify specific actions, projects and policy change to create climate change improvements for our community; and

That Council support staff in the creation of a Southgate Climate Change Action Committee of staff, including the Mayor or a designate to create progress of this work to develop change in our staff thinking and culture, that will include working with the Grey County Climate Change Manager Linda Swanston as a resource, educator and support and guidance for our committee work; and

That the Southgate Climate Change Action Plan become a strategy going forward with Council to guide the Township as we make decisions on policy and projects, that will feed our future Asset Management Planning and the Capital-Special Project Budget decisions made annually.

Background:

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the progress of the Grey County Climate Change Action Plan process and Southgate's progress. Staff feel are best positioned to use the County Plan and develop a Southgate strategy of action items to implement and create change in our thinking, resiliency and the decisions we make.

Council received staff report CAO2021-068 Southgate Climate Change Action Planning Update Discussion Report at the October 20th, 2021 meeting and the following resolution was approved:

Moved By Councillor Shipston; **Seconded By** Councillor Frew;
Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report CAO2021-068 as information; and
That Council provide direction to Southgate staff to continue to follow the Grey County Climate Change Action Plan as a guidance document; and
That Council direct Township staff to develop a Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy document that creates a process to develop actionable items by department related to municipal infrastructure improvements to create resiliency, procurement requirements, asset efficiency upgrades to reduce energy consumption, resident education, financial incentives and policy changes similar to an annual 10 year rolling capital budget to identify specific actions to create a climate change projects plan for our community; and
That if approved the Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy become a Township Council strategy that feeds Asset Management Planning and Capital Budget decisions annually.
Carried No. 2021-585

Council also received on December 1st, 2021, a presentation from Grey County Climate Change Manager Linda Swanston. Later that day Southgate staff attended a Grey Climate Change Working Group meeting that clearly showed the lower tier municipalities are at different levels of expertise, effort and engagement with Climate Change planning. Some municipalities are hiring dedicated staff to lead this work and others are progressing in other ways.

Staff Comments:

Township staff have developed a list of Southgate Climate Change Action Strategies as a plan to address the concerns in our community. The attached documents Attachment #1 reports ideas from several departments, Attachment #2 reports on Public Works roads & stormwater projects , Attachment #3 reports on Public Works waste department projects and Attachment #4 reports on Public Works water and wastewater projects.

These reports are the initial ideas put forward by the Department Heads for discussion, the development of plans and to prioritize as projects/processes/policies for change that would provide the best results for the required investment. We request that Council approve these Southgate Climate Change Action Strategies as presented and have the staff Southgate Climate Change Committee develop a policy and project budget plan for 2023, with budget requirements if any to complete the work.

The Committee will include representation from Administration, Asset Management, Public Works, Recreation, Council and CAO's office leading the process.

Southgate Climate Change Committee Work:

Staff believe the Southgate Climate Change Action Committee start by dealing with the following questions and issues:

- Education & training for Council and staff

- Identify inventories of GHG emissions
- Complete research of programs and project funding available
- Identify low hanging projects with little cost and provides larger benefits and gains in emission reductions and savings
- Develop a 5 year project budget plan
- Questions that the Committee should consider are:
 - Determine as a group if the Grey County Climate Change Action Plan reflect Southgate's priorities?
 - Prioritize what the Committee should do first?
 - Review the draft GHG reduction targets?
 - Determine our GHG inventories in our community.
 - What policies we need to consider?
 - Determine and define how we implement the Grey County Climate Change Action Plan?
 - How can we implement these strategies to deliver the most community benefit by also create jobs, improve public health, etc.

Determine what Southgate should focus on as a municipality. It is obvious that we need to create change to protect our communities, education to create a culture change/shift in thinking and reduce the impacts of climate change in our daily actions related to energy use and development. Areas we need to consider, but should not be limited to are:

- Municipal & Residential Buildings – Insulation upgrades, mechanical equipment efficiency improvements, roof solar panels, net zero residential construction incentives & policies.
- Transportation – Charging stations, use of electric vehicles, natural gas/propane engine conversions for large truck fleet.
- Waste – Increase diversion and recycling.
- Agriculture – Education, forest canopy/wetland preservation and promote/incent energy use efficiencies
- Land Use – Policies to promote electricity grid consumption rather than genset power production.
- Energy – Municipal consumption reductions and promote through community education upgrading of mechanical systems in commercial, industrial and residential buildings.
- Protection of Waterways and Shorelines – Holstein Dam, bridges & culvert capacity, stormwater management systems & ponds, erosion controls and municipal drains.

Financial Impact or Long-Term Implications

The no financial impact to the 2021 Budget to the municipality that will impact ratepayer taxation at the present time.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

The Grey County Climate Change Action Plan's vision statement is informative as a direction of our roles. The statement says:

"The County of Grey us a clear and visible climate leader; taking actions to address climate change throughout municipal operations and in the community. By embracing energy conservation, innovative solutions, promoting awareness, and working with residents and businesses, the County is creating a more prosperous, sustainable, and healthier future in Grey that is equitable, accessible, and inclusive of urban and rural lifestyles."

The County of Grey has created 26 Community specific strategies and to address the following issues:

- Community Buildings
 - Strategy #1 – Residential Building Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program
 - Strategy #2 – Commercial/institutional Building Energy Efficiency Retrofit Program
 - Strategy #3 – Green Standard for New Buildings
 - Strategy #4 – Industrial Energy Efficiency
 - Strategy #5 – Energy Efficiency Education & Awareness Program
- Community Transportation
 - Strategy #6 – Electric Vehicle Adoption
 - Strategy #7 – Electrical Vehicle Car Share Program
 - Strategy #8 – Active Transportation
 - Strategy #9 – Rural Bus, Ride Share and On-demand Transit Program
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 - Strategy #6 – Electric Vehicle Adaptation
 - Strategy #7 – Electrical Vehicle Car Share Program
 - Strategy #8 – Active Transportation
 - Strategy #9 – Rural Bus, Ride Share and On-demand Transit Program
- Community Agriculture
 - Strategy #14 – Climate Adoption
 - Strategy #15 – Energy Efficiency Retrofits for the Farming Community
 - Strategy #16 – Promote Biogas Capture & Conversion

- Strategy #17 – Promote Locally Grown Food
- Strategy #18 – Facilitate Capacity Building in the Agriculture Community
- Community Land Use
 - Strategy #19 – Reforestation/Afforestation, Habitat and Biodiversity Protection
 - Strategy #20 – Compact, Mixed-Use Development in Designated Settlement Areas
- Community Renewable Energy
 - Strategy #21 – Renewable Energy (Solar PV)
 - Strategy #22 – Renewable Energy Policy
- Community Protection of Waterways and Shorelines
 - Strategy #23 – Prevention of Shoreline Erosion
 - Strategy #24 – Reducing the Risk of Flooding
 - Strategy #25 – Conservation and the Protection of Wetlands
 - Strategy #26 – Monitoring Water Quality within Waterways

The County of Grey has also created 14 Corporate specific strategies and to address the following issues:

- Corporate Stationary Energy
 - Strategy #1 – Outdoor Lighting Conversion to LEDs
 - Strategy #2 – Operations and Maintenance
 - Strategy #3 – Energy Efficiency Retrofits
 - Strategy #4 – Energy Efficiency New Buildings
 - Strategy #5 – Residential Demonstration Building
 - Strategy #6 – Renewable Energy
- Corporate Vehicle Fleet & Equipment
 - Strategy #7 – Reduce Single Passenger Commuting & Private Vehicles
 - Strategy #8 – Fleet Operations Maintenance
 - Strategy #9 – Vehicle Fleet and Equipment Electrification
- Corporate Waste
 - Strategy #10 – Corporate Waste Policy
 - Strategy #11 – Education & Awareness
- Corporate Municipal Culture
 - Strategy #12 – Municipal Climate Lens
 - Strategy #13 – Retain or Appoint an Energy and Climate Coordinator
 - Strategy #14 – Promote a Culture of Conservation

Concluding Comments

1. That Council receive staff report CAO2021-085 as information.
2. That Council approve that staff continue to develop the Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy Plan Report document that includes a list of actionable items for each department related to the following:
 - i. Municipal infrastructure improvements to create resiliency;
 - ii. Procurement improvements;
 - iii. Energy efficiency upgrades;
 - iv. Strategies to reduce energy consumption;
 - v. Council and staff education & training;
 - vi. Community-resident education;
 - vii. Financial incentives to create action; and
 - viii. Policy changes to drive reductions in emissions.
3. That Council direct staff to create in 2022 an annual process to create a 5 year and eventually 10 year rolling Climate Change capital investments plan to identify specific actions, projects and policy change to create climate change improvements for our community; and
4. That Council support staff in the creation of a Southgate Climate Change Action Committee of staff, including the Mayor or a designate to create progress of this work to develop change in our staff thinking and culture, that will include working with the Grey County Climate Change Manager Linda Swanston as a resources, educator and support and guidance for our committee work; and
5. That the Southgate Climate Change Action Plan become a strategy going forward with Council to guide the Township as we make decisions on policy and projects, that will feed our future Asset Management Planning and the Capital-Special Project Budget decisions made annually.

Respectfully Submitted,

CAO approval: Original Signed By

Dave Milliner – CAO dmilliner@southgate.ca 923-2110 x210

- Attachment 1 –Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy Plan Report – Combined Departments
- Attachment 2 –Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy Plan Report – Public Works Roads & Stormwater
- Attachment 1 –Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy Plan Report – Public Works Waste Department
- Attachment 1 –Southgate Climate Change Action Strategy Plan Report – Public Works Water & Wastewater Department