



To: Mayor and Members Council of the City of Peterborough

From: Maggie Braun, Canada's Local Councils on Local Issues

Meeting Date: Date: April 10, 2024

Agenda Item: Climate Change Action Plan 2.0 Update, Report IPGACP24-003. A report to provide Council with community feedback on the Climate Change Action Plan 2.0 – Pathway to Net Zero project.

Subject

In 2016, the City Council approved the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) after developing it in partnership with Sustainable Peterborough and ICLEI-Canada. This plan, which is the cornerstone of Peterborough's climate change strategy, aims to mitigate corporate and community GHG emissions. The CCAP identified 21 strategies that would limit the growth of GHG emissions by 30% by 2031 from 2011 baseline levels.

Recommendations

WHEREAS the current targets and action plans may have unintended consequences that could affect property ownership, single-family homes, private car ownership, individual travel choices, and privately owned farms. Implementing them would cost the council and staff time and resources, public funds and assets, and could negatively impact rural population growth while accelerating urban development, mobility and privacy rights, water and property rights, and food and energy security. The Council's participation in sustainable development and net-zero programs may not be in the best interest of the city.

WHEREAS the Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities accept no responsibility for the Partners for Climate Protection GHG Reduction program, and

WHEREAS a significant number of residents are opposed to net zero plans and policies being implemented and endorsed by the City of Peterborough Council, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Peterborough should reconsider [Report CSD16-031](#), Adoption of the Climate Change GHG Reduction Targets and Action Plans, December 12, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Peterborough appoint a member of Council to stand as a member on Peterborough's CCLI Committee. This committee, which meets quarterly in Peterborough, is dedicated to ensuring that sustainable development policies do not deliberately or inadvertently impose on or restrict the Canadian way of life.

Executive Summary

According to Climate Change Action Plan 2.0 Update, [Report IPGACP24-003](#), a report to provide Council with community feedback on the Climate Change Action Plan 2.0 – Pathway to Net Zero project, the City of Peterborough recently collected community feedback on the CCAP 2.0 project page.

- 381 individuals viewed the page and
- 55 individuals provided feedback through a survey.
- A phone survey was also conducted over five months, which resulted in 500 responses.

Report IPGACP24-003 does not indicate whether the feedback favoured approving CCAP 2.0.

In comparison, on April 8, 2024, the page for Peterborough's Local Councils on Local Issues Recommendations Opposed to CCAP 2.0 was up for seven hours and received:

- 350 views
- 101 poll responses in favor of our recommendations
- 45 signatories in favor of our recommendations
- 30 attendees to the Council Meeting in favor of our recommendations
- and two delegates who brought forward our recommendations.

This data underscores the significant opposition from the community towards the City of Peterborough Council's implementation and endorsement of net zero plans and policies, making it crucial for the Council to reconsider its stance.

Background

It is important to note that there is a lack of scientific evidence to substantiate the property tax increases and municipal expenditures of GHG reduction targets and action plans aimed at achieving near zero CO2 emissions by 2050. This lack of evidence should prompt the Council to reconsider its participation in the Climate Change Action Plan 2.0.

According to Sustainable Peterborough's Strategic Plan, this NGO is focused on "implementing and tracking progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals" in our community, so it created the Climate Change Action Plan 2.0.

Canada's Local Council on Local Environmental Initiatives' mission is to ensure that any sustainable development policies proposed do not infringe or restrict the Canadian way of life,



such as property ownership, single-family homes, private car ownership, individual travel choices, and privately owned farms.

The Saskatchewan Rural Council met in March 2024 and passed [a resolution](#) with 95% support, officially stating that CO2 is not a pollutant. Therefore, they have withdrawn their support of net zero CO2 policies proposed for 2050.

The State of Tennessee has recently passed [a Bill relative to United Nations Agenda 21](#) to prevent the state and its political subdivisions from adopting or implementing policy recommendations that can be traced back to Agenda 21. The bill includes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN's proposal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: *Governance & Fiscal Sustainability*

Strategic Initiative: Continue the work to strengthen our relationships with the provincial / federal government, and our regional partners to make these relations more productive, collaborative, and complementary.

Holding a position on the Peterborough's CCLI Board of Directors would enable the City of Peterborough to strengthen relationships with regional partners representing the local interests, working in municipalities across the country and most importantly, advance City of Peterborough priorities.

Engagement and Consultation

In the event that a member of the council is appointed to become a part of the CCLI Board, they will collaborate with the Local Council on Local Issues to determine and prioritize the most relevant and pressing social and environmental projects for the city of Peterborough. This partnership will ensure that the city's environmental initiatives are given the proper attention and resources they require while ensuring sustainable development policies to not deliberately or inadvertently impose on or restrict the Canadian way of life.

Budget and Financial Implications

Peterborough residents have recently faced an 8% property tax increase, leading to higher costs of living and home ownership. This has also resulted in losses of shelter and therefore more vulnerable individuals in our communities. As such, the City of Peterborough Council should prioritize spending municipal funds on fulfilling the city's needs, rather than on those of Ottawa or unelected international bodies.



Conclusion

The City of Peterborough Council should seriously reconsider its participation in the FCM ICLEI PCP program, which began in 2000. This strategic move would allow the Council to focus its resources and efforts on more immediate local concerns, potentially enhancing the quality of life for its residents. The Council should also communicate to FCM and ICLEI Canada the cancellation of its membership in the PCP Program, thereby freeing up additional resources for local initiatives.

Further Reading

*A Municipal Primer on the United Nations Conference
on Environment and Development*

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