

TITLE: OAKVILLE CLIMATE EMERGENCY 2019-2020 PROGRESS REPORT

DATE: June 26, 2020

June 24, 2020 marks the first anniversary of Council's unanimously endorsed Climate Emergency declaration. The declaration carries forward a tradition of over 10 years of climate action and environmental leadership by the Town of Oakville, outlined in the [Climate Emergency Report to Council](#).

Since the endorsement of the declaration, the town has made significant strides on community climate change action through both

- mitigation: reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and;
- adaptation: increasing resiliency to extreme weather.

This work was the result of leadership and active partnerships formed through a spirit of collaboration across multiple departments and community partners.

Key Highlights of the last year:

- Developed key partnerships to engage in community climate action: Halton Climate Collective, OakvilleReady, and Oakville Energy Task Force
- Achieved 20% reduction in corporate greenhouse gas emissions from 2014 baseline
- Finalized the Community Energy Strategy with Council Endorsement and leveraged a \$100,000 contribution to develop a community governance structure for strategy implementation
- Established seven community resiliency hubs through OakvilleReady
- Selected for national Showcase Cities pilot program
- Launched Climate Lens Tool pilot
- Presented at and supported inaugural youth-led Generation Green un-conference with 920 student participants
- Led broad community outreach and education on climate change

1. Leading by example – Corporate Energy Management Program

The town's Corporate Energy Management Program seeks to reduce energy consumption and related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from town owned and operated facilities. With the creation of the 2020 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (2020 CDM Plan), the town established two goals: a) reduce energy consumption 20% by 2024 based on 2014 levels and b) reduce GHG emissions 30% by 2024 based on 2014 levels.

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Town staff, has implemented a variety of projects including capital replacement within town-owned buildings, lighting retrofits and improvements to existing Building Automation Systems (BAS).

The town's two newest buildings, Fire Hall 8 and the Oakville Trafalgar Community Centre, are scheduled to open in 2020. Both are targeting LEED® Silver certification and will feature a variety of efficiency measures, including:

- A 500 kW solar panel system,
- A geothermal exchange system,
- High efficiency windows and
- High efficiency mechanical equipment.

As of December 2019, reductions of 16% in energy use and 20.5% in corporate GHG emissions have already been achieved. To further drive reductions, the town will be engaging with the following projects:

1. The creation of the town's Renewable Energy Generation strategy to guide efforts towards reducing our dependency on fossil fuels;
2. The creation of the town's Sustainable Design Standards to ensure the design and construction of new buildings or major retrofits use energy as efficiency as possible and;
3. The implementation of a retro-commissioning program. This will involve determining the steps required to implement a Deep Energy Retrofit program, including a review of existing corporate building performance and establishing a higher energy efficiency standard.

2. Community Energy Strategy

On February 25, 2020 Council unanimously endorsed the Oakville Energy Task Force's [Community Energy Strategy](#). The Strategy presents short- and medium- term community priority projects that put Oakville on track to achieving ambitious 2041 energy efficiency, emissions reduction and local economic stimulus goals.

Over the last year, project partners consisting of the Town of Oakville, Sheridan College and the Oakville Energy Task Force extensively engaged with the public, local leaders, businesses, organizations and associations to inform and consult on the development of the Strategy. Through this process, the Oakville Energy Task Force facilitated community ownership of the Strategy and its implementation. An advanced stage of planning was reached in the development of an independent not-for-profit Implementation Management Office.

The innovative community-based governance approach to the Strategy's implementation has been recognized by QUEST, the Prometheus Rising Podcast, OakvilleMatters, Novae Res Urbis GTHA and CEKAP's Energy Planning Professionals Course. Currently, the Oakville Energy Task Force is actively building the Implementation Management Office, having submitted to two grants and meeting regularly during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In parallel, town staff are currently moving forward with partners on four of the Strategy's Priority Projects on topics including net-zero development, electric vehicle charging stations and residential retrofits.

3. OakvilleReady

[OakvilleReady](#) was launched in 2019 in partnership with the Halton Environment Network and with generous funding from the Oakville Community Foundation. OakvilleReady is a community resiliency program coming out as an action of the 2014 Council endorsed [Climate Change Strategy](#).

Over the last year, the OakvilleReady pilot has established seven resiliency hubs using existing faith-based organizations throughout areas of Oakville more vulnerable to the acute impacts of climate change. The pilot engages diverse community stakeholders to increase their personal and community-level resilience to extreme weather events such as heavy precipitation, high wind and winter storms.

In response to COVID-19 OakvilleReady has shifted focus to deliver a platform in support of community connectedness during a time of physical distancing. OakvilleReady continues to assist hubs in delivering virtual services and programming as well as in conducting wellness checks to vulnerable people within their networks. This work has not only helped support the community during the pandemic but has also resulted in strengthening capacity to deal with situations that may arise as a result of climate related issues. OakvilleReady regularly updates its website and social media messaging, engaging over 250 people via a series of virtual community calls and [webinars](#).

4. Virtual Climate Outreach

The town's annual climateXchange activities that take place from Earth Day throughout Emergency Preparedness Week (April) were canceled in light of COVID-19. In place of the 2020 climateXchange, Town staff developed and delivered two virtual gamified-challenges to encourage residents to take action at home.

Through the challenges, 75 community participants completed 283 actions that protect the environment, themselves, loved ones and properties against the impacts of climate change. Actions taken by the participants included planting a vegetable garden, packing

a 72-hour preparedness kit, assessing your property for potential high wind and precipitation damage, shopping locally and supporting local farmers.

5. Halton Climate Collective (HCC)

The [Halton Climate Collective](#) (HCC) is a group of local organizations transforming Halton into a low-carbon, climate-resilient community. The Leadership Team of the HCC is a partnership of Conservation Halton, Town of Oakville, Town of Halton Hills, City of Burlington, Town of Milton, Halton Region, Halton District School Board, Halton Catholic District School Board, University of Waterloo and the Halton Environmental Network.

Over the last year, the HCC team conducted broad engagement throughout Halton Region to advance local climate literacy and prompt the community to act. Key achievements include, but are not limited to:

- 2,765 voices heard on the topic of climate change through surveys and workshops
- Book club partnership with municipal public libraries,
- 1,152 HCC newsletter subscribers
- Creation of the [Every Action Counts](#) video to display examples of everyday sustainable choices that lead to low carbon living
- Two Oakville high school Innovate, Create and Engineer (I.C.E.) events to develop Climate Change Escape Room games and a Solar Charging Station for use at community events and
- Generation Green: a youth-led initiative with the goal of engaging Halton students in climate action leadership, and supporting them in their commitment to GHG emission reductions to drive change and action in their communities. Generation Green resulted in:
 - 920 [Youth Voices Heard](#)
 - 46 projects completed by students throughout Halton Region, primarily focused on reducing emissions by driving less, planting more trees, eating less meat, using less energy, and sending less waste to landfill. The students' [Generation Green Success Stories](#) collectively reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by an impressive total of over 20.3 tonnes.

6. Climate Lens Tool Pilot

The Climate Lens Tool is a central component in the development of the town's Corporate Climate Change Strategy, part of the [Climate Emergency Declaration](#). The tool provides staff with a standardized approach to consider how a project, policy or process may affect or be affected by climate change by:

- Increasing staff awareness and ability to incorporate climate considerations in their work

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- Fostering multi-departmental dialogue and support,
- Developing a corporate culture that integrates climate change into all decision making and
- Providing a basis for tracking corporate impacts and successes.

The town has partnered with the Clean Air Partnership to develop a Climate Lens Tool that is currently being piloted in select municipalities, including Oakville. During the pilot, the high level tool is intended to raise awareness and start conversations. Feedback gathered will be used to refine the tool, expand its ability to cover a range of municipal-based undertakings and to provide more quantitative analysis.

The Climate Lens Tool is the first component of the Corporate Climate Strategy that staff is currently developing. As the tool is refined, it is anticipated that there will be training, metrics and technical support built around it to ensure meaningful impact as well as customization of the tool to make it more Oakville specific.

7. Climate Literacy

The town is working with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) training for elected officials program to help support learning and networking opportunities to drive climate change initiatives in our community. We will be using this as a basis to look at additional in-house training and future opportunities to partner with FCM moving forward.

8. Showcase Cities

In fall 2019, Oakville was selected as one of 25 municipalities to participate in the [Showcase Cities pilot](#). The initiative combines Canadian climate programs, the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program and Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC), with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy program. As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline for Showcase Cities has been extended from Summer to Fall 2020.

Through the program the town has committed to making significant progress in both the Mitigation and Adaptation streams of the Global Covenant of Mayors' Badge program. The town will leverage the completed Community Energy Strategy to achieve all three Mitigation Badges and is also on track to achieve Badge 1 – Assessment in the climate change adaptation stream.

Badge 1- Assessment is equivalent to Milestone 2 of the ICLEI's Building Adaptive and Resilient Cities (BARC) program that the town completed in 2011. To achieve this badge, a diverse team of town staff, external stakeholders, and community members must update the town's risk and vulnerability assessments to reflect current data

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projections and practices. Climate Action staff are working in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and ICLEI Canada to attain the applicable data and create a high-level data projections report with accompanying infographics. The updated risk and vulnerability assessment will inform and prioritize actions aimed to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience on a corporate and community level.