



# The Corporation of the Town of Milton

---

Report To: Council

From: Strategic Management Team

Date: May 8, 2023

Report No: ES-005-23

Subject: 2023 Climate Action Plan

**Recommendation: THAT the 2023 Climate Change Work Plan be APPROVED.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Since 2019, staff has presented an annual Climate Change Work Plan to Council that identifies actions, key projects and initiatives; timing and funding resource requirements.
- The Town's approach applies a green lens to everything we do, ranging from how communities are planned to our own business practices as a municipality.
- Three main areas of focus for the municipality as we work collectively with the community to be more sustainable are: (a) Energy consumption/conservation, (b) Establishing transit supportive development, and (c) Creating walkable complete communities.
- Building upon previous accomplishments, available capacity and focused coordination, the 2023 Work Plan (Schedule B) capitalizes on the significant work done in 2022 and will be completed using existing resources and supplemented with consultant expertise where required.
- A critical component of the 2023 Work Plan is updating the Official Plan to further support Milton's existing and planned sustainable neighbourhoods.
- Milton's approach is different than many municipalities because the sustainability lens is embedded in all departments versus being housed as its own entity.
- Much has been learned over the years and as we collectively work on achieving the 2023 Work Plan there will be a strong focus on telling the Milton Sustainability story by enhancing our public communication, feedback and education components.
- A staff working group will be formalized to foster information sharing, coordination of projects and the efficient use of resources.



## REPORT

### Background

The Town of Milton recognizes the value of actively incorporating sustainability principles into its business practices and has taken meaningful actions to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2007, our community facilities have been designed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified standards. New construction and retrofits have incorporated numerous energy efficient measures including low flow fixtures, energy efficient lighting and occupancy controls.

In 2018, through the Green Innovation Plan (GIP), the Town formally endorsed a sustainability strategy to increase conservation and decrease carbon emissions. To implement the GIP, a Corporate Energy Plan and a Community Energy Plan were created. These plans are now used to inform targeted actions. At multiple Town facilities energy efficiency has been improved through:

- Building envelope upgrades to increase insulation and reduce energy consumption
- LED light conversions
- Geothermal heating and cooling system installations to capture, store and recycle heat and cooling
- Solar panel installations to provide renewable electricity generation

The community has been engaged and numerous partnerships formed to help advance the Town's goals. Several hundred trees have been planted with environmental partners such as Sustainable Milton and local schools. This work is in addition to the Town planting hundreds of trees every year along streetscapes and in parks.

Since 2019, staff has presented an annual Climate Change Work Plan to Council that identifies actions, key projects and initiatives; timing and funding resource requirements. The timing of the formal 2023 Work Plan coming to Council was shifted due to the Fall 2022 Municipal Election, however Council members were advised that they could expect the plan to be a continuation of our efforts to date as many of the planned initiatives take place over a longer duration of time.

This report provides an overview of the 2022 accomplishments, proposed 2023 Climate Change Work Plan and enhancements to the oversight and communication of the Town's overall sustainability efforts.

### Discussion

The Town's approach is to apply a green lens to everything we do, ranging from how we plan communities to our own business practices as a municipality. Throughout 2022, there

## Discussion

has been a number of tactical achievements worth celebrating including: solar panel installation at the Sherwood Community Centre, community garden expansion at Sunny Mount Park, introduction of hybrid vehicles in to the Town's fleet and continued implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Strategy. A list of the 2022 Work Plan accomplishments is provided on Schedule A.

In addition to projects proposed through the 2022 Climate Change Work Plan, staff has completed several sustainability related projects, such as the following:

- The Ministerial Zoning Order for the Milton Education Village and the updated zoning by-law for the Milton Major Transit Station Area require a percentage of parking spaces to have a level two roughed-in for electric vehicle charging stations in residential and non-residential development. In non-residential developments, a percentage of all parking spaces are required to have an electric vehicle charging station installed.
- Amendment of the Region of Halton Official Plan, as requested by the Town of Milton, to permit stormwater management infrastructure and uses related to the use of renewable resources in the Greenbelt Plan Protected Countryside adjacent to the Milton Education Village.
- In June 2022, Council endorsed the Living in Milton policy directions for the new Official Plan. These directions included ideas for incorporating climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, as appropriate into the new Official Plan.

## Proposed 2023 Climate Change Work Plan

The Climate Change Work Plan priority focus areas will continue to build upon the work plans from multiple corporate departments including the Transit Master Plan, Transportation Master Plan and the Official Plan and remain flexible and responsive to priorities identified in the 2023 Corporate Strategic Plan currently in development.

Three main areas of focus for the municipality as we work collectively with the community to be more sustainable are: (a) Energy consumption/conservation, (b) Establishing transit-supportive development, and (c) Creating walkable complete communities.

A critical component of the 2023 Work Plan is updating the Official Plan to further support Milton's existing and planned sustainable neighbourhoods. Milton's growth plan strategically and sustainably directs responsible residential and employment uses to the right locations. Our communities foster and improve climate resiliency through land use and infrastructure planning.

## Discussion

For example, development patterns and appropriate densities supports walking, cycling and public transit resulting in decreased auto dependency which is essential to cutting carbon emissions. Effective urban planning includes providing open spaces, parks, gardens, green roofs, tree canopies and green streets that provide functional benefits such as reducing the potential for flooding and helps cool urban areas. By applying a green lens, infrastructure is used more efficiently and the natural environment can be protected and enhanced. Sustainable development principles will guide the policies of the new Official Plan.

Building upon previous accomplishments, available capacity and focused coordination, the 2023 Work Plan (Schedule B) capitalizes on the significant work done in 2022 and will be completed using existing resources and supplemented with consultant expertise where required. Research and initiation of additional environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation opportunities are subject to available capacity.

Highlights from the 2023 Work Plan include:

- (a) ***Milton Official Plan Policy Update*** - development of policies to encourage development and optimizes land and resources leading to more sustainable communities that minimize adverse environmental impacts.
- (b) ***Battery Electric Bus Project*** - implements a mid-life refurbishment and propulsion conversion of one conventional 12m bus from diesel to electric. This is the first one of its kind in Canada.
- (c) ***Fleet Strategy*** - scope of work includes identifying opportunities through a detailed year by year, unit by unit plan/roadmap to electrify the fleet over the next 15 years. This project is underway and will help inform the 2024 budget and 10 year forecast.
- (d) ***Refresh of the Community and Corporate Energy Plans*** - Continue to further develop, research and plan for future strategies to allow for both plans to achieve emissions reductions.
- (e) ***Urban Forestry Management Strategy (UFMS) Implementation*** - Continued efforts to coordinate and enhance the Town's forestry management program (UFMS 2015-2024)
- (f) ***Community-based activities and partnerships*** - Expand efforts to engage the community, other stakeholders and partners to support various forestry and environmental initiatives. This includes events such as Earth Week Clean-Ups, Spring Planting Days and Fall Planting Week.



# The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report #:  
ES-005-23  
Page 5 of 6

## Discussion

- (g) *Communications and Public Education enhancements* - Ensuring residents, businesses and stakeholders are aware of the Town's sustainability efforts and creating opportunities to provide input through on-line and in-person forums.

The completion of the Work Plan has always been a team effort with the more tactical items being overseen by the Community Services Department and the policy planning, government advocacy and external building standards being led by the Development Services Department. Milton's approach is different than many municipalities in that the sustainability lens is embedded in all departments versus being housed as its own entity.

Much has been learned over the years and as we collectively work on achieving the 2023 Work Plan there will be a strong focus on telling the Milton Sustainability story by enhancing our public communication, feedback and education components. As such, a staff working group will be formalized to foster information sharing, coordination of projects, focused-approach on communicating the municipalities sustainability efforts and opportunities, and the efficient use of resources.

## Financial Impact

The Town's climate change portfolio is managed with existing staff resources. Where specific initiatives require an initial or on-going investment, funds are approved by Council in accordance with the Town's Budget Management Policy (Policy 113).

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew M. Siltala  
Chief Administrative Officer

For questions, please contact:	Doug Sampano, Director, Operations, Facilities & Environment	Phone: x 2547
	Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services	Phone: x 2304



# The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report #:  
ES-005-23  
Page 6 of 6

## Attachments

Schedule A - 2022 Climate Change Work Plan Status Update

Schedule B - 2023 Climate Change Work Plan

Approved by CAO  
Andrew M. Siltala  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.