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Community Energy and Emissions Plan Update

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Resolution

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Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report aligns with City Council's strategic climate change goal as described in the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan.

Report Summary

This report updates City Council on the status of the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Stephen Monet
Manager of Environmental Planning
Initiatives
Digitally Signed Jun 24, 20

Division Review

Jason Ferrigan
Director of Planning Services
Digitally Signed Jun 24, 20

Financial Implications

Steve Facey
Manager of Financial Planning &
Budgeting
Digitally Signed Jun 24, 20

Recommended by the Department

Tony Cecutti
General Manager of Growth and
Infrastructure
Digitally Signed Jun 24, 20

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Jun 24, 20

Update on the Greater Sudbury Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP)

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Purpose

This report provides an update on the climate-related actions initiated by City Council Resolution CC2019-151 and City Council Resolution CC2019-334:

CC2019-151 (in part)

- a) set a target for the CEEP of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. Additional items of CC2019-151 are addressed under the 'Next Steps' section below;

CC2019-334

- b) engage the community to obtain feedback on the draft CEEP from the public and energy stakeholders as described in the report entitled "Greater Sudbury Community Energy and Emissions Plan" from the General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure, presented at the City Council Meeting on November 12, 2019;
- c) finalize the CEEP for Council's consideration no later than the end of the second quarter of 2020; and,
- d) prepare a CEEP Implementation Strategy – Phase One (i.e., the first five years) no later than the end of 2020.

Climate Emergency Declaration – CEEP Target of Net Zero GHG Emissions by 2050 (CC2019-151, in part)

Status: Completed

Staff presented a draft CEEP at the City Council meeting of November 12, 2019. The draft CEEP outlines the actions needed to reach the City's target of net zero GHG emissions by 2050 (CC2019-151).

Community Engagement – Draft CEEP (CC2019-334)

Status: Completed

Staff facilitated a stakeholder workshop session on November 21 (25 attendees) and a public engagement session on November 28 (24 attendees) to obtain feedback on the draft CEEP. In addition, staff placed the draft CEEP on the City's public engagement online platform "Over to You", resulting in over 200 visitors to the site in late 2019. In total from January 2018 to December 2019, the Over to You site attracted 1500 visitors from which 19 comments were received. Finally, in order to better gauge sentiment on matters relating to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions from the broader local public, staff commissioned a public opinion telephone survey from a professional polling firm. To ensure a statistically meaningful sample size, 525 people from various communities in Greater Sudbury were surveyed.

The community engagement efforts reveal that climate change resonates strongly with local citizens and organizations. The telephone survey showed that 82% of participants are concerned about climate change and 79% support the City's Climate Emergency Declaration.

Finalize CEEP (CC2019-334)

Status: Completed

The community engagement activities resulted in a few minor changes to the CEEP, which was finalized in late 2019. At that time, staff initiated work on the Phase One Implementation Plan, with the goal of presenting documents to City Council in June, 2020.

Concerns over the spread of COVID-19 resulted in the declaration of a State of Emergency in Ontario and the City, which set new priorities for Council's immediate consideration.

Notwithstanding the pandemic and declarations, work on the CEEP and its associated Phase One Implementation Plan continues. The pace of work has slowed somewhat since COVID-19 restrictions have made it more difficult to collaborate with internal and external stakeholders due to conflicting priorities.

It is anticipated that the final CEEP will be presented to City Council in September 2020.

CEEP Implementation Strategy – Phase One (CC2019-334)

Status: On schedule for completion by end of 2020.

Thus far, staff have undertaken the following actions related to the CEEP Implementation Strategy – Phase One:

- Identification of potential CEEP-related actions, in collaboration with individual City Directors, which could be implemented within the first five years. These actions will be refined through discussions at a future Business Leadership Group (BLG) meeting with input from the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).
- Identification of municipal projects (e.g., street light retrofit to LED) that staff from various divisions are currently undertaking that are helping to implement the CEEP.
- Securement of letters of support for the CEEP and its implementation from several stakeholders.
- Discussions with numerous individual stakeholders to strengthen support for the CEEP's implementation and better understand stakeholders' energy projects whether already completed or to be initiated in the near-term.
- Discussions with staff of other municipalities and organizations on strategies and measures taken in implementing their CEEP or CEP (Community Energy Plan).
- Implementation of the CEEP will require participation from the City's many divisions as well as with stakeholders and the public. Implementation actions can involve specific projects that result in measurable GHG reductions, but can also involve feasibility studies, policy development and broader education and outreach efforts whose GHG and energy outcomes are not as clear.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The CEEP is complete and will be presented to City Council in September 2020. Staff are continuing to develop the CEEP Implementation Strategy – Phase One, which is expected to be presented to Council by end of 2020 as per CC2019-334.