We are Facing a **Climate ‘Crisis’**: Recommend that Cobourg Declare a Climate Emergency And Take Immediate Action

From the Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee (SCCAC) to Committee of the Whole (COW) on November 25, 2019
SPECIAL REPORT GLOBAL WARMING

BE WORRIED. BE VERY WORRIED.

Climate change isn’t some vague future problem—it’s already damaging the planet at an alarming pace. Here’s how it affects you, your kids and their kids as well.

EARTH AT THE TIPPING POINT
HOW IT THREATENS YOUR HEALTH
HOW CHINA & INDIA CAN HELP
SAVE THE WORLD—OR DESTROY IT
THE CLIMATE CRUSADERS
Critical Four Years!

- Council & SCCAC carrying out our mandate in one of the most critical periods in history since WWII
- IPCC: 10 years to retool society to stop increase above 1.5 degree C – start aggressive action now
- Implications if we fail: human survival at risk
- People already suffering and dying - primarily in poorer countries and poorer people – perpetuates existing inequity

(Jakarta, Indonesia)

(IPCC: International Panel on Climate Change)
Municipalities Key

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – municipalities have influence over approx. 50% of GHG emissions in Canada.
  - Land use/site planning and densities
  - Buildings
  - Local transportation
  - Water and wastewater service
Top 3 of the 15 most important sources of man-made greenhouse gases which are warming the planet.
‘Crisis’ Means

• An “unprecedented crisis requiring unprecedented action”.

• Can’t afford to say:
  – Must wait until we have an ICSP in place
  – Until the Building Code is updated
  – Must allow approvals of future developments to continue as approved or unfair to developer

• Not when the survival of humans is at risk

(ICSP: Integrated Community Sustainability Plan)
Drought
Floods: Minden, 2017; Northern England Nov 2019
High Winds
SCCAC Recommendation

• Council declare a climate emergency
• Set GHG emission reduction target of minimum 60% below 2005 levels by 2030; net zero by 2050
• Communicate declaration to Cobourg Community
• Develop a Green Development Standard (GDS)
• Develop a Community Improvement Plan (CIP)
• Ensure sufficient funds and staff for GDS and CIP
• Provide allowance for Climate Change Action Plan in 2020 budget
• Update Cobourg’s Strategic Plan
Why Declare a Climate Emergency?

• Conveys to residents it is Cobourg’s top priority
• Importance of local action: citizens, business, industry
• Dictates Cobourg actions
• Helps leverage $ from others – FCM, Province
• Shows that Council is informed on the science and wants to do what it can to ensure human survival
Why 60% Below 2005 Levels?

• Canada 9th highest in CO2 emissions (from fuel combustion);
• 4th highest per capita (per person)
  – 14.9T compared to 1.6T for India; or to colder climates Germany 8.9T; Poland 7.7T
• Ontario 2nd highest emitter of Canadian provinces: 159Mt CO2 eq. vs. Quebec (3rd highest) at 78 Mt CO2 eq.
• Canada’s Paris Agreement – 30% below 2005 levels by 2030-signed on by FCM members including Cobourg
• Won’t achieve GHG reduction levels required to stay within 1.5 degrees C increase
Deadly India Heat Wave Temperature Reaches 123 Degrees in Second-Driest Pre-Monsoon Spell in 65 Years – June 2019
Why 60% below 2005 levels con...

- IPCC: need reduction of 45% below 2010 levels by 2030
- Translates into approximately 50% below 2005 levels by 2030
- Add another 10% for Canada and its municipalities to do their fair share
- Targets of other municipalities:
  - Halton Hills: net zero by 2030
  - Burlington: net carbon neutral by 2040
  - Kingston: carbon neutral by 2040
Green Development Standard (GDS)

• Buildings account for most significant GHG emissions within a municipality
• Cobourg facing development applications now for thousands of new units
• Less costly to ensure sustainable now than retrofit later. FCM: for every $1 spent now, save $6 in future costs
• Section 41 of the Planning Act: develop a GDS through a site plan control by-law
Local government planning/spending decisions made today have consequences, including GHG emissions, that last for decades, even centuries… (source Judy Smith Presentation to Council)

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<tr>
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<td><strong>Public service pricing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Urban land use planning</strong></td>
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Community Improvement Plan (CIP)

• A CIP for environmental sustainability would enable Cobourg to provide financial assistance or incentives e.g.
  – provide loans and grants to owners and tenants of lands and buildings;
  – give development charge rebates for infill developments or developments with higher densities and higher energy performance targets

• Cobourg’s Official Plan permits CIP for purpose of sustainable development, retrofits, etc.
2020 Funds Needed for GDS and CIP

- Green Development Standard and Community Improvement Plan - likely require two consultants

- CIP: Should have some efficiencies from Downtown and Tannery District CIP, and Affordable Housing CIP

- Cobourg is far behind in sustainable practices, including Tannery Site development. Told due to limited resources, including staff.

- Critical that Council provide funds for sufficient staffing resources – additional staff should be hired now, as the first step
2020 Funds for Climate Plan

• Climate Action Plan to be presented to Council Spring 2020 – after 2020 Budget is completed

• Recommend Council provide an **allowance** in the amount of $200,000 to hire additional staff to set up climate action initiatives approved by Council

• Recommend this include staff dedicated to developing and implementing GHG reduction actions

• Again critical to fund additional staff to implement and provide ongoing support to the various program
Reflect Cobourg’s Climate Action Commitment in Budget

• To fund the GHG mitigation actions will require difficult budget decisions

• May require deferral of some planned expenditures –
  – Kingston - deferred $54M in other projects

• It may require tax increases

• As the current decision makers for Cobourg we ask that you act now to help ensure human survival.
SCCAC Will Help

• The SCCAC will help in whatever ways it can. Some examples:
  – Help communicate to the public
  – Help assess the impact of climate mitigation measures on different sectors of Cobourg citizens, and identify offsetting strategies, where such exist, for those on whom it would present a hardship

Attachment: Article titled “UN Says Climate Genocide Is Coming. It’s Actually Worse Than That” by David Wallace-Wells
11,000 Scientists Declare a Climate Emergency

• “We declare ... clearly and unequivocally that planet Earth is facing a climate emergency,”

• We ask that Cobourg Council do the same, and take immediate, aggressive action