

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 2, 2019</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>JAY STANFORD, M.A., M.P.A. DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT, FLEET &amp; SOLID WASTE</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT 2019-2023 COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION PLAN</b>

## RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director – Environment, Fleet & Solid Waste, the next steps for the development of the 2019-2023 Community Energy Action Plan, as presented in this report, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

## PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

This subject area includes numerous relevant reports at [www.london.ca](http://www.london.ca) under City Hall (Meetings) including the final update to the 2014-2018 Community Energy Action Plan included in this Civic Works Committee Agenda.

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2019 AND DEVELOPMENT OF COUNCIL'S 2019-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

Municipal Council continues to recognize the importance of climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, sustainable energy use, related environmental issues and the need for a more sustainable and resilient city in the development of its 2019-2023 - Strategic Plan for the City of London. Specifically, London's efforts in both climate change mitigation and adaptation can address all four Areas of Focus, at one level or another:

- Strengthening Our Community
- Building a Sustainable City
- Growing our Economy
- Leading in Public Service

## BACKGROUND

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Committee and Council with an overview of the next steps to develop the 2019-2023 Community Energy Action Plan (CEAP).

### **CONTEXT:**

The 2014-2018 Community Energy Action Plan was approved by Council in July 2014. This was the first comprehensive community energy action plan created after several years of community engagement and input received from other engagements:

- Rethink Energy London, January 2010 through to 2012
- Rethink London launched in 2012

The Guiding Principles of the 2014-2018 CEAP included:

1. This needs to be the community's plan for London, not the City of London's plan for the community
2. We can't control the price of energy, but we can control the cost of energy
3. Start first with conservation
4. Get the function and size right
5. Invest in energy efficiency and good design
6. Make use of free heat and free light
7. Reduce waste
8. Make it local
9. Build on local strengths
10. Use renewable energy
11. Measure your progress
12. Share your stories

The CEAP focused on actions to be undertaken during the previous Council term (2015-2018). The overall goals were to:

1. Increase the local economic benefit of sustainable energy use through:
  - a. Cost savings from energy conservation and energy efficiency,
  - b. Revenue from local production of clean & green energy products, and
  - c. Job creation associated with product and service providers engaged in these activities.
2. Reduce the environmental impact associated with energy use, through the use of greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction targets consistent with the Province of Ontario's former targets, namely:
  - a. 15 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2020,
  - b. 37 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2030, and
  - c. 80 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2050.

The three most common benchmarks being used for reporting on overall progress are:

- 1990 – the baseline year used for the Province of Ontario's former GHG reduction targets
- 2007 – the year energy use and greenhouse gas emissions reached their peak in London
- 2010 – the first year for which total energy cost data has been determined

Progress on the 2014-2018 CEAP was reported annually, with the final update report provided to Civic Works Committee on this meeting Agenda (April 2, 2019).

## DISCUSSION

### **Background to Community Energy Planning**

The City of London does not have direct control over how much energy is used in London, but it does have influence. The control over energy use in London rests primarily with citizens, visitors, employers and employees. Individual and collective action with respect to sustainable energy use, energy management, and energy conservation is critical for the future.

There are two primary types of responses to address climate change:

- Mitigation: mitigating future impacts through reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxides, primarily as a result of fossil fuel energy use (e.g., fuel for personal vehicles, natural gas to heat homes); and

- Adaptation: adapting infrastructure, homes, buildings, landscapes, etc. to better withstand current and future impacts of more frequent severe weather events that are created from a climate that is “wetter, warmer, and wilder”.

There are also actions that can be taken that provide benefits to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as “smart grid” power generation and storage technologies, combined heat and power systems, green roofs, and urban forestry.

Since the early 1990s, the City of London has been interested in energy use in London primarily for environmental reasons, namely that Londoners’ contribution to both smog-forming emissions and GHG emissions come primarily from fossil fuel energy use.

In the last ten years, with recent increases in electricity and gasoline prices, Londoners have become more aware of the financial cost of using energy. Rising energy prices and the higher percentage of household income spent on energy is causing many Londoners to pay more attention to their energy use and look for opportunities to conserve energy.

The development, implementation and advancement of municipal/community energy plans is strongly supported by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Municipal/community energy plans were also a key component of Ontario’s former Climate Change Action Plan.

In December 2018, the current government of Ontario made the importance of community energy planning very clear in its proposed *Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations – A Made-in-Ontario Plan*:

*Addressing Climate Change*

*DOING OUR PART: Government Leadership*

*Empower effective leadership on climate change:*

- *Work with municipalities to develop climate and energy plans and initiatives to support building climate resilience and transformation to the low-carbon future.*
- *Support the efforts of Indigenous communities to integrate climate action into local plans and initiatives for community power, economic development, health and sustainability.*
- *Encourage local leadership by forming stronger partnerships and sharing best practices with community groups and business associations.*

City staff are playing a leadership role within Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow (QUEST) Canada, a leading organization for community energy planning. QUEST estimates that over 200 communities in Canada have community energy plans, and more than 400 communities - which collectively represent more than 50 percent of Canada’s population - are working on community energy initiatives.

The City of London is also a participant in the Community Energy Knowledge Action Partnership (CEKAP), a unique Canada-wide partnership of universities and municipalities studying the challenges of implementing community energy plans. Globally, the City of London is a participant in CDP Cities and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

### **Foundation from 2014-2018 CEAP**

During the 2014-2018 CEAP numerous workshops, presentations, energy efficient installations, behaviour changing solutions, energy conservation technologies, apps, festivals, reports, videos, celebrations, etc. occurred across London. This demonstrates the desire to take action to reduce energy consumption, live in a more sustainable city, share stories, and learn about more opportunities.

Reflecting back on the successes and challenges of the first 4+ years provides a good foundation to create actions for the next time period. Contained in Appendix A is a brief City staff summary of “what worked”, “what didn’t work” and “what needs to change”.

## **Key City Service Areas, Activities and Strategies that Support the CEAP**

The 2019-2023 CEAP will be connected to many City of London programs and initiatives across several Services Areas including:

- Environmental & Engineering Services
- City Planning
- Corporate Services
- Development & Compliance
- Housing & Social Services
- Neighbourhood, Children & Fire Services
- Parks & Recreation

It is worth noting that within City Planning, a number of resources have been re-aligned and strengthened in an area called Long Range Planning and Sustainability. This will add value to planning for both immediate sustainable energy actions as well as for the planning and design that is required to ensure the community is ready to embrace change in the future.

In addition to the upcoming approval of the final Council Strategic Plan for the period 2019-2023 (expected in April 2019), important strategies, plans and programs that contribute to CEAP include, but are not limited to (in alphabetical order):

- Active transportation and transportation demand management activities
- Active & Green Communities program
- Climate Change/Severe Weather Adaptation Strategy for built infrastructure
- Corporate Asset Management Plan
- Corporate Energy Conservation & Demand Management (CDM) Plan including Green Fleet initiatives
- Cycling Master Plan
- The London Plan (including sustainability, resiliency strategies, completion of remaining Green Strategies, as well as Community Improvement Plans for Downtown, Old East, and SoHo)
- NeighbourGood London: London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy
- Regeneration Plan for community housing, including the Affordable Housing Development Strategy and Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan
- Smart City Strategy
- Smart Moves Transportation Master Plan (including higher-order transit projects and related initiatives)
- Stormwater and watershed management programs (e.g., green roofs, Flooding Matters program)
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Waste management (including the Waste Disposal Strategy, the London Waste to Resources Innovation Centre, and the 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan)
- Water conservation and efficiency programs

It is important to recognize that the above strategies, plans and programs are continuing to produce positive results towards the recently completed CEAP and during the development of the next CEAP (see below). There is no gap in action.

## **Next Steps for Developing the 2019-2023 CEAP**

Over the next ten months, City staff will undertake the following:

1. Complete the review of existing community energy and/or climate change action plans in other comparable communities.
2. Work with a few third-party organizations (e.g., Clean Air Partnership, QUEST Canada, CDP Cities) to carry out an independent review and/or discussion of the previous 2014-2018 CEAP to identify gaps with current best practices.

3. Talk to London's key energy business and institutional stakeholders (e.g., energy suppliers, energy users) to understand and confirm how best to work with them on future energy and/or climate change actions, specifically:
  - a. How the City can help them with their actions,
  - b. How they can help the City with our actions, and
  - c. How collaborative work also helps other Londoners and London employers to take action.
  
4. Talk with a number of community leaders (in energy efficiency and sustainable energy actions) to understand and confirm how to best engage, inspire and/or influence the community on future energy and/or climate change actions, specifically:
  - a. How the City can help encourage more actions, and
  - b. How the community can help the City with our actions.
  
5. Finalize the elements of a broader community engagement plan that captures the learnings from #3 and #4 above.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Review of existing community energy and/or climate change action plans	April – May
Third-party independent review and/or discussion of the previous 2014-2018 CEAP	April - July
Discussions with London's key energy stakeholders and community leaders	April - September
Launch a broader community engagement plan	September - November
Develop Draft 2019-2023 CEAP	October - December
Submit Draft 2019-2023 CEAP to Civic Works Committee	January 2020

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#### Appendix A City Staff Perspectives on the 2014-2018 CEAP

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **CITY STAFF PERSPECTIVES ON THE 2014-2018 CEAP**

City staff perspectives on the outcome of the 2014-2018 CEAP have been structured around answering these three questions:

- What worked?
- What didn't work?
- What needs to change?

#### **What Worked?**

City staff found that the most successful actions undertaken were those where there was a specific project or program around which people from many stakeholder groups with a shared interest could rally around. Examples of these include:

- The establishment of the London Environmental Network to help build local capacity for community-led environmental projects, which involved people initially from ReForest London and the Thames Talbot Land Trust;
- The establishment of Green Economy London to will help foster target-based sustainability programs for local businesses, which has involved many people from local organizations & businesses such as London Environmental Network, Labatt Brewery, Libro Financial, Western University, and MTE Consulting;
- The delivery of London Energy Efficiency Partnership (LEEP) for Renovators workshops to help encourage local renovators undertake deep energy retrofits of older homes, which involves participation from the London Home Builders' Association (LHBA), LHBA members, and Natural Resources Canada;
- The deployment of curbside electric vehicle charging stations, which involved participation from London Hydro, FLO, and City of London Parking Services;
- The deployment of a compressed natural gas fuelling station, which involved participation from Union Gas and City of London Fleet Services; and
- The development and delivery of the Active & Green Home Visit pilot project, which involved participation from Green Energy London and a number of Active & Green Communities.

#### **What Didn't Work?**

The 2014-2018 CEAP never attained the status of a document which other stakeholders rallied around, or made references to within their own plans. However, the subject areas of CEAP; energy conservation, sustainable energy, reducing GHG generations, etc. were widely known.

In comparison, The London Plan (Official Plan) document enjoys a high level of recognition amongst Londoners as a whole, with The London Plan often being referenced by London stakeholders. This is not surprising given the significant amount of effort and resources dedicated to engaging Londoners in the development of The London Plan.

It was also challenging to obtain and document information on the actions that many Londoners and key energy stakeholders have taken, particularly when there was no strong incentive to share this information. The upcoming launch of Green Economy London will provide a new forum through which London's employers can the share their stories. Web-based story-telling platforms such as CityGreen Stories will be reviewed.

## **What Needs to Change?**

As part of updating and expanding the reach of CEAP for 2019-2023, there needs to be consideration of an improved fit with respect to higher-order documents such as The London Plan and the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. Both of these documents outline at a high level the community aspirations related to climate change mitigation and adaptation for the longer term (in the case of The London Plan) and the near term (for the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan).

The role for the 2019-2023 CEAP should be one of a “work plan” that outlines in more detail how those aspirations related to the role of community energy use in climate change mitigation will be addressed and met over this next term of council. This takes advantage of the high level of recognition that The London Plan enjoys within the community, which then alleviates the need to build a separate “brand” for the 2019-2023 CEAP itself.

In the delivery of the 2019-2023 CEAP, there will be some organizations that will play a more significant role than just that of a stakeholder. These organizations would be partners with the City on the delivery of local programs and projects. Examples of these potential partners include, but not limited to, London Hydro, Union Gas, the London Home Builders’ Association, London Environmental Network, Green Economy London, Fanshawe College, and Western University.