

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee  
City of London  
300 Dufferin Avenue  
London Ontario  
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RE: Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan

Dear Mayor and Councilors

I would urge Council to immediately accept the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) and not delay on addressing the Climate Emergency. The framework of the plan is comprehensive and there has been considerable consultation with stakeholders. The need for immediate action is well documented including in the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report released in February 2022. It emphasizes not some far off 2050 goal but rather suggests that the world must cut its total emissions by 45% by 2030 to avoid climate catastrophe. We cannot continue to push off the environmental and financial burdens onto future generations or in the case of municipal governments to future councils. I would like to add some further reasons why council should immediately accept the CEAP;

- Being an active partner with other cities and starting to take action now allows the City to be in a better position to receive funding from provincial or federal governments. Piecemealing submissions together at the last minute before funding will expire will likely lead to overall less funding and less effective governance.
- Being an active partner with other Ontario cities will allow London to leverage purchasing power and provide greater political leverage to get province to fund initiatives
- Many climate actions come with annual cost savings (waste water energy) and co-benefits. Thoughtful planning can use climate action funding from provincial and federal governments to address existing infrastructure gaps and other city priorities
- Key priority items of leadership can be the impetus for change for the community at large. If completed on a timely basis it will make future efforts easier and less costly.
- As noted in the Staff Report to the SPPC on February 8, 2022 almost 90% of the energy expenditures made leaves the local economy. The sooner that projects such as large scale solar projects are undertaken then the more money stays within the local economy. Although developing a detailed Climate Change Investment and Implementation Plan for all initiatives is welcome, completion of this larger plan should not preclude taking action on some projects.

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