



C 23  
COMMUNICATION  
CW - June 4/2019  
ITEM - bep4

### MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

<b>Meeting Date:</b> COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 4, 2019
<b>Title:</b> City of Vaughan Climate Emergency Declaration
<b>Submitted by:</b> Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

**Whereas**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined the need for urgent and transformative action to reduce carbon emissions in the next 11 years to limit global warming to 1.5-degrees and avoid catastrophic climate change;

**Whereas**, the Government of Canada's April 2019 Changing Climate Report warns that Canada is warming at twice the global rate;

**Whereas**, extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change have resulted in increased insured losses, reaching \$2 billion across Canada in 2018, of which \$1.3 billion is attributed to events in the province of Ontario;

**Whereas**, C40 Cities recognizes that to remain within a 1.5-degree temperature rise, average per capita emissions across C40 cities must drop from over 5 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) per capita to 2.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per capita by 2030;

**Whereas**, globally, cities account for 70% of the world's carbon emissions, are on the frontlines of managing the impacts of climate change, and are integral to climate change solutions;

**Whereas**, under the "Environmental Stewardship" Strategic Priority, the City of Vaughan 2018-2022 Term of Council highlights to "Build the Low-Carbon Economy and a Resilient City" as a key activity;

**Whereas**, the City of Vaughan recognizes that climate action also represents an opportunity for economic growth and stimulation in the low-carbon economy;

**Whereas**, the City of Vaughan has been acting on environmental sustainability through action plans such as Green Directions Vaughan, the Corporate Energy Management Plan, and the Municipal Energy Plan, setting a solid foundation to accelerate ambition and action to meet the moral and scientific urgency of climate change;

**Whereas**, the City of Vaughan, as a component of the Official Plan Review, will be developing a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Framework;

**Whereas**, the City recognizes that climate change on its own does not constitute an event that necessitates the activation of the City's Emergency Response Plan, but climate change can be associated with a natural emergency such as severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, and high winds that cause imminent harm to persons and property; and

**Whereas**, a growing list of cities across the world (including 31 municipalities in Canada to date) have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a global climate emergency;

***It is therefore recommended:***

- 1. That the City of Vaughan declare a climate emergency for the purposes of naming and deepening our commitment to protect our economy, environment and community from the impacts of climate change; and***
- 2. That in response to this declaration, Council direct City staff to:***
  - i. Continue the revision of Green Directions Vaughan, the City's community sustainability plan, as a platform for public engagement and community collaboration to act on climate change and other sustainability initiatives, and seek Council approval of Green Directions Vaughan by Q4 2019;*
  - ii. Evaluate joining the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and bring forward a staff report to Council with more information in Q1 2020;*
  - iii. Report back to Council on the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Framework by Q4 2020;*
  - iv. Continue, in 2020, the planned update of the Municipal Energy Plan through approved capital project PL-9576-19 with the aim to identify strategies to reduce per capita GHG emissions from the 2013 level of 5 tonnes tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person to between 2 to 3 tonnes tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person by 2030;*
  - v. Report back to Council by Q2 2020 with results of the study on the use of Local Improvement Charges to enable energy efficiency retrofits in private buildings as a key action to reduce energy use, save money, and reduce GHG emissions;*
  - vi. Through the update to the Sustainability Performance Metrics program, report back to Council in 2020 on possible incentives to encourage new construction to be more energy efficient than the Ontario Building Code;*
  - vii. Work with the ClimateWise Business Network and other partners to improve compliance to Ontario Regulation 506/18, Energy and Water Reporting and Benchmarking in the commercial sector;*
  - viii. Continue to pursue the Sustainable Neighborhood Retrofit Action Plan (SNAP) project in the Thornhill area in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and local resident groups.*
  - ix. Continue to periodically provide updates to Council on the above and other initiatives related to the City's efforts to combat climate change.*

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua