



**REPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

For City Council – March 27, 2023

From: Office of the City Clerk

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Title: Climate Emergency Declaration in Fredericton

Description:

The Environmental Stewardship Committee, at its meeting held on Thursday, March 16, 2023 received a draft Climate Emergency Declaration and PowerPoint Presentation from a representative of the Fredericton Chapter of the Council of Canadians outlining the intent behind the proposed Climate Emergency Declaration. The proposed declaration was drafted in collaboration with City Staff, as it aligns with the intent of all three of Council's climate plans, adaptation, corporate energy and emissions plan and community energy and emissions plan.

The Committee directed that the declaration be forwarded to City Council for consideration:

WHEREAS it is well established that human activity is causing significant disruptions to the world's climatic systems with increased green house gas emissions which is increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, raising the global average temperature, and posing other significant risks, such as drought, forest fires, rising sea levels, ecosystem damage and loss of life posing immediate threats to our natural environment, our health, our jobs and economy, and

WHEREAS 645 Canadian cities, towns, and local service districts, including three Atlantic provincial capital cities, have formally declared a Climate Emergency, and

WHEREAS a Climate Emergency declaration carries with it significant meaning, signalling to the public the City's acknowledgement of the seriousness and urgency of the climate crisis and a deep commitment to urgently eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by empowering residents and city staff to dramatically lower their carbon footprints by increasing funding and mobilizing resources towards addressing the crisis, and

WHEREAS for the purposes of this declaration, the use of the word "Emergency" is to reinforce the urgent, critical seriousness of climate change impacts, and therefore does not imply or trigger "a state of emergency" which has its own legal definition, status, and implication, and

WHEREAS the City of Fredericton has adopted and is in the early stages of implementing three climate action plans, forming a critical foundation for action to meet the urgency of climate change impacts,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That Fredericton City Council declare a Climate Emergency and that Council recognizes the critical impacts of a changing climate on our natural environment, our community and our economy.

AND that Council direct staff:

1. To minimize the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the early years by making every effort to align staff resources to accelerate the implementation of the City's three climate action plans, which are aligned with Federal and Provincial greenhouse gas reduction targets (50% reduction by 2030, 100% by 2050 and net negative carbon emissions thereafter); and
2. To ensure that available city funding is adequate to attract and secure maximum funding from all other levels of government and third parties, in order to: gain capacity to ensure that measurable climate action within the City as a corporation continues, support efforts to show leadership and inspire action in the community, and ensure investment in climate plan items that provide a good return in cost savings; and
3. To develop and deliver meaningful engagement strategies that empower the entire community to unite and take ownership of their part of the climate solution through behavioural changes and adoption of lower carbon lifestyles, consistent with receipt of the recent petition pressing the city for urgent implementation of the climate plans, signed by 500+ individuals and 12 civil society and faith groups, and businesses which represent many more people.