

Conclusion: "Climate Change Report" to Council

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FULL ACTION CATALOGUE

Following is a list of corporate climate actions put together with input from staff members and councillors. The actions presented earlier in this document were identified as immediate priorities, based on visibility, cost, and departmental priorities. The list below may be used to inform longer-term priorities.

ADMINISTRATION:

Create a policy to ensure climate change is considered in all Municipal activities.

Create a Climate Action Implementation Committee.

Create a policy to incorporate GHG emissions and carbon footprint of Municipal purchases and RFPs.

Create a policy to reduce workplace waste and emissions (eg. equipment shut-off, reducing paper waste, increasing waste separation).

Create a policy requiring emissions offsets to be purchased for all air travel.

Explore opportunities for developing a certified local emissions-offset project.

Develop a tree-planting program to sequester carbon and offset emissions.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:

Adopt policy to construct all new buildings to a LEED Silver standard.

Complete an energy audit at the Don Henderson Sportsplex, Tatamagouche & Debert arenas.

Employ a part-time facilities manager to be an advocate for and to coordinate efficiency upgrades across all buildings. (Possibly: Partner with the Town of Truro to hire a full-time On-site Energy Manager from Efficiency NS.)

Replace lighting in all buildings with LED.

COURTHOUSE:

Replace all windows

Retrofit entire HVAC system in the Courthouse

Insulate basement walls (including server room)

OTHER INITIATIVES:

Efficiency upgrades to the EMO building - lights, windows, weather stripping, doors, water heaters.

Explore opportunities to keep MRF and Balefill bays shut when trucks are not delivering, or to curtain off dumping area.

Install Variable Frequency Drives with the new baler to increase efficiency.

Feasibility study for wood heat at PW building using silviculture

Install new, sheltered bike racks at the Courthouse, the CCWWTP, and the Public Works building in Truro Heights.

Build a bridge across the Salmon River, connecting Onslow to Lower Truro.

FLEET:

Update procurement policy to require all new vehicles to be in top 25% of their class for fuel efficiency, and to be electric when possible.

Prior to procurement, review size of vehicle being replaced to determine if a smaller vehicle could suffice.

Create an anti-idling policy for all municipal vehicles and municipal parking lots.

Test out low-emission vehicles for building inspectors.

Research whether an electric forklift could work at the Balefill.

Pilot a shared EV vehicle for staff - either for a specific department or a general staff vehicle.

Install EV chargers at key Municipal facilities.

Review road maintenance/snow clearing standard to see where trips can be saved and costs reduced (balance safety and emissions).

Review PW vehicles for over-sized vehicles that can be replaced with smaller ones.

Pilot electric mowing equipment.

Reduce mowing at parks - balance mowing with tick management.

Explore car-sharing, ride-sharing, and carpooling initiatives.

STREETLIGHTS:

Over a 5-year period, replace all existing, non-LED streetlights with LEDs, beginning with the oldest lights.

All new streetlights must be LED.

Where possible, install solar lights in parks when new lighting is required.

WATER & SEWAGE:

Conduct a feasibility study to install turbines in effluent channels to generate electricity.

Install heat exchangers in influent channels.

Use electricity generated on-site to dry bio-solids and find local use as fuel or fertilizer.

Pilot project to use larvae to convert biosolids to high quality fertilizer (fat larvae can also be used as biofuel).

Install Variable Frequency Drives on the blowers that control oxygen in the SBR tanks.

Shut off UV disinfection lights 3 months of the year.

Energy retrofits in all water and sewage treatment plants

SOLID WASTE:

Hold focus groups with landlords and waste removal companies to find a better solution for dealing with waste from apartment buildings.

Complete feasibility study on capturing waste heat from compost.

Increase number of cold audits conducted at businesses.

Ask waste collection contractor to be more stringent in rejecting compost bins containing garbage and garbage bags containing organics.

Launch campaign to educate residents about connection between landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions - purpose is to encourage separation of organics to reduce methane emissions.

RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION:

Install a large-scale solar farm adjacent to the CCWWTE, with battery storage.

Feasibility study for wood-burning furnace at Balefill and MRF that uses wood waste product.

Feasibility study for large-scale solar farm or solar garden.

Install solar panels at the Tatamagouche library.

Local Rationale for Strong Action

In her presentation to council, Joanna Burriss outlined strong action on climate change is required because of several factors affecting Colchester County:

In Nova Scotia, climate change will bring warmer temperatures, higher sea levels, more extreme rainfall and storm flooding, and more frequent and extreme storms and will also put our freshwater supply at risk and increase demand and competition for fresh water. (www.climate-change.novascotia.ca)

Nearly 44% of Canada's GHG emissions are under the direct or indirect control of local governments (FCM, Creating a change in climate through local action), so the Municipality must do its part to take on climate change.

There are economic advantages to implementing sustainable initiatives: Making buildings and equipment more efficient can save significant energy costs over time; Often, efficient technologies like LED light bulbs require less maintenance and do not need to be replaced as often - saving time, effort, and money; some businesses and residents are attracted to communities that prioritize sustainability; Sustainable infrastructure can be more effective and cost-effective, such as green infrastructure for stormwater management, which retains, treats, filters, and conveys stormwater more effectively than

conventional infrastructure and renewable energy projects can lead to energy cost savings and potential additional income.

Investing in sustainable technology and infrastructure is investing in the future of the community, while relying on foreign energy has risks: volatile oil prices, rising energy costs, overseas violence, and government turmoil. If we generate our own energy, we'll be more resilient to energy security threats.

By generating energy locally would be keeping money in the community which would normally go to Emera, or other provinces or countries.

Promoting alternative transportation modes like cycling, walking, carpooling, carsharing, low-emissions vehicles, or public transit can reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, not to mention improve the health of citizens and new markets for renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency can stimulate the local economy and create jobs.

Climate change will be expensive: costs from climate impacts in Canada could exceed \$5 billion in 2020 and grow to more than \$21 billion by 2050 (FCM, Creating a change through local action). Although some climate change impacts will be inevitable, we can aim to reduce the rate and magnitude of climate change.

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