

Conclusion: "Climate Change Report" to Council

Continued from page 7

Update procurement policy to require all new vehicles to be in top 25% of their class for fuel efficiency and reliability and to be electric or hybrid when possible. Prior to procurement, review size of vehicle being replaced to determine if a smaller vehicle could suffice. Vehicles are often selected based on lowest price, which can result in inefficient vehicles or unreliable vehicles often in need of repair. Investing in efficient and reliable vehicles should result in long-term cost savings on fuel, repairs, and replacements. Electric vehicles and hybrids may be suitable alternatives for certain fleet vehicles and have much lower emissions than gas or diesel vehicles.

Adopt an anti-idling policy for all municipal fleet vehicles and municipal parking lots. Modern vehicles do not need to be idled to warm up, and they warm up much faster when moving. Idling is a particular concern in the winter, when many drivers start their cars (often with a remote) up to a half hour before they need to drive it. Idling is an extremely inefficient use of fuel and source of air pollution and is in most cases unnecessary. This initiative could include signs in all Municipal parking lots prohibiting idling (or idling for longer than 1 or 3 minutes).

Conduct a needs and demand study for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at municipal facilities. To facilitate the transition to electric vehicles, it is important to provide charging stations at workplaces, so that employees can charge their vehicles while at work. The chargers are particularly important for staff members with long commutes, who live in apartment buildings, or who are otherwise unable to charge at home.

Streetlights Cost Estimate:

Over a 5-year period, replace all existing, non-LED streetlights with LEDs, beginning with the oldest lights. All new streetlights must be LED. No upfront cost, paid over time on NSP bill. This initiative will come at a low cost to the Municipality. Nova Scotia Power offers a flat rate for new

LED lights to municipalities, whereby they charge no upfront cost and a monthly fee that covers both capital and operational costs. This action is supported by Provincial legislation, requiring all streetlights to be replaced with LEDs.

Water & Sewage Cost Estimate

Conduct feasibility study for heat exchangers in influent channels at the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility.

A minimum of 17 million litres of wastewater flows into the CCWWTF every day at a steady temperature of 10°C year-round. This influent could be used to help heat the facility in the winter, reducing heating costs and making use of a readily available renewable energy source.

Install Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) on the blowers at the CCWWTF that control oxygen in the SBR tanks. Variable Frequency Drives allow the blowers to ramp up and down as required, rather than shutting on and off, saving considerable energy. These VFDs are estimated to reduce total electricity consumption at the CCWWTF by 25%. VFDs have already been installed on the blowers in the Headworks Pumping Station.

Perform energy retrofits at all wastewater treatment and water treatment plants, including draft-proofing and LED lights. Retrofits of all wastewater and water treatment facilities would make the buildings much more energy and cost-efficient. Draft-proofing will maximize the benefits of process heat in the winter.

Solid Waste Cost Estimate:

Launch an educational campaign about the greenhouse gas emissions associated with landfill waste. Most people do not associate garbage with greenhouse gas emissions; they associate it with pollution and filling the landfills but may not realize that waste separation directly relates to methane and carbon dioxide emissions.

By developing an educational campaign that speaks to the climate change impacts of putting organics in the trash, the Municipality may be able to encourage residents to pay closer attention to how they dispose of everyday waste.

Renewable Energy Generation:

Conduct a feasibility study for a solar farm at the Central Colchester Wastewater Treatment Facility. The CCWWTF is the municipal facility that consumes the greatest amount of energy, by far, and has the greatest emissions, aside from solid waste. Because of the equipment and processes required to treat wastewater, it would be impossible to eliminate all associated emissions; therefore a renewable energy project could be used to offset the emissions from the facility and to complete



ment efficiency upgrades. There is a vacant piece of land adjacent to the facility owned by the Municipality that could be used for a solar farm. A small wind farm could be an alternative project.

Conduct a feasibility study for a large-scale renewable energy project. There is federal funding available for creative renewable energy projects, and renewable energy will be required to offset the municipal emissions which cannot be eliminated through efficiency measures. This study could be for a solely municipal energy project, or it could incorporate community investors or take on a "solar garden" structure.

Conduct a feasibility study for using waste wood to heat the buildings in Kemptown. The Balefill receives an enormous amount of wood waste every year, which the facility then pays to have chipped and sent off-site. A feasibility study should be completed to determine the cost of replacing the existing heating systems at the Balefill and MRF with wood heat and whether the annual supply of wood that is sent to the Balefill is sufficient. Using waste wood would be a free fuel source, although a wood-chipper would need to be purchased or rented to make the wood suitable for efficient burning. The Balefill building is currently heated by two 25-year old oil furnaces, which will need replacing before long, and the offices are heated with ageing electric heaters. The MRF uses electric baseboard heat. The compost office, staff change rooms, and the scale house are already heated by new, efficient heat pumps.

Install solar panels on the roof of the Tatamagouche Library. The Tatamagouche Library has geothermal heating and uses only electricity for the rest of its energy demand. It would be relatively inexpensive to install solar panels on the roof, and the project would be highly visible to library visitors and passers-by. The library is already highly efficient and offers EV charging; the solar panels would make the library carbon-neutral, setting a great example for the community and serving as a

model for other buildings. Some of the initiatives will be funded through Municipal operations and a renovation reserve, while others may require external funding. The costs to the Municipality may be reduced through securing grants and rebates. The federal government offers several funding streams through the Green Municipal Fund for capital projects, pilot projects, and studies and for which a few of these initiatives are eligible. There may also be funding available from the Province of Nova Scotia. The Sustainability Planner will apply for some of the funding, while specific departments will apply for funding for their department-specific initiatives, where possible. Several of the

initiatives will require only staff time.

The actions were selected as short-term priorities based on cost, visibility to the public, available funding, departmental priorities, and how much momentum there is for the project. For example, there is a lot of momentum for solar right now in Colchester and around the Council table; Council, staff, and the community are all excited about solar, so the Municipality should capitalize on that energy.

The Sustainability Planner will be the champion for this Plan; she will coordinate with managers from each department to make sure there are staff members dedicated to the initiatives and that they are moving forward. She will assist with the implementation of these actions wherever possible.

ble. This Interim Corporate Climate Action Plan is a short-term response to a long-term issue. Addressing climate change will take years of hard work and investment in efficiency, renewable energy, community programs, and carbon sequestration. This Plan will give the Municipality a head start in making change and taking advantage of available funding while the Community Energy and Emissions Plan is being developed.

This Plan is only the beginning of Colchester's action on climate change, but it is a strong start - this document will set the Municipality up to be a leader for the community and to demonstrate what commitment to climate change mitigation looks like.

continued on page 9

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