

Provincial Climate Change Action Plan (June 2016) Information Update

Appendix A

Synopsis:

The province released their five-year Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-change-action-plan>) on June 8, 2016 with actions derived to achieve the greenhouse gas emission and energy reduction targets established in their Climate Change Strategy (Released Nov. 2015 - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-change-strategy>). The province's reduction targets are:

- 80% reduction below 1990 levels by 2050
- 37% below 1990 levels by 2030 – interim target

Environmental Policy conducted a comprehensive review/analysis with the majority of departments over the past months to advise on and discuss actions that may impact and/or provide opportunities.

Given the broad reach of the CCAP and potential impact/influence on the town a brief synopsis is provided to support awareness of key municipally-focused actions.

While there is no formal consultation on the CCAP it can be expected that position/policy papers being prepared by affected industries, practitioners and sectors will be released over the next several weeks/months. Staff will monitor these. The province does indicate consultation will occur prior to or within the delivery of some specific actions. These consultation opportunities will also be monitored and flagged as they are announced by the province.

In this overview not all actions are represented. Only actions expected to be of greatest interest related to their potential impact or opportunity are included. The actions not included relate to: provincial 'corporate' operations (buildings, fleet, other); affordable housing building improvements (potential funding for Halton Region); shift to lower carbon fuels; and, homeowner, e.g. low carbon retrofits, and business, e.g. clean tech commercialization and innovation support programs; among others. Some of these actions will have relevance to departments, e.g. Economic Development, and some will be of general interest, e.g. homeowners, businesses, institutions, etc. All CCAP actions will be monitored to ensure any potential impacts/opportunities are not missed.

The synopsis lists key actions by the CCAP report section.

Transportation

- EV purchase incentives (as of 2016) and no HST (2018) for EV additions to fleet
- Overnight free charging residential/multi-residential (2017)
- More charging stations in workplaces (Ongoing)
- EV ready homes and workplaces (2018)
- More and safer urban cycling facilities, e.g. grade separations, cycling signals (2018)
- Revise provincial road/highway standards to require commuter cycling infrastructure – same for transit corridors (Ongoing)

Buildings and Homes

- Retrofit heritage buildings for low carbon energy systems and high efficiency materials (2017)

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- Update Building Code with long-term energy efficiency targets for new net zero carbon emission small buildings to come into effect by 2030 at the latest, consult on initial changes to be effective by 2020 (2017/2018)

Land Use Planning: Supporting Low Carbon Communities

- Enable municipalities to require installation of EV charging stations in surface parking areas (2017/2018)
- Enable municipalities to pass bylaws related to green standards in areas other than building construction such as sustainable transportation management (2017/2018)
- Amend *Ontario's Planning Act* to make climate change a provincial interest to ensure climate change is taken into consideration in planning decisions; greenhouse gas emission reduction and climate change adaptation could be specifically noted as provincial interests (2017/2018)
- Consult and propose amending *Planning Act* to make climate change mitigation and adaptation mandatory in municipal official plans (2017/2018)
- Eliminate minimum parking requirements over next five years for municipal zoning bylaws, especially in transit corridors and other high-density, highly walkable communities (2017/2018)
- Establish a greenhouse gas pollution reduction challenge fund or program to support municipal emissions reduction projects for municipalities with municipal/community energy plans or climate change policies with greenhouse gas pollution inventories in place; green projects will get matching provincial funding (focus on best cost-per-tonne reduction) (2017)
- Fund municipal development of Community Energy Plans and Climate Action Plans (and their supporting data) with greenhouse gas pollution inventories (Ongoing)
- Fund collaborative, community-based and data-driven approaches to carbon reduction including district-wide mapping integrating gas, electricity, heating and cooling, water, transportation, waste consumption and building data into a single platform to enable district-wide decisions; applications would include distributed generation opportunities, detailed emissions analysis, targeted conservation spending and improved benchmarking (2017/2018)
- Ensure municipalities have tools to pilot congestion management plans and "low emission zones" (2017)
- Provide grants to municipalities/large private employers to implement Transportation Demand Management Plans (2017/2018)

Agriculture, forests and lands: Productive, sustainable, and a pathway to creating offsets

- Implement Waste-Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy strategy to move to zero waste in the province and zero greenhouse gas pollution from waste (2017)
- Expand Greenbelt (2017/2018)
- Protect Grasslands (Ongoing)
- Support tree-planting programs - plant 50 million trees across province by 2025; double number of trees planted within boundaries of urban municipalities from one to two million with funding for irrigation where appropriate (Ongoing)
- Implement guide, *Consideration of Climate Change in Environmental Assessment in Ontario* for projects and undertakings under *Environmental Assessment Act*; consider climate change mitigation and adaptation in EA processes and studies (2017/2018)

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For most cases these actions have funding allocations and expected GHGe reductions indicated.

The province intends to set up a Green Bank to finance low-carbon energy technologies to reduce carbon pollution from Ontario buildings and help source the most cost-effective low-carbon technologies to reduce emissions in homes and businesses.

Note: the province is drafting a companion climate change adaptation strategy to complement the mitigation actions included in the CCAP. Release is expected in 2017.

All of the actions in the CCAP are presented at quite a high level in the 86 page document. The level of detail required to fully understand the impacts/opportunities will be rolled out over the coming months to years. It is clear that when the government compiled these actions focus was on implementation over the next three years within the five year plan.