

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: July 3, 2020

To: Chair and Members of General Committee

From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, Commissioner of Community Services

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
September 9, 2020

Subject

Peel Climate Change Partnership – Terms of Reference Update

Recommendation

That the City of Mississauga's continued participation, as a member of the Peel Climate Change Partnership, be endorsed and that the Peel Climate Change Partnership Terms of Reference (2018-2022) (attached as Appendix 1) also be endorsed.

Report Highlights

- Since 2009, the City of Mississauga has participated as a member of the Peel Climate Change Partnership (PCCP). Member organizations include City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, Credit Valley Conservation, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and the Region of Peel.
- Partnership activities align with the City of Mississauga's Climate Change Action Plan and support shared priorities to accelerate climate action across the geographic region of Peel.
- The Partnership recently completed an update of its Terms of Reference (2018-2022) to refresh its mandate and purpose, confirm ongoing value to members, review scope of priority work, increase accountability, and provide a detailed account of governance, roles and responsibilities, and communications.
- The updated Terms of Reference (2018-2022) calls for endorsement by all member organizations' Councils or Boards to ensure accountability for the Partnership to meet its stated mandate, achieve the defined purpose associated with each Partnership term, and report back to appropriate Councils or Boards at the end of each Partnership term.

Background

Since 2009, the City of Mississauga has participated as a member of the Peel Climate Change Partnership (PCCP). The PCCP is composed of six member organizations, including: City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, Credit Valley Conservation, City of Mississauga, Toronto and

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Region Conservation Authority and the Region of Peel. Partnership activities support the City of Mississauga's Climate Change Action Plan and the collective ambition of all member organizations to pursue shared priorities and accelerate climate action across the geographic region of Peel.

Comments

For the past decade the PCCP's work has been coordinated and has delivered key outputs to advance collective climate impact. However, the more recent and amplified message that the next decade is critical for limiting global warming to 1.5°C has spurred the review of the Partnership's Terms of Reference with the goal of increasing ambition and influence, and to enable the Partnership to meet its full potential towards accelerating needed action.

The Partnership's Terms of Reference review occurred over several months throughout 2019 and was completed as a collective undertaking and guided by a Working Group of executive leaders across the Partnership. The Partnership's mandate, purpose and value to each Member Organization are stated below and captured within the updated Terms of Reference for the 2018-2022 term (Appendix 1).

The updated Terms of Reference and current Governance Structure (Appendix 2) were unanimously approved in principle by the Partnership's Steering Committee in December 2019 and by Regional Council on February 27, 2020. The updated Terms of Reference calls for endorsement by all member organizations' Councils or Boards to ensure accountability for the Partnership to meet its stated mandate, achieve the defined purpose associated with each Partnership term, and report back to appropriate Councils or Boards at the end of each Partnership term.

1. Mandate

Governed by pre-existing mandates of each Member Organization, the mandate of the Peel Climate Change Partnership is to courageously lead, communicate, and work collaboratively with key stakeholders to drive local climate action and secure investment that enables the rapid and equitable transformation of municipalities and broader community, within the Region of Peel, to become low carbon and resilient.

2. Purpose

In the current term of the Peel Climate Change Partnership (2018 – 2022), the purpose of the Partnership is to influence policy reform and develop and implement best practices to:

- Accelerate the reduction of community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions within the portfolios of buildings and vehicles to support the GHG reduction targets of Member Organizations' climate change plans;
- Be better prepared for extreme weather and changing climate, specifically as it relates to increased flood risk and intense heat; and

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- Measure, report, and communicate progress towards achieving GHG reduction targets and increasing resiliency.

3. Current Term (2018-2022) Priorities

The current Partnership term has three priority strategies that are currently in the implementation phase.

Low Carbon Communities Strategy

Implementation Highlight: The electric vehicle charging station infrastructure network is being expanded. A joint grant application was made to Natural Resources Canada Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program for partial funding to install 43 electric vehicle charging stations throughout the Region of Peel over the next 18 months. By working through the PCCP, minimum requirements for grant eligibility were exceeded. Approval for funding (\$510,739) has been received and the Region has recently submitted the signed funding contribution agreements with Natural Resources Canada and each Member Organization, which allows for agreement execution to proceed in a timely manner. As part of this initiative, 12 electric vehicle public charging stations will be installed in two locations in Mississauga (Downtown and Streetsville).

Green/Natural Infrastructure Strategy

Implementation Highlight: Tree planting in heat vulnerable neighbourhoods is being enhanced. Planting of street trees and stewardship efforts are underway, targeting communities within Mississauga (Derry Rd E/Airport Rd), Brampton (Mavis/Hwy 407), and Caledon (Mayfield Rd/Hwy 50).

Flood Resiliency Strategy

Implementation Highlight: A new tool to determine the risk and return on investment of flood mitigation measures will be available to Partners and shared with other municipalities. The tool is in phased-development and prioritizes investments based on risk-mapping and opportunities to mitigate existing and increased flood risks due to climate change. Specific information from one of Mississauga's watershed was used as input to create this tool.

4. Value for the City of Mississauga

Through the review of the Terms of Reference, each member organization was asked to confirm and articulated the ongoing value of participation in the Partnership with the dominant themes being:

- Accelerated climate change actions;
- Influence and alignment;
- Shared knowledge;
- Enhanced capacity; and
- Regional coordination.

5. Future Topics of Interest

The Partnership has begun to explore future areas of shared priority. These include:

- a) Ensuring consistent climate related messaging for use by, and to raise profile and presence of, the Partnership;
- b) Identifying existing projects that achieve multiple benefits and support one or more of the PCCP Strategies in preparation of a federal stimulus package, should it be released;
- c) Reviewing other climate change-specific funding opportunities with the objective of submitting co-applications to increase regional impact and ensuring a shared approach (e.g. FCM/GMF); and,
- d) Sharing knowledge and progress on District Energy initiatives, as appropriate.

Future reporting about the Partnership will include both progress of current strategies and the impact the Partnership has had on addressing climate change in the geographic region of Peel.

Strategic Plan

The Peel Climate Change Partnership (PCCP) supports four pillars of the City's Strategic Plan:

- Move: the PCCP supports the strategic goal to Develop Environmental Responsibility.
- Connect: the PCCP supports the strategic goal to Provide Mobility Choices.
- Prosper: the PCCP supports the strategic goal to Create Partnerships for Innovation.
- Green: the PCCP supports the strategic goals to Lead and Encourage Environmentally Responsible Approaches; Conserve, Enhance and Connect Natural Environments; and Promote a Green Culture.

Financial Impact

The Region of Peel provides dedicated budget to support the PCCP's Secretariat through the Office of Climate Change and Energy Management. Additionally, Conservation Authorities leverage the special levy climate change funding provided by the Region, and local municipalities provide in-kind resources through staff participation as well as contribute funds on a project-by-project basis.

Continued participation in the Partnership will be built into existing work plans. Should additional and specific project or initiative budget be required, budget requests would be channeled through the City of Mississauga's existing budget planning and approval processes.

Grant applications, ancillary to Partnership activities, are encouraged and can be pursued by any single or multiple Member Organizations to augment approved resources. As such, the pursuit of grants would be for initiatives within the Council-approved budget.

Conclusion

The issue of climate change is urgent and complex; and will require renewed investment in collaborative solutions. Networks of major cities, like the PCCP, are coming together to expedite the transfer of knowledge and work together to increase influence in pursuit of shared climate change priorities. Council's endorsement of the City of Mississauga's continued participation in the PCCP and of the updated Terms of Reference is critical to galvanizing collective climate change leadership, action, and influence across the region of Peel.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference

Appendix 2: Governance Structure



Shari Lichterman, CPA, Commissioner of Community Services

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