

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: September 28, 2023

To: Chair and Members of General Committee

From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
November 1, 2023

Subject

Clean Air Council Declaration: 2023-2027 Intergovernmental Declaration on Climate Change

Recommendation

That the City of Mississauga be a signatory to the 2023-2027 Intergovernmental Declaration on Climate Change and continue to work with the Clean Air Council members to improve air quality and address climate change as outlined in the report dated September 28, 2023 from the Commissioner of Community Services.

Executive Summary

- The Clean Air Council is a network of municipalities and public health units that collaborate on the implementation of clean air and climate change actions. The City of Mississauga has been a member municipality since 2001.
- Clean Air Council members developed the 2023-2027 Intergovernmental Declaration on Climate Change by identifying common priority areas for collaboration.
- The Declaration aligns with the City's Climate Change Action Plan.
- On July 4, 2023, the Environmental Action Committee received a deputation and presentation from the Clean Air Council regarding the 2023-2027 Declaration.
- By signing the Declaration, the City of Mississauga shows its commitment to continued collaboration across the region to climate action.
- In 2020, [Mississauga Council approved](#) Clean Air Council's 2019-2023 Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change

Background

The Clean Air Council (CAC) is a network of municipalities and health units that work collaboratively to combat climate change and is led by the [Clean Air Partnership](#). Since 2001,

CAC members have worked to make our communities more livable and resilient through actions that reduce energy use, minimize greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions, and make the movement of people and goods more efficient.

The goals of the CAC are to:

- Address climate change challenges through a dynamic network that enhances knowledge and encourages practical policies and action implementation;
- Promote a better understanding of climate change challenges and opportunities among municipalities and public health units to improve their ability to address these efficiently;
- Explore opportunities for joint initiatives to scale up mitigation and adaptation actions;
- Develop and report on the progress of climate change action across member jurisdictions; and,
- Liaise with municipalities and other partners to share efforts and best practices for reducing GHG emissions and increasing community livability and resilience.

The CAC is currently comprised of 39 municipalities from across southern Ontario, including Peel Region, City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, and City of Mississauga. The City of Mississauga has been a member municipality since 2001.

Over the course of the previous CAC Declaration (2019-2023), the City of Mississauga has taken many actions to support climate change and improve air quality. Some examples are showcased on the Clean Air Partnership's [Climate Actions Atlas](#) website (e.g. electric vehicle charging, facility redevelopments, solar projects and MiWay transit initiatives) while other examples include, but are not limited to:

- Council approval of several climate-related strategies and implementation plans in transportation (e.g. cycling, pedestrian and transit), Corporate Green Building Standard, Climate Change Action Plan, Urban Agriculture Strategy, Peel Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy and Parks and Forestry Master Plan and supporting documents (Natural Heritage and Urban Forest Strategy, Urban Forest Management Plan and Invasive Species Management Plan and Implementation Strategy)
- Approval of Corporate Green Fleet and Equipment Policy in 2020
- Building a new [Fire Station](#) (Station 125) designed with an environmentally responsible approach, achieves net-zero energy, and meets the [Corporate Green Building Standard](#)
- Built 38 km of new cycling infrastructure including bicycle lanes, boulevard multi-use trails, off-road multi-use trails and shared routes and 6.8 new sidewalks in 2022
- Conducted a successful aerial spray to manage high-population levels of Spotted Wing Drosophila (also known as Lymantria dispar dispar moth) in areas across Mississauga in 2022
- Commitment to publicly report progress through the development of a new [climate change website](#) and at mississauga.ca/climatechange

- Supported, along with the City of Brampton, Town of Caledon and Region of Peel, the development of the [Centre for Community Energy Transformation](#), a new region-wide not-for-profit organization designed to amplify municipal community climate action.

Comments

The Intergovernmental Declaration on Climate Change serves as the CAC's work plan. Member jurisdictions who sign on to the Declaration commit to advancing the development of a sustained collaborative process with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to advance the actions listed in the Declaration.

For each Declaration item, the CAC sets targets and monitors progress made. At the start of a new municipal Council term, each Clean Air Council member, including the City of Mississauga, provides their jurisdiction's priority environmental sustainability actions related to air quality and climate change. Through a prioritization exercise, the most commonly identified actions are integrated into the CAC Declaration commitments for the current term.

The City of Mississauga has been a signatory to the Declaration since 2001. On July 4, 2023, the City's Environmental Action Committee received a deputation and presentation from the CAC regarding the 2023-2027 Declaration.

The commitments identified in the 2023-2027 Intergovernmental Declaration on Climate Change include:

1. Aligning Municipal Operations with Climate Commitments
2. Advancing Climate Accountability
3. Maximizing Emission Reductions from Buildings
4. Developing Value Propositions and Business Cases for Green Infrastructure
5. Maximizing Transportation Emission Reductions
6. Developing and Implementing Corporate/Community Climate Resilience

Article 3 of the 2023-2027 Intergovernmental Declaration on Climate Change (see Appendix 1) provides the full list of actions.

These commitments align with the City's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), which identifies five Action Pathways to advance low-carbon resilience:

1. Buildings and Clean Energy
2. Resilient and Green Infrastructure
3. Accelerating Discovery and Innovation
4. Low Emissions Mobility
5. Engagement and Partnerships

Strategic Plan

The Clean Air Council's Declaration supports a number of goals of the Strategic Plan, particularly the "Green" Strategic Pillar for Change to "Lead and Encourage Environmentally Responsible Approaches."

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Conclusion

The City's participation on the Clean Air Council provides numerous benefit, including access to resources on upcoming climate-related trends and opportunities, participating in a municipal network and opportunities to collaborate with others, and sharing best practices and lessons learned on similar projects helping advance the City of Mississauga's climate action work.

It is recommended that the City sign on to the 2023-2027 Intergovernmental Declaration and continue to work with Clean Air council members to address climate change.

Attachments

Appendix 1: 2023-2027 Intergovernmental Declaration on Climate Change



Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

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