



The Corporation of the Township of King Report to Council

From: Community Services Department - Environmental Outreach & Stewardship Division

Report Number: COM-EOS-2024-001

Date: Monday, September 9, 2024

Title: **King Community Climate Action Plan (KCCAP)**

Recommendation

1. That Council receive Report COM-EOS-2024-001; and
2. That Council endorse the King Community Climate Action Plan (KCCAP), attached as Attachment 1.

1. Report Highlights

- King Township declared a climate emergency in 2019 with goals to cut emissions by 35% by 2030 and achieve Net Zero by 2050. The KCCAP was developed to meet these targets.
- The KCCAP's first draft was submitted to Council in January 2022, and direction was given to undertake additional stakeholder engagement. In the Spring of 2023, Council approved a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, leading to over 1,000 engagement points. A revised draft of the KCCAP was presented to Council in April 2024.
- The final draft of the KCCAP incorporates all stakeholder feedback and comments received to date, including those in response to the final draft presented in April 2024.
- The final draft of the KCCAP complies with climate action plan standards set by climate change industry leaders including the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program.
- The KCCAP advances a 2023-2026 Corporate Strategic Plan Key Result to *adopt and implement the Community Climate Action Plan by 2026*.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to bring forward the final draft of the King Community Climate Action Plan (KCCAP) to Council for endorsement, incorporating all feedback and comments received from stakeholders to date.

3. Background

In 2019, King Township Council declared a State of Climate Emergency to address the ongoing climate crisis and to join a growing movement across the world to help mitigate climate change. The declaration was made to help deepen King's commitment to being leaders in the environmental and climate change field. Within the Climate Emergency Declaration Council set community emission reduction targets of 35% by 2030, and Net Zero by 2050. A key next step following the Climate Declaration was the development of a Community Climate Action Plan to provide community actions for GHG reduction that works alongside the Corporate Energy Emissions Conservation and Management plan governing municipal reductions.

The draft King Community Climate Action Plan (KCCAP) was created in 2020. However, due to the onset of COVID-19 and the resulting safety protocols across the province, completing and engaging the community in the KCCAP proved challenging, as in-person engagement events were not possible. The first draft KCCAP was presented to Council in January 2022 ([COM-REC-2022-003](#)). Council referred the plan back to staff to review the comments from deputations, gather additional engagement from youth, and allow more time for community feedback.

In the Spring of 2023, a Community Engagement Strategy was developed and presented to Council for endorsement ([COM-EOS-2023-002](#)). The engagement strategy was created to address gaps identified during community consultation and in response to Council's comments on the KCCAP presentation in January 2022. Additional community engagement was conducted during the Spring and Summer of 2023, resulting in over (1,000) community engagement points through various actions like stakeholder groups surveys, in person community events, workshops, tabling events, tree plantings, etc. The KCCAP draft was updated in response to the additional engagement and published on SpeaKING for community feedback.

In April 2024, the revised draft of the KCCAP was presented to Council in a [working session](#). Council provided comments during the session which have been incorporated into the final draft of the KCCAP (Attachment 1).

4. Analysis

Changes to the Plan

The final draft of the KCCAP reflects what the Township heard during all community engagements and deputations to date, as well as feedback received from Council. Attached to this report is a Comments Matrix capturing all comments received in 2024, inclusive of staff recommendations and acknowledgement.

The major changes to the KCCAP are as follows:

1. A section was incorporated to highlight the climate change initiatives and programs that are already being done by the Township and the community.

2. Emissions reduction milestones have been integrated within the action section.

The plan has been reviewed by the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program, created by International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) —Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Canada) and, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Both organizations found that the KCCAP strongly complies with their standards for Climate Action Plan.

While the Township can be a partner in the actions, community involvement in advancing the plans objectives will continue to be an important factor in achieving the Township's climate change targets.

The Township also makes contributions to reducing climate change through the Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan. Below is a list of some of the actions and programs that King Township already has in place:

- Waste division initiatives
- Repair cafes
- Corporate recycling programs
- Textile division programs
- Green yards program
- Environmental certification: Bee City Certification and Mayors Monarch Pledge
- Community FoodCycler pilot program
- Environmental restoration projects
- EV charger network created throughout King
- Microfit solar panel program at Trisan Centre
- Zancor Centre being the first Carbon Neutral Recreation Centre in Canada

5. Financial Considerations

Actions within the KCCAP will require funding in future budget cycles. Staff will be working to better define the cost of each action outlined in the KCCAP throughout 2025, through a needs identification and development of a program framework.

Staff will be proposing the development of a funding program for Council's consideration as part of the 2026 budget process in order to advance the climate actions laid out in the plan.

Staff will continue to pursue initiatives during that time using annual capital funds augmented by any external funding and grant opportunities that are successful to alleviate some financial burdens of actions on the Township. Many of the resources required for actions to be successful are not all monetary and instead are a combination of fiscal spending, staff time, and expertise.

6. Alignment to Strategic Plan

The 2023-2026 Corporate Strategic Plan (CSP) was adopted by Council on June 12, 2023. The CSP reflects the priorities of upmost importance to the community and defines the obligations and commitments of the Township of King to its citizens and to the public. The

CSP is aligned with the Townships long-term vision defined in the “Our King” Official Plan. The CSP also aims to ensure that staff initiatives focus on and work towards supporting King’s Vision, Mission and Values.

This report is in alignment with the CSP’s Priority Area(s), and/or associated Objective(s) and/or Key Results(s):

Priority Area: A Greener Future

Objective: Develop environmentally sustainable solutions that reduce King's footprint and mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

Key Result: Adopt the Climate Change Action Plan and implement Phase I (short term actions) by 2026

This report brings forth the KCCAP to Council for adoption in direct alignment with the above noted CSP objective and key result.

7. Conclusion

The King Community Climate Action Plan is one of the foundational steps that the Township needs to take toward addressing climate change and achieving the Townships emission reduction targets.

The KCCAP was developed around the vision of a low carbon community that continues to encapsule the rural culture of King. The KCCAP vision will take King to 2050, but like any successful plan, it will require regular updates, monitoring and reporting as new actions and technological advancements arise.

This plan was created through community engagement and participation truly making it a plan made by the community for the community. The actions outlined in this plan will require staff, Council and the public to work diligently over the coming years to make the necessary changes, transitions, and actions; working with one another, and all levels of government to see King as the green climate-driven leader we promised to be.

8. Attachments

Attachment 1 - King Community Climate Action Plan

Attachment 2 - Comment Matrix

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