

**Municipality Of Chatham-Kent**  
**Community Development**  
**Infrastructure and Engineering Services**  
**Information Report**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Gabriel Clarke, MES, BA, Environmental Planner I  
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**Date:** May 20, 2021

**Subject:** Climate Change Action Plan Relaunch

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This Report is for the information of Council.

**Background**

On July 15, 2019, Council approved a motion to declare a climate emergency in Chatham-Kent.

On November 4, 2019, administration provided Council with the “Update on Council’s Climate Emergency Declaration” Information Report which outlined how administration proposed to fulfill the directions contained in the Climate Emergency Declaration.

On November 18, 2019, Council approved the Terms of Reference for completing a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for Chatham-Kent. The scope of the Climate Change Action Plan includes identifying local actions for the Municipal Corporation and the community to mitigate<sup>1</sup> and adapt<sup>2</sup> to climate change.

The Terms of Reference included a three milestone framework, an in-person community and corporate engagement process and a project timeline that was scheduled to end by June 2021. In early 2020, staff were focused on organizing Chatham-Kent’s first Climate Summit planned for April 22, 2020 (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day) in collaboration with the Chatham-Kent Community Leaders Cabinet to

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<sup>1</sup> Climate Mitigation involves taking action to reduce the cause of climate change (i.e. greenhouse gas emissions)

<sup>2</sup> Climate Adaptation involves taking action to reduce the consequences and impacts of climate change.

mark the public launch of the CCAP development process when COVID restrictions led to the cancellation of the Summit and postponement of the CCAP project.

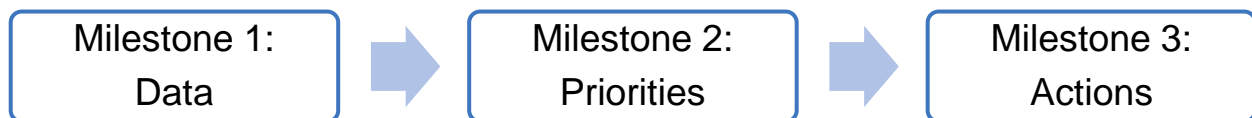
Despite the CCAPs postponement and the temporary redeployment of staff, a number of project background tasks were nevertheless completed in support of the project throughout 2020 and the first half of 2021. This includes updated community and corporate greenhouse gas emission inventories, a review of municipal plans and actions, a provincial and federal climate change policy review, and a historical and future climate analysis, all of which will be included in forthcoming Reports to Council (RTCs). This also includes a revised process for completing the Climate Change Action Plan project by June 2022.

The purpose of this information report is to provide Council with an overview of the updated project framework, the revised engagement process and modified project timeline.

## **Comments**

### **Council-Approved Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference that were approved by Council in November 2019 outlined a three milestone framework for completing the project as illustrated in Figure 1 below.



**Figure 1: Original Three Milestone Framework for the Climate Change Action Plan**

The purpose of Milestone 1 is to develop the process for completing the CCAP and to generate the information needed to inform the rest of the plan development process.

The purpose of Milestone 2 is to engage the community and corporation to identify priority areas for potential local action.

The purpose of Milestone 3 is to undertake a second community and corporate engagement process to identify actions and develop a plan to address the priorities identified in Milestone 2.

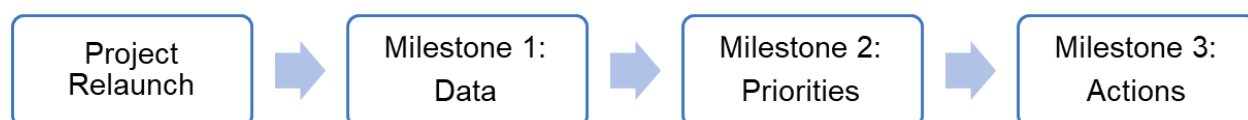
The Terms of Reference for the CCAP contemplated a comprehensive in-person engagement process, an 18 month project timeline, and a project end date of June 2021. However, the COVID pandemic disrupted the CCAP development process as it was about to begin.

### **Updated CCAP Project Framework**

In the months since the CCAP project was postponed, staff have revised the project framework, update the engagement process and modified the project timeline. Details are provided below.

### Updated Project Framework

In order to account for the tasks associated with relaunching the climate change action plan project, staff have revised the project framework with the addition of a “Relaunch” step at the front end of the project as illustrated in Figure 2. Staff have also slightly revised the ordering of a few tasks from the original Terms of Reference to account for the new step and the work that was completed in the last months. None of these changes affect the overall scope of the project, which remains focused on identifying community and municipally-focused actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



**Figure 2: Updated Four Milestone Framework for the Climate Change Action Plan**

The purpose of the Relaunch step is to adapt the project to the circumstances of the COVID pandemic through a modified timeline and engagement process, a slight re-ordering of tasks and a process designed to create a shared understanding of the climate change action plan throughout the Municipal organization.

The purpose of the remaining Milestones remain unchanged as described above. Table 1, below, provides an overview of the project deliverables. Table 2 outlines the communications with Council that will occur throughout the plan development process. Figure 3 (Page 5) shows this information in a timeline format.

**Table 1: Project Deliverables**

Project Deliverables		Timeframe
1.	Project Relaunch Framework	January - March '21
2.	Corporate CCAP Vision: Shared Understanding	March - May '21
3.	Review of Municipal plans, Federal & Provincial Policy Review	March - June '21
4.	GHG Inventories – Corporate & Community	March - June '21
5.	Climate Analysis	March - June '21
6.	Natural Cover Change Assessment	April - October '21
7.	Modelling & Analysis of Future Corporate Energy Use	March - September '21
8.	Infrastructure Risk Assessment	September - December '21
9.	CCAP Draft	April - June '22

**Table 2: Communications with Council**

Communications with Council		Timeframe
1.	Project Relaunch Framework Report to Council	June '21
2.	Climate Analysis Report to Council	June '21
3.	Milestone 1 Summary Report to Council	June/July '21
4.	Natural Cover Change Assessment Report to Council	October '21
5.	Council Engagement 1	Fall '21
6.	Milestone 2 Summary Report to Council	November '21
7.	Infrastructure Risk Assessment Report to Council	December '21
8.	Council Engagement 2	April '22
9.	Plan Report to Council & Presentation	June '22

### Updated Engagement Process

Despite the vaccines and some positive trends, the future trajectory of the COVID pandemic remains uncertain with regards to public gatherings. In order to ensure that the pandemic does not further disrupt the CCAP project, staff have revised the community and corporate engagement process from one that was initially centered on in-person engagement to one that employs a remote online engagement process. Since the beginning of the pandemic, people have become much more familiar with online communications and engagement platforms, many of which have evolved significantly to meet a variety of needs that emerged when public gathering restriction were put into place. There are now a number of platforms that have been purpose-built to support the development of climate change action plans and staff are currently reviewing the options.

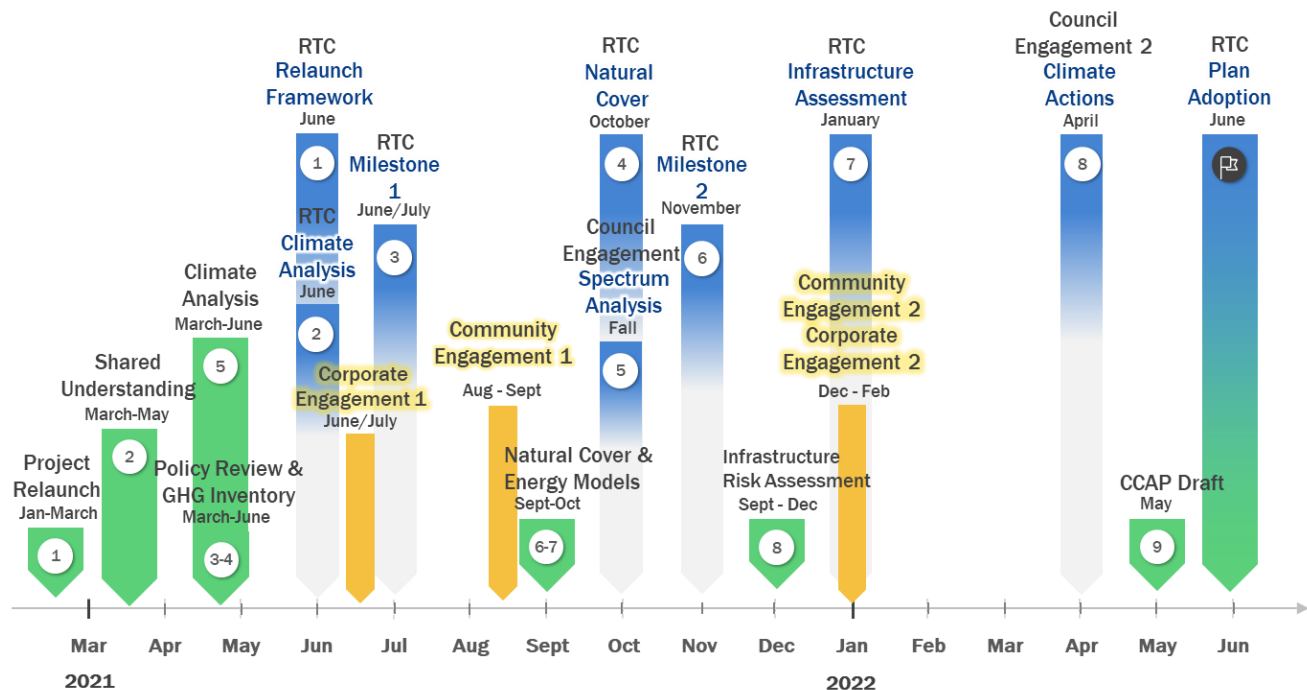
Recognizing that online platforms may pose barriers to participation for certain segments of the population, staff have reached out to the CK Power to the Y Committee and the Social Planning & Action Tables established by the United Way to explore strategies to make the engagement process as accessible and equitable as possible. Updated opportunities for corporate and public engagement throughout the CCAP development process are shown in Table 3, below, and Figure 3 (Page 5).

**Table 3: Opportunities for Stakeholder Engagement**

Stakeholder Engagement		Timeframe
1.	Corporate Engagement 1	June – July '21
2.	Community Engagement 1	August – September '21
3.	Corporate Engagement 2	December '21 – February '22
4.	Community Engagement 2	December '21 – January '22

### Updated Project Timeline

An updated project timeline has been developed and illustrated in Figure 3, below, which sets new target dates for each project task and a new target of June 2022 for completing the Climate Change Action Plan.



**Figure 3: Project Timeline for the Climate Change Action Plan**

### **Impact of Council's April 26, 2021 Direction Regarding Woodland Preservation and the Temporary Clear Cutting By-law**

On April 26, 2021, Council approved a motion that directs administration to undertake a public consultation process to seek input on a number of matters related to woodlot preservation in Chatham-Kent. Public engagement activities related to this motion will be undertaken separately and in advance of the public engagement activities related to the CCAP. However, recognizing the direct relationship that exists between trees and climate change, findings and results from engagement activities as well as any subsequent decisions or directions from Council arising from the woodlot preservation motion will be integrated into the CCAP, as appropriate.

### **Consultation**

The Executive Management Team (EMT) was consulted on the Climate Change Action Plan relaunch approach described in this Report on March 16, 2021 and expressed support for the approach.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications resulting from this Information Report.

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Attachment(s): None

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Relaunch Report.docx