

**Subject:** Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan**Recommendation:**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report # 2021-0109-Public Works entitled "Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan" for information purposes;**

**AND THAT Council endorse the Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCCAP).**

**Background:**

To combat the adverse effects of climate change at the municipal level, investments in climate change adaptation planning are recommended by scientists, governments, and policymakers alike. This information has translated to the local level as hundreds of Canadian municipalities have developed climate plans and are engaging in climate action. To foster resilience to climate change, the Town of Pelham embarked on a two-year planning process to produce this Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan (henceforth 'the Plan' or the 'CCCAP') in collaboration with Niagara Adapts.

Niagara Adapts is a partnership between the Environmental Sustainability Research Centre (ESRC) and seven municipalities (i.e., Grimsby, Pelham, Lincoln, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, St Catharines, and Welland) in the Niagara Region to build innovative climate solutions. The partnership began in June 2019, and it involved a five-stage process to develop, implement and monitor adaptation options for the Town of Pelham to build resiliency towards the impacts of the changing climate. Climate change adaptation planning is essential in understanding the vulnerability of the Town's resources and assets towards the climate change impacts.

In the past 2 years, the project achieved multiple milestones despite some of the challenges such as staff changes and the COVID-19 pandemic. The multi-phase project involved the creation of the project team, identifying stakeholders, and gathering important baseline data on the state of the municipality. In the next phase, the project team worked to identify the climate change impacts and carried out vulnerability and risk assessments. In the following phase, the Team identified

Adaptation Options and supplemented the option with the Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan. Community involvement was also carried out in the form of surveys through Niagara Adapts twice during the project period.

The plan is now ready to be endorsed by the Council and shared with wider stakeholders. Therefore, the purpose of this report is to present the Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan to inform the Council of the contents of the final plan. Additionally, endorsement of this report will lead to publishing the plan for the public on the Town's website and social media channels.

### **Analysis:**

Based on the data gathered, the Town identified 53 impacts of climate change in total and 16 prioritized impacts. The information led to the formation of 8 goals and 45 adaptation actions. The Town then designed strategies to support the successful implementation and monitoring of the adaptation actions. The goals that will guide the Town to become more resilient and adaptive towards climate change include:

*Goal 1. Protect community members and outdoor workers from potential health risks related to climate change*

*Goal 2. Build awareness of climate change impacts and risks among Town's staff and community members*

*Goal 3. Develop a comprehensive strategy to manage extreme weather events and emergencies*

*Goal 4. Foster adaptive capacity in the design, construction, and maintenance of Town-owned infrastructure*

*Goal 5. Preserve, protect, and restore Town's urban and rural forests*

*Goal 6. Cultivate resiliency to heavy rainfall and flooding events*

*Goal 7. Streamline Town services to provide sustained support to Pelham community*

*Goal 8. Mainstream climate change information into Town's planning, policy, and decision-making processes*

The report has ten sections with information on Introduction, Climate Change, Planning Process, Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, Community Engagement, Vision, Goals and Actions, Implementation Plan, and M&E framework. The plan serves as an important guiding document for the Town to become more resilient and develop the adaptive capacity to better manage the impacts of the changing climate.

### **Financial Considerations:**

There are no financial considerations at this time.

### **Alternatives Reviewed:**

There are no alternatives reviews as this report is to be received for information purposes only.

### **Strategic Plan Relationship: Grow Revenue - Promote Cultural Assets and Protect Environment**

One of the six strategic priorities defined in the Town of Pelham's Strategic Plan 2019-2022 includes a commitment to grow revenue by promoting cultural assets while protecting environmental assets. To accomplish this priority, actions listed in the plan indicate that the Town will "introduce best practices related to climate change and for the protection and preservation of environmental assets" as well as "educate and create community awareness in regards to [the] importance of environmental assets and climate change impacts".

Other supporting municipal documents, such as the Town's Official Plan, also mention the need to understand the natural environment to manage climate risks. Components of the plan include the commitment to "maintain, enhance or restore ecosystem health and integrity", "protect natural resources", and "ensure that all infrastructure including sanitary sewers, water distribution and stormwater management facilities, public service facilities, and roads meet the needs of present and future residents and businesses".

These commitments aim to address the concern to increase the Town's capacity to adapt to climate change. As such, the Town of Pelham sanctioned the development and implementation of a Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCCAP). The culmination of the efforts and time spent has resulted in a robust adaptation strategy that strengthens the Town's commitment to becoming a more resilient and sustainable community.

### **Consultation:**

Niagara Adapts leads, Dr. Jessica Blythe and Dr. Ryan Plummer were external consultants on the report/project. Within the municipality, Adaptation Steering Committee, Derek Young, Jason Marr and Marc MacDonald were involved in the preparation of the report.

**Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:**

Appendix A: Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Town of Pelham (2021)

**Prepared and Recommended by:**

Bani Maini  
Climate Change Coordinator

Jason Marr, P. Eng.  
Director of Public Works

**Prepared and Submitted by:**

David Cribbs, BA, MA, JD, MPA  
Chief Administrative Officer