

TOWN OF AJAX

# AJAX CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS TARGETS

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PARTNERS IN CLIMATE PROTECTION  
MILESTONE 2

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# 1 INTRODUCTION TO MILESTONE TWO

The purpose of Milestone Two is to set an emissions reduction target. According to Partners for Climate Protection (PCP), this can be done at any time, but it is more common to set this target after calculating emissions for the baseline year and establishing business-as-usual (BAU) trends (as was done in Milestone One). Once an understanding of the current situation is known, aggressive and obtainable reduction targets can be set. Council must adopt the Greenhouse Gas reduction target and timeline in order for the Town to receive recognition for Milestone Two.

The Federation for Canadian Municipalities (in partnership with PCP) has suggested the following emissions reductions targets: a 20% reduction for emissions associated with municipal operations (corporate); a 6% reduction in community (residential/business/industry) associated emissions. It should be noted that the Region of Durham is following the targets set out by Partners for Climate Protection.

Please note: the purpose of Milestone Two is simply to set the target. It is not expected at this time that there be a plan for achieving it – that is the purpose of Milestone Three.

## 2 GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS

### 2.1 CORPORATE

The Town of Ajax has chosen to follow the FCM suggested emissions reduction target: a 20% reduction in corporate emissions by 2020 – 10 years after initially signing on with the program. This reduction is in absolute emissions and is calculated using 2005 as the baseline year. This method was selected as it aligns with Durham's regional target and the Town believes that the Ajax Local Action Plan (LAP) should coordinate with the Region's plan. In 2005, Ajax's total corporate eCO<sub>2</sub> were 6353T. A 20% reduction would equate to 1271T fewer emissions - a cap of 5082T emissions for the year 2020. This means that Ajax is committing to capping emissions at a level that is 50% below the BAU forecast. This is an aggressive target, but because Sustainability has already been incorporated into the Town's Official and Strategic Plans, and the two newest facilities (Operations Centre and Fire Hall Headquarters) are seeking LEED certification, it should be manageable. However, it should be noted that in accordance with PCP guidelines Ajax reserves the right to modify this target upon developing the Local Action Plan.

### 2.2 COMMUNITY

The Town of Ajax has chosen to follow the PCP suggested emissions reduction target for communities: a 6% reduction in community emissions by 2020 – 10 years after initially signing on with the program. This reduction is in absolute emissions and is calculated using 2005 as the baseline year. This method was selected as it aligns with Durham's regional target and the Town believes that the Ajax LAP should coordinate with the region's plan. In 2005, the Ajax Community's total eCO<sub>2</sub> were 521,250T. A 6% reduction would equate to 31,275T fewer emissions – a cap of 489,975T for the year 2020. This means that Ajax is committing to capping emissions at a level that is 28% below the BAU forecast. There is already a notable decline in per capita emissions for the community of Ajax. In calculating the BAU the per capita annual eCO<sub>2</sub> remained the same as 2008, however it is likely this will continue to drop as the Region expands its transit services, people retrofit their homes to increase efficiency and become more proficient in waste reduction. Additionally, the Town is working with the community to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP): intended to act synergistically with the LAP to increase sustainability within the community and reduce emissions.

### 3 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that the Council adopt the above stated emissions reduction targets.
2. It is recommended that these targets, once adopted, guide the development of the ICSP (Integrated Community Sustainability Plan) and LAP (Local Action Plan).
3. It is recommended that following the adoption of these targets a formal Local Action Plan be developed in accordance with Milestone three.