

## 9.2 Climate Emergency Declaration

Regional Councillor Lee introduced the motion and reviewed its contents. Council Members discussed the contents and wording of the motion, Ajax's historic leadership on environmental sustainability, and local and national impacts of climate change.

Moved by: S. Lee  
Seconded by: A. Khan

WHEREAS climate change is well documented as a real phenomenon which poses serious risks to social, economic and environmental well-being in communities globally;

AND WHEREAS the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined the need for a significant and structural reduction in carbon emissions in the next 11 years to avoid further economic, ecological, and societal losses due to the climate change crisis;

AND WHEREAS Canada is, according to Environment Canada's April 2019 Changing Climate Report, recording warming at twice the rate of the rest of the planet, with Northern Canada experiencing three times the increase in average temperature, compared to the global average;

AND WHEREAS infrastructure failures linked to the climate change crisis may cost Canada \$300 billion over the next decade;

AND WHEREAS local governments hold the power to adopt policy and conduct their operations in a manner that responds to the reality of climate change; have a direct relationship with citizens to educate and encourage actions that will help reduce climate change impacts; and can call on senior levels of government for responses which are suitable to the urgent nature of our climate reality;

AND WHEREAS the impacts of climate change have been felt in the Town of Ajax for a number of years, with an increase in extreme rain events, ice storm events and drought conditions, resulting in property damage, energy and transportation disruptions, injury, and economic impacts in the community;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Ajax has taken a proactive, environment-first approach as the first municipality in Ontario to adopt Official Plan policies that integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into local land use planning; adopting and implementing Community and Corporate Local Action Plans in 2013 that identify programs and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and adopting the Ajax Climate Risk & Resiliency Plan in 2019;

AND WHEREAS The Town's commitment is further evident in several initiatives, partnerships, and significant work completed to date, including participation in the Partners for Climate Protection program that established a 6% community greenhouse gas emission reduction target by 2020, which was achieved 5 years early, and a 20% corporate greenhouse gas emission reduction target by 2020;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Town of Ajax declare a climate emergency to acknowledge the impacts of climate change and reaffirm our commitment to proactively mitigating and adapting to those impacts wherever possible through the Town's continued leadership, advocacy and intergovernmental partnerships; and

THAT Council and staff continue to uphold their commitment to 2020 greenhouse gas reduction targets, promote and implement climate change mitigation measures and prioritize implementation of the actions in the Ajax Climate Risk and Resiliency Plan to ensure that resiliency is a top priority across the municipality; and

THAT this declaration be shared with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Hon. Rod Phillips, MPP, Hon. Mark Holland, MP, the Region of Durham and Durham Region municipalities.

CARRIED

Recorded Vote:

In Favour: Regional Councillor Lee, Councillor Bower, Regional Councillor Crawford, Regional Councillor Dies, Councillor Khan, Councillor Tyler Morin, Mayor Collier  
Opposed: None