

May 27, 2015

## Mayor's Community Energy Plan

HALTON HILLS, ON – Building on the Community Sustainability Strategy (Imagine Halton Hills) and the Town's long-standing commitment to energy conservation, at its May 25, 2015 meeting, Town Council (General Committee) approved the Mayor's Community Energy Plan.

The Mayor's Community Energy Plan is the result of engagement with key community stakeholders as well as the project's Steering and Technical Committees, and Town Council and staff. The Plan's implementation will enhance quality of life in Halton Hills through improved energy efficiency and cost savings, greenhouse gas reductions, renewable energy generation and the pursuit of innovative approaches to generating energy for Halton Hills. It will also expand community awareness of the value of energy efficiency and demonstrate the Town's corporate leadership in this field.

The Mayor's Community Energy Plan positions the Town to be able to take significant and meaningful actions in energy conservation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change. The Plan recognizes and takes advantage of the fact that North American municipalities are increasingly focused on energy as a strategic priority to reduce operating costs, support economic development and mitigate against rising utility costs. It will also assist the Town in responding to the challenges posed by climate change such as more frequent and more severe extreme weather conditions. According to a 2012 report prepared for the Insurance Bureau of Canada by the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction titled "Telling the Weather Story", in Canada alone, the financial impacts caused by severe weather between 2009 and 2011, are estimated to be about \$3.6 billion.

Mayor Bonnette said: "The Mayor's community Energy Plan is a significant milestone for our community. It is a Plan that we can all be very proud of. The Plan's implementation will create many winners throughout our community, including Town residents and businesses that will benefit from lower energy costs. Our entire community will benefit from cleaner air as we focus on renewable energy sources such as solar power, and take big steps towards reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. Ultimately, this important Plan will move us closer to reaching our vision for a sustainable Halton Hills with the highest possible quality of life as captured in our Community Sustainability Strategy – Imagine Halton Hills. Stay tuned for more information as we start to implement the Mayor's Community Energy Plan. I invite and encourage the community to browse the Plan. Join us in creating a more sustainable and efficient future."

The Mayor's Community Energy Plan consists of two closely related parts. The first part relates to the Town's municipal operations and is captured through the "Corporate Energy Plan". Developed in response to the provincial Green Energy Act, this Plan outlines a 5-year roadmap for successful energy management (electricity, natural gas and vehicle fuel) at Town facilities. Leveraging the Town's pre-existing commitment to energy conservation, the Corporate Energy Plan is designed to ensure that new and existing Town facilities are built and operated as efficiently and sustainably as possible.

For the Town's corporate operations, the Plan outlines about 90 priority actions for implementation between 2014 and 2019. Implementation is projected to translate into:

- 13% to 17% improvement in energy intensity;
- 16% to 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; and
- About \$1.2 million in financial benefits for the Town.

The second component, referred to as the "Local Action Plan", is broader and addresses energy use across the community, including for residential and commercial uses. It also takes into account local land use and transportation patterns. The Local Action Plan fulfills the first three milestones of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Partners for Climate Protection program by:

- Creating a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory;
- Setting a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target; and
- Identifying actions that need to be taken to achieve greenhouse reductions.

For the community as a whole, the Energy Plan sets the following greenhouse gas reduction targets:

- 35% reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 2031 – compared to 2011 levels.
- 14% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions by 2031 – compared to emissions modelled for Scenario 1 (Moderate Energy Efficiency).

Implementation is projected to:

- Reduce annual energy costs by \$17 million (\$271 in total).
- Create over 200 new jobs.

Additional information on the Mayor's Community Energy Plan and the Town's many other sustainability initiatives is available via:

- Website: [www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability](http://www.haltonhills.ca/sustainability)
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ImagineHH](https://www.twitter.com/ImagineHH) or @ImagineHH
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ImagineHaltonHills](https://www.facebook.com/ImagineHaltonHills)

### **About the Town of Halton Hills**

The Town of Halton Hills, with a population of approximately 60,000, consists of two urban centres, Georgetown and Acton, the Halton Hills Premier Gateway employment area, three hamlets – Glen Williams, Stewarttown and Norval – and several smaller

settlements. Halton Hills has long been recognized for its natural beauty, active agricultural community, high quality of life and proximity to major centres, including Brampton, Mississauga and Toronto. The Town is the 2013 recipient of the National Municipal Environmental Award from the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and is ranked as one of the Top 5 small communities in Canada by a national magazine.

**For further information contact:**

Damian Szybalski  
Manager of Sustainability  
Planning and Infrastructure  
905.873.2601 ext. 2289  
[damians@haltonhills.ca](mailto:damians@haltonhills.ca)