



## **Town of Mahone Bay**

Staff Report

RE: Climate Mitigation

April 9, 2019

### **General Overview:**

The purpose of this report is to make recommendation to Council concerning climate mitigation / emissions reduction strategies.

### **Background:**

On February 12, 2019 the following motion was passed by the Mahone Bay Town Council:

#### **A motion by Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nauss:**

WHEREAS the Town of Mahone Bay is on track to meet all provincial targets in terms of renewable energy, and as such is a leader amongst town governments in Nova Scotia; and,

WHEREAS we - along with all residents of Planet Earth - are faced with a climate emergency, as recently recognized by the City of Halifax; and,

WHEREAS the IPCC has issued a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre- industrial levels vis-à-vis greenhouse gas emissions and which sets out foreseeable and preventable climate-change related outcomes of grave importance to coastal communities and thus enables the Town of Mahone Bay to prepare for and to take them into account as part of its decision-making process; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Mahone is currently considering several major capital projects and is presented with opportunities to institute climate-neutral building and long-term management practices; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Mahone Bay's electrical utility currently has the capacity to supply approximately 40% of the town's commercial and residential electricity requirements from clean sources and there is opportunity to expand on this success in order to decrease or eliminate the CO2 emissions related to major capital assets such as a fire hall and town hall and to provide clean, carbon-neutral energy sources to its residents; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Mahone Bay has, with its recently adopted Asset Management Policy, acknowledged the importance of incorporating climate change considerations into its long-term strategic planning and budgeting; and,

WHEREAS the Town of Mahone Bay is uniquely equipped to act as a role model and change leader for other small Canadian communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report to be presented to Council on or before April 9th, 2019, outlining:

- Steps the Town of Mahone Bay could undertake in order to commit to further reduce or eliminate the Town's corporate carbon footprint as per the urgency expressed in the IPCC Report; and,
- Steps the Town of Mahone Bay could undertake in order to commit to further reduce or eliminate the community's carbon footprint; and,
- Related budgetary implications.

**Motion carried.**

On March 12, 2019 the Mahone Bay Town Council amended the 2018-21 Strategic Plan to include the following wording:

**3.4 Environmental Sustainability**

- Pursue Climate Mitigation strategies (reducing Town carbon footprint)
- Undertake Climate Adaptation initiatives (implement further phases of the Harbour Development Plan)
- Expand Green Energy Generation (continued development of Alternate Resource Energy Authority)

**Analysis:**

The steps to be undertaken in committing to further reduce either corporate or community carbon emissions are essentially the same, as outlined below:

**1) Steps the Town of Mahone Bay could undertake in order to commit to further reduce or eliminate the Town's corporate carbon footprint as per the urgency expressed in the IPCC Report**

- Join FCM Partners for Climate Protection Network
- Establish baseline corporate emissions
- Set clear corporate emissions targets and develop a plan to achieve them, potentially including:
  - Committing to energy standard for new / renovated buildings
  - Exploring opportunities to convert fleet vehicles to electric

**2) Steps the Town of Mahone Bay could undertake in order to commit to further reduce or eliminate the community's carbon footprint**

- Join FCM Partners for Climate Protection Network
- Establish baseline community emissions

- Set clear community emissions targets and develop a plan to achieve them, potentially including:
  - Consideration of Council Committee with mandate for plan development / implementation – new or existing, as deemed appropriate by Council
  - Educational and Awareness boosting programs for residents
  - Explore the use of new technologies / regulations to moderate community energy consumption (Smart Metering, etc.)
  - Develop and implement program to incentivize home heating / private vehicle conversions to electric
  - Install electric vehicle charging station(s)
  - Support Active Transportation planning / transit opportunities to reduce vehicle use
  - Expand Green Energy Generation to MB Electric Utility (with resident investment): Windfarm(s) Expansion, Community Solar Garden
  - Explore opportunities for Green Imports / use of Carbon Credits
  - Develop policy approach to private generation projects in utility territory

Option 2 above, addressing the community’s carbon footprint, would also encompass Option 1.

**Financial Analysis:**

The costs to complete an emissions inventory, establish emissions targets and develop a plan to achieve them – utilizing existing staff and outside consultants – are estimated at approximately \$10,000 for corporate emissions or \$25,000 for community emissions (including corporate emissions); if concerning community emissions, public consultations would also be recommended. In either case this expenditure would be gas-tax eligible and may qualify for external funding.

**Links to Strategic Plan:**

Key Strategic Initiatives and Core Activities

**3.4 Environmental Sustainability**

- Pursue Climate Mitigation strategies (reducing Town carbon footprint)
- Expand Green Energy Generation (continued development of Alternate Resource Energy Authority)

**Recommendation:**

THAT Council direct staff to include both options in the draft 2019-20 budget for Council’s further consideration.

**Attached for Council Review:**

None

**Respectfully Submitted,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dylan Heide', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Dylan Heide  
Town of Mahone Bay CAO