



**City of Kingston
Information Report to Council
Report Number 19-273**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Peter Huigenbos, Acting Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Julie Salter-Keane, Community Projects Manager
Date of Meeting: October 22, 2019
Subject: Community Conversation on Climate Change

Executive Summary:

City Council's 2019-2022 strategic priorities include the priority to Demonstrate Leadership on Climate Action. Given the economic, social and environmental threats on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and Kingston's 2019 declaration of a climate emergency, the City is committed to stewarding the environment for future generations.

Questions have been raised relating to what can the community do now to address climate change and reduce their environmental footprint. Like many cities of similar size, the City of Kingston is working on identifying and prioritizing opportunities for emissions reductions and establishing related climate action strategies.

A special Council meeting in a Town Hall format with expert Dr. Dianne Saxe, former Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and one of Canada's most respected environmental lawyers, has been organized to discuss climate change. This meeting will include a presentation by Ms. Saxe as well as a question and answer period for Council and members of the public.

Recommendation:

This report is for information purposes only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Peter Huigenbos, Acting
Commissioner, Community
Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Interim Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Brad Joyce, Acting Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
Jim Keech, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required
Sheila Kidd, Commissioner, Transportation & Public Works	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

The City of Kingston has recognized the need for greater community involvement in order to reach Council's strategic priority of becoming carbon neutral as soon as possible and no later than 2040.

Conversations about climate change and actions that can be taken to reduce GHG emissions in the community have been taking place throughout various community events, including the City's Working Group on Climate Action that specifically addressed the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sector.

To provide another opportunity for discussion, staff worked with Council to establish a special Council meeting that will include a presentation on climate change by expert Dr. Dianne Saxe, and enable members of Council and the public to ask questions on this topic.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

Kingston Climate Action Plan

Notice Provisions:

Not applicable

Accessibility Considerations:

Not applicable

Financial Considerations:

Not applicable

Contacts:

Julie Salter-Keane, Community Projects Manager 613-546-4291 extension 1163

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Not applicable

Exhibits Attached:

Not applicable