

Bringing Climate Change into Official Plans Workshop

Bringing Brilliant Brains Together

September 21st, 2018



Workshop Brought to You By....



Background

- January 2018 Meeting – **Guideline on Community Emissions Reduction Planning Consultation**
- **Recommendation # 5: Provide within the Guideline sample Official Plan Climate Change Policies.**
- Additional guidance on the type of Climate Change mitigation and adaptation policies that should be incorporated in Official Plans. Samples of Policy language could be geared towards providing sample language provided within the Guideline or examples from municipalities of various types (regional, local, single tier, rural, urban, suburban, etc). The Guideline could be significantly enhanced through the inclusion of a scan of the type climate change policies that municipalities across Ontario have in place in their Official Plans.



That led to the following questions...

- What does “Bringing Climate Change into Official Plans” mean?
- What are we trying to achieve by doing so?
- What makes for strong language? What makes for weak language? And Why?
- What are the minimum requirements that need to be covered?
- What guidance would be of value and why?
- What level of detail in each of the sections makes sense? (There seems to be a mismatch between the planning and climate change perspective on the value of increased detail in the OP). This may be worthy of further exploration.



What we have thus far....

- Preliminary Scan of Climate Change Language in OPS....
- Consultation on what does Bringing Climate Change into Official Plans
- Gathered information on what municipal staff would find most useful re: guidance on incorporating Climate Change into Official Plans



Climate Change and Official Plans – Preamble

- General language for why climate change needs to be incorporated into OPs – changes in provincial plans (Growth Plan) and Bill 139 made OP language mandatory, etc
- Education opportunity – the context – science, international, federal, provincial and municipal roles and commitments, social, economic and environmental connections and synergies
- What climate change means to the municipality and what they see as their role, what they will do, how they will report on what they do
- Integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation into OPs



Bringing Climate Change into Official Plans Draft Process Plan – For Municipalities that do not have a Climate Mitigation Action Plan

If the municipality does not have a Climate Mitigation Action Plan then the OP should state that the municipality will develop:


- A Climate Action Plan that will... (**resource:** Guideline on Community Emissions Reduction Planning)
- Undertake an energy and greenhouse gas emission inventory
- Set a greenhouse gas reduction target (as well as other associated targets that the municipality deems important (ex. energy avoided costs target)
- Develop a plan or strategy that outlines actions that the municipality and its stakeholders have prioritized for implementation (the actions committed to within the plan)
- Indicators on progress made towards actions and/or emissions reductions
- The monitoring and reporting framework in place for the Plan and the timeframe associated with progress reporting
- Time frame and process for evaluation and updating of the Plan
- Regional/Local government – how would they need to be handled differently?
- Actions being undertaken at other levels of government that the municipalities deems important to addressing greenhouse gas emissions within their community
- Actions/Policies that need to be undertaken at other levels of government in order to be able to achieve provincial/federal targets at the community level

Bringing Climate Change into Official Plans Draft Process Plan – For Municipalities that do not have a Climate Adaptation Action Plan

- The context and rationale for why the municipality needs to address climate change adaptation and resilience (i.e. impacts of severe weather events)
- Direction in the OP for the development of a Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- The scope the Plan will focus on: departmental/corporate-wide/sector-specific (e.g. agriculture, infrastructure)/community
- Information sources that are needed to develop/monitor an adaptation plan?
- Actions/policies at other levels of government that are important to local community?
- Other items (to dos) that would be good to have referenced in the order to add strength to the Plan development?



Bringing Climate Change into Official Plans Draft Process Plan For Municipalities that have a Climate Action Plan – but have not integrated that Climate Action Plan into other Municipal Plans

- **How best to integrate the Mitigation and/or Adaptation Action Plan outcomes into OP?**
 - **Possibilities for mitigation:** Summarize up community energy and emissions; GHG targets (and any other corresponding targets); The actions that the municipality has prioritized in the Climate Action Plan; The monitoring, evaluation, progress reporting, and Plan update plan and schedule?
 - **Possibilities for adaptation:** Summarize up the priority risks and the priority actions to address and mitigate risk; actions; progress report and adaptation plan progress reporting, evaluation and update process and schedule?
 - **QUESTION:** How much of those Plans should be added into OP? Does integration of above Plans within OP add support to Plan implementation? Does too much information from Plans going into OPs then create vulnerability related to requirements for OP amendments?
 - **Want to find the balance between adding strength to Plans via inclusion in OP with not creating a PitA policy that then requires OP amendments.**
 - **The direction for how climate change will be incorporated into other Municipal Plans (climate change integration). Again what is the balance between not enough info and too much information?**
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Climate Change Integration Plan – Prioritization of Integration – Direction/Guidance for how to apply the climate change lens into Plans

- Sustainability Plans
- Community Energy Plans
- Natural Heritage Plans
- Active Transportation Plans
- Transportation Plans
- Urban Forestry Plans
- Invasive Species Plan
- Stormwater Plans
- Watershed Plans
- Urban Design Guidelines
- Secondary Plans
- Public Health Plans
- Sub/Watershed Plans
- Growth Plan
- Water and Waste Water Plan
- Brownfield Plans
- Green Development Standards
- Air Quality Plans
- Environmental Master Plans
- Corporate Energy Plans
- Asset Management Plans
- Strategic Plans
- Development Cost Studies
- Extreme Weather Protocol/Hazard Plan
- Economic Development Plan
- Community Hub/Improvement Plans



Integration of the Climate Change Connected Actions/Policies from Associated Plans into Climate Change and other associated sections of OPs

- The goal is that each of the applicable sections of the OP make reference to the climate change connections within the other climate change applicable Plans that the municipality has selected for climate change integration (bringing climate change into those Plans) –helps to build recognition that climate change intersects with a wide range of community planning spheres
- Integrating the climate change lens/connection/actions from those various Plans.
- OP references integration goal can provide direction and prioritization for updates to associated Plans
- Climate Change lens/integration into associated Plans provides an opportunity to strengthen updates to Climate Action Plans
- **Question? What is the right level of detail that provides a balance between adding support for Plan implementation and not creating an OP amendment nightmare?**



Additional Feedback...

- Need more inter-departmental collaboration ex. Scaling up public health and planning secondments. Public Health participating in development reviews, OP updates.
- This goes for other departments being involved in Plan development/review. This collaboration will benefit Plan integration.



Hopes for the Workshop

- Specific Examples of attempts at integration (both good and bad)
- Regional/local differentiation
- Thinking from various players on what bringing climate change into OP really means (is there a consistent view) and the steps needed to make it happen
- How to respond/address resistance from within municipality either in terms of financial and/or political barriers
- Sample Policies would be helpful

