

**To: Gaby Kalapos, Clean Air Partnership
(Addressing COP 26 Race to Zero webinar attendees, October 6th, 2021)**

Re: Why the City of Burlington Joined the Race To Zero Program

In recognition of Council's commitment for the City of Burlington to reach net carbon zero by 2050, the City has joined the global Race To Zero program. Burlington was encouraged to join the program by the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) to join since we have a target to become a net carbon zero community by 2050.

In 2019, the City joined Global Covenant of Mayors (Canada) for Climate and Energy (GCoM), supported by ICLEI Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Partners for Climate Protection program. Burlington was one of 25 Canadian municipalities selected in 2020 to participate in the Showcase Cities program to build capacity to meet the requirements of GCoM:

- Municipalities must meet certain milestones in the program where badges are issued when achieved. Burlington has received badges for the completion of the Climate Action Plan (2020) and setting a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- It is expected that the greenhouse gas emissions inventory badge will also be achieved this year through the CDP reporting requirements, which will meet the GCoM requirements.
- The Climate Resilient Burlington project (adaptation plan) is underway with staff and stakeholder engagement, and is expected to be completed by mid-2022, where the city can achieve the adaptation badges.

In joining the Race To Zero program, the following pledges for climate action were selected for Burlington to achieve:

Develop Zero Carbon Buildings - Implement pilot efficiency programmes and incentives for building energy efficiency with tools in place that facilitate data access and data analysis (benchmarking) of building energy use by 2025.

- City staff are working on a number of programs related to this pledge, including the implementation of the Corporate Energy & Emissions Management Plan to work towards the net carbon zero for city operations (2040), a capital plan for solar projects on city property, a partnership for a feasibility study on the seniors building to achieve net carbon zero, and the development of a home energy retrofit program.

Move Towards Resilient and Sustainable Energy Systems – ensuring our policies follow the rule of “energy-efficiency” first so take all actions to increase the efficiency of end-use sectors.

- The Corporate Energy & Emissions Management Plan and Climate Action Plan both recognize the importance of focusing on improving energy efficiency of existing buildings, recognizing that a significant amount of the existing building inventory in Burlington was built prior to tighter energy standards in the Ontario Building Code. As noted above, the home energy efficiency program will focus on deep energy retrofits in the residential sector. Energy staff are working in sync with the city's asset management plan to assess the building stock to identify priority buildings for deep energy retrofits.

Participating in the Race To Zero program provides the City a platform to showcase city and community climate action, network with other municipalities on a global scale and leverages the commitment to action and work that is already underway.