CLEAN AIR COUNCIL

Summary Menti Results: Strengthening Municipal Capacity for Inclusion of Climate Implications in Council Reports, November 25, 2022

Workshop Objectives:

- **Understand the barriers to municipalities including climate implications sections in council reports**
- **Determine the value of a climate implications repository and crowdsourcing effort**

Does your municipality have a climate implications section in council reports?

- Yes – 6
- No- 7
- Not Yet but Council Direction to Develop One – 2

What has stopped your municipality from having a climate implications section in Council reports?

Lack of knowledge and staff resources

- Not enough staff resources to develop it
- Lack of staff knowledge
- Previous lack of dedicated staff to push it forward
- The issue is generally too complicated for staff to meaningfully report on the climate implications
- Resources with the knowledge to understand and communicate implications
- Not knowing what the implications are and the risk of them being negative.
- Staff training

Council has reduced and/or simplified council reports

- Reduced and simplified council report (i.e., they wanted to keep it minimal to reduce the burden on staff)
- City changed the staff report layout a couple of years ago to limit wording (reduce length of reports). The sustainability section was taken out at this time.

Other

- Many Council reports are updating on decisions already made. That is, it needs to be developed in budget.
- This has been proposed but we have not received direction yet.
- I need to investigate to what degree this has been done. I think, perhaps, informally via the councillor with the climate file, but more to be done. I'm a newly elected councillor

In sum, a lack of knowledge and staff resources to properly develop/communicate these implications and some municipalities' council reports have been reduced in length and simplified.

What are the other top-level questions that can help tease out climate implications and opportunities/ interventions?

Is more information/ research needed

- Is more information required to assess the impacts? If so, what research is needed?
- Is additional research/resources required to properly scope the impacts?
- Is more study required to properly scope the implications?

Energy

- Does the project invest in fossil fuel-based equipment?
- Will this proposal increase/decrease corporate and/or community-wide GHG emissions?
- If expected increase in GHG emissions, have considerations been made on how to minimize this?

Forestry/ Ecosystems/ Wildlife

- For transportation and road expansion EAs/detail design, the removal of significant woodlands would be negative as there would be a loss of green infrastructure/ tree canopy
- What will be the impact on wildlife, ecosystems and wetlands?
- What is the impact on greenspace, parklands and the tree canopy?

Service Impacts

- Is the service impacted by a changing climate, such as severe weather events, extreme heat or cold, fluctuating freeze/thaw events, and/or invasive species?

Intersectional Lens

- What is the climate impact on vulnerable people?
- DEI implications?
- Does this have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities?

Conformity with existing climate-related policy

- Does your project conform with existing climate-related policy? (i.e., the net zero emission building policy)
- How does the work advance current climate policies and projects?
- How does this project align with current regional/municipal plans?
- Does the work align with existing council policy and/or adopted climate strategic actions

Scope

- How do we account for cumulative impacts? It's hard to evaluate/ demonstrate the impact of a new office building and parking lot on heat island effect in isolation. Death by a thousand cuts.
- Council is now questioning cost/benefit – go for a "blue sky" solution on one project or distribute to improve other buildings needing to be upgraded

Bureaucratic process

- Funding applications for retrofitting large community centres to a zero or low carbon footprint take much too long for a decision from the federal government. This is a challenge to achieve our targets – not enough funding

What green solutions have been used elsewhere

- If it fits a specific development application, what green solutions has the developer used elsewhere? (in case they state they "can't" do that here)

What needs to be within a climate implications section to make it robust?

- Quantification of projected GHGs over lifetime of infrastructure through a total cost of ownership calculation

Possible Questions to Tease out climate implications and interventions – Mitigation

- What type of resident parking is part of the design? (Underground, above-ground) Materials, Land-Use, etc.?

Possible Questions to Tease out climate implications and interventions – Adaptation

- No answers

What climate implications/interventions are missing from Townhouse Development C.I?

Best use of land to meet housing and climate needs

- Needs assessment – was this the best use of land to meet the housing needs and the climate needs?

Building materials

- Consideration of embodied carbon in building materials

Forestry/ Ecosystems/ Wildlife

- What is the impact on local wildlife/ ecosystems

Energy

- Is the new development being hooked up to the local gas line or being equipped with heat pumps?
- More detail on increases energy use & GHG implication … either quantitative or comparative to green development standard, council policy

Meeting Green development / climate standard policies

- Policies and standards need to be established that projects or programs can be tested against. Are they meeting the policy? i.e., green development standard\

Long-term climate commitments

- Is this development "future ready"? Is it being designed with easy modification for things like district energy, EVs, etc.

What climate implications/ interventions are missing from Firehall Asset Renewal?

Energy

- Has an energy audit already been completed?
- What is the emissions factor being used to determine the GHG emissions?
- What is the fuel source for back-up power supply?

Building Envelope

- Are they also improving energy efficiency measures? Leak sealing? Thermal improvements like improved insulation?
- Are there other energy efficiency measures being incorporated – leak sealing, thermal improvements?

Flooding and Stormwater Management

- Site-level stormwater management measures

Transportation

- EV charging readiness for support vehicles

Lifecycle Cost Analysis

- 40-year life cycle cost analysis

Biodiversity

- Does it conform to biodiversity policy?

Do you have any input on how the Climate Implications Repository can be improved?

- Tools that climate staff can use to undertake a robust assessment of a project
- Supplemental training opportunity for staff
- Maybe a checklist for each applicant on yes/no's of certain categories? I.e., "does this work do X, does it contribute to X.."
- Similar to a checklist, but a dropdown format of an exhaustive list of questions might be a helpful tool
- How difficult would it be to include a checkbox on whether equity/EDI is mentioned?

In sum, possibly a tool or a checklist to ensure they are conducting a robust assessment, including equity, diversity and inclusion mentions

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Do you think it is likely you will submit climate implications?

- Yes – 4
- No – 0
- Saying yes but likely to drop off my radar, so no – 5

What would make it more likely for you to submit climate implications?

- Some sort of recognition?
- A co-op student
- Feedback on response
- Not yet ready
- We are hoping to have standardized wording which would be utilized for the climate implications section
- Featuring those municipalities who have submitted in future newsletters ("look at the awesome work they're doing!")

Recognition, more staff resources, feedback on the submitted climate implications (how robust is it), and feature or recognition for municipalities who participate and ensure the CI's are robust.

Would you participate in and find value in crowdsourcing climate implications/ interventions?

- Yes – 7
- No – 0
- Not sure – 2

How often should a climate implications crowdsourcing effort take place?

- Monthly – 0
- Every two months – 1
- Quarterly – 9

How useful did you find this webinar?

- Very useful – 11
- Somewhat useful – 0
- Not really useful – 0