

Concept: How Might We Update Council on our Efficient and Effective Climate Adaptation Plan?

Background:

At an alarming rate, the effects of a changing climate have already been felt across communities worldwide. Such effects are forecasted to be so pervasive that all levels of government will have a responsibility to become informed of the issue as well as fully accountable for their actions. In response to the adverse effects, it is therefore in the Town's best interest to create a climate adaptation plan that will minimize the direct and indirect impacts of climate change, including the costs relative to public and community health and safety, economic development, as well as artificial and natural environments.

The purpose of the Town's adaptation plan is to investigate the impacts of climate change particularly within Pelham, while also developing strategies that will address those impacts. Though there is no single, universal approach that is considered to be appropriate for all communities, the Town will be participating in Brock University's 'Niagara Adapts' program, where they will work collaboratively with three other municipalities (i.e. Lincoln, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines) to take action for future climates through effective climate change adaptation planning. Niagara Adapts will be based out of Brock's Environmental Sustainability Research Centre, where the partnership will support each municipality throughout their adaptation planning process, grant municipalities access to Brock's special survey software to identify and measure vulnerable areas relative to climate change, and also provide the opportunity to be part of an online learning network where members will be able to interact with their peers to share ideas, resources, approach and opportunities. The first workshop is scheduled to take place on Friday June 14th and all participants involved will participate in activities that include introductions, informal needs assessment, confirmation of draft schedules, etc. It can be assured that this opportunity will create better informed decision-making for the Town by addressing knowledge about adaptation.

In addition to the Town's involvement with Niagara Adapts, to further enhance the Town's adaptation plan, the Climate Change Coordinator is researching for additional grants that are relative to the promotion of sustainable growth and climate-resilient economies.

Our Recommended Solution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Committee recommend that Council receive the Report entitled **Niagara Adapts – Partnership with Brock University** for information purposes.

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