

## **Climate Change Motion**

WHEREAS the Region Council recognizes that climate change is a real and significant threat to both Niagara's natural environment and economy;

WHEREAS the Niagara Region has already been impacted by climate change through shoreline and escarpment destruction, millions of dollars of infrastructure damages caused by extreme storm events and increase freeze–thaw cycles destroying our roads and subsurface infrastructure;

WHEREAS the Niagara Region's agriculture sector struggles with irrigation challenges that are linked to drought-like conditions caused by climate change;

WHEREAS the Niagara Region recognizes all the existing, albeit fragmented, climate change work that has occurred across all Regional departments;

WHEREAS the Niagara Region recognizes that all levels of government, including municipalities, have a crucial role to play in the mitigation and adaption of climate change;

WHEREAS many municipalities across Ontario have formal strategies to manage climate change, investing resources to help combat the effects of extreme weather in their communities;

WHEREAS the Niagara Region recognizes that addressing climate action and transitioning to lower-carbon options represents an important opportunity for economic stimulation and job growth;

WHEREAS a 2020 study conducted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) found that climate adaptation costs Canadian municipalities and estimated \$5.3 billion annually, including significant increases in insurance premiums related to the impacts of extreme weather;

WHEREAS the same FCM report found that investments in resilient infrastructure have a return on investment of \$6 in future averted losses for every \$1 spent proactively;

WHEREAS a report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has indicated a need for a massive reduction in carbon emissions by 45%, reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050, in order to have a reasonable chance of keeping global warming to 1.5C and maintaining a climate compatible with human civilization; and

WHEREAS a recent United Nations (UN) report on climate change found that while human behaviour has unequivocally warmed the planet and climate changes are happening more rapidly, there is still a window in which human can alter their path.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to conduct a fulsome review of all current and former Regional initiatives, including strategic plans, related to the management, mitigation and adaptation of climate change in Niagara;
2. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to research municipal best practices across Ontario related to community and corporate mitigation and adaptation of climate change;
3. That Regional Council **DIRECT** staff to provide a report outlining their findings and develop a program proposal, including the immediate 2022 budgetary impacts, to address corporate and community climate mitigation and adaptation to a future Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting; and
4. That Niagara Region **DIRECT** staff to organize and host a climate summit for the purpose of evaluating best practices, coordinating climate action and ensuring all of Niagara is committed to climate change adaptation and mitigation, by the end of Q2 2022.