

Climate Emergency Declaration

Resolution #182/19

Moved by Councillor Brenner
Seconded by Councillor McLean

WHEREAS, climate change is a well-documented issue that poses a risk to social, economic and environmental well-being in communities around the world;

And Whereas, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined the need for a significant reduction in carbon emissions in the next 11 years to avoid further economic, ecological, and societal losses due to climate change;

And Whereas, climate change is currently contributing billions of dollars in property and infrastructure damage worldwide and the City of Pickering has been impacted by extreme rain and ice storm events resulting in a loss of tree canopy, property damage, utility disruptions, and flooding along the waterfront;

And Whereas, the City of Pickering has been proactively integrating sustainability into its corporate culture for many years, while aiming to continuously balance the economic, environmental and social priorities of a healthy community;

And Whereas, a climate emergency declaration aligns with the goals and actions already being completed through existing City programs, plans and policies including but not limited to: 2014-2019 and 2019-2024 Corporate Energy Management Plans, Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan, Durham Community Energy Plan, Amendment 23 to the Pickering Official Plan, Partners in Climate Protection Program, Sustainable Development Guidelines, Sustainable Seaton: Community-Building series, habitat protection and naturalization, Smart Commute Program, renewable energy project on Dr. Nelson F. Tomlinson Community Centre, Measuring Sustainability Reports, a 7-year Electric Vehicle Strategy, a forthcoming Integrated Transportation Master Plan;

And Whereas, the City of Pickering promotes a healthy economic development program that supports the attraction of key industries and jobs to allow for residents to work close to home;

And Whereas, the City of Pickering is attempting to maximize unique economic development opportunities within the City to further advance the establishment of key industries and support the supply chain of businesses;

Now Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the City of Pickering declares a climate emergency by endorsing the following:

Excerpt from December 16, 2019 Council Minutes

1. That climate change poses a threat to both the current and future social, economic and environmental well-being of the community;
2. That the City continues to strive for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to reduce the local and global impacts of climate change;
3. That the City supports that mitigation, adaptation and resiliency measures continue to be considered and implemented to ensure the community remains prosperous and to reduce the short and long term impacts of climate change;
4. That the City continues to demonstrate leadership and a commitment to economic, social and environmental sustainability;
5. That the City continues to build a healthy and complete city where residents can live, work, and play without having to leave the community;
6. That Council requests staff, wherever possible, to consider climate change in municipal activities;
7. That the City continues to encourage residents, businesses, and the development community to consider climate change; and,
8. The Council shares it's commitment by forwarding this declaration to the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Member of Parliament for Pickering-Uxbridge, Member of Provincial Parliament for Pickering-Uxbridge, Region of Durham, Durham Region municipalities, the Durham Catholic and Public District School Boards and the Ontario French Public School Board.

Carried Later in the Meeting (See Following Motion)

Resolution #183/19

Moved by Councillor Brenner

Seconded by Councillor Butt

That the main motion be amended by adding the following as a new Item #9:

9. That Staff report back to Council, no later than Q2 2020, for setting measurable performance achievements.

Carried

The Main Motion, as amended, was then
Carried on a Recorded Vote as follows:

Excerpt from December 16, 2019 Council Minutes

Yes

Councillor Brenner
Councillor Butt
Councillor Cumming
Councillor McLean
Councillor Pickles
Mayor Ryan

No

Councillor Ashe