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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Report FCA-05-2024 Climate Change Adaptation Plan - Grant Funding Application



For Consideration by Council in Committee on November 19, 2024

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### OBJECTIVE:

To obtain the required Council resolutions for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation 2024 grant funding application.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report FCA-05-2024 Climate Change Adaptation Plan - Grant Funding Application be received;
2. AND THAT a funding application request for external consulting services to create a Climate Change Adaption Plan that meets the requirements of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation funding initiative be approved;
3. AND THAT Council directs staff to apply for a funding opportunity from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation initiative for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

**Prepared by:** David Lamanes, Facilities Technologist, Facilities Capital & Asset Management

**Reviewed by:** Jeff Oakes, Manager, Facilities Capital & Asset Management

**Respectfully submitted:** Tyson Haedrich, M. Eng., P. Eng., General Manager, Engineering & Capital Works

**Approved:** Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff are currently preparing an application under the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation (LLCA) initiative to request funding for external consulting services to prepare a Climate Adaptation Plan, including a community-wide risk assessment for Haldimand County. A requirement of the funding application is to obtain Council support through the approval of the recommendations in this report.

A project to complete a Climate Change Adaptation Plan has been identified in the proposed 2025 capital budget for \$90,000. If successful in obtaining the grant, it will offset the identified 2025 capital costs. The completion of the plan will make the County eligible to apply for future grant funding for programs that include work related to climate impacts such as shoreline protection, flood mitigation, etc.

## **BACKGROUND:**

FCM is a national organization representing municipalities at the federal level. Their support includes funding programs to assist municipalities in multiple focus areas and one of these programs is the LLCA initiative provided through the Green Municipal Fund (GMF).

The purpose of the GMF is to enhance the quality of life for people in Canada by accelerating a transformation to resilient, net-zero communities through the provision of grants, loans, innovative financing, leveraged investments, capacity building and strategic support.

The LLCA is a multi-year \$530 million initiative delivered by the GMF and includes the Climate-Ready Plans and Processes (CRPP) funding program.

The CRPP program provides grants covering up to 100% of a maximum amount dependant on municipal population size and covers eligible expenses for the development of climate adaptation plans, climate-focused asset management strategies, community-wide climate risk assessments, and capacity-building initiatives. This program was announced in October 2024 with a deadline to submit an application of November 29, 2024.

Municipalities have access to a range of federal and provincial funding opportunities to support climate adaptation and resilience in infrastructure projects. These funds help municipalities build sustainable, energy-efficient, and climate-resilient infrastructure while contributing to federal and provincial climate goals. For many of these grant opportunities, demonstrating a commitment to climate adaptation planning is a key eligibility requirement.

Haldimand County is eligible for the LLCA/CRPP funding initiative and can apply for a grant covering up to 100% of a maximum amount of \$70,000 for a qualified project. As part of the application process the FCM requires a resolution from Council supporting the grant application. The recommendations in this report will satisfy this requirement.

It should be noted that a significant number of Canadian municipalities have completed their Climate Change Adaption Plans in the past few years, including most of our surrounding neighbors.

## **ANALYSIS:**

Staff are recommending that the funding application include a request for external consulting services to assist with the development and completion of a preliminary climate risk assessment and a climate adaptation plan.

Before a climate adaption plan is developed, a climate risk assessment needs to be completed. This process helps to evaluate how climate change impacts could affect the Haldimand County community and help Council, staff and external stakeholders understand the climate-related threats to municipal services and infrastructure. It provides a basis for the climate adaptation plan.

A climate adaptation plan is a strategic framework that outlines how Haldimand County can prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change. The plan typically includes the following:

- Assessment of vulnerabilities
- Goals and objectives
- Action strategies
- Implementation timeline
- Monitoring and evaluation

This plan is crucial for ensuring communities can withstand and recover from the adverse effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events and other climate events specific to our region.

The climate risk assessment and climate adaptation plan also aligns with the County's work on the Energy Conservation and Demand Management (ECDM) Plan required under Ontario Regulation 25/23: Broader Public Sector – Energy Reporting and Conservation Demand Management Plans legislation, in addition to the work being completed under the asset management program.

Haldimand County's energy management portfolio falls under the Facilities Capital and Asset Management (FCA) division under the Engineering and Capital Works Department. There is currently one staff position assigned to this work in addition to other facilities capital projects. As such, external consultant services are necessary to assist County staff with the completion of this work and to provide climate change strategy expertise.

## **FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

A Climate Change Adaptation Plan development project has been identified in the proposed 2025 capital budget for \$90,000. This funding initiative is an opportunity to help offset these project costs.

Should the County succeed in obtaining funding through the LLCA/CRPP funding initiative, this project will either be adjusted in the proposed 2025 capital budget to indicate the funding award or a subsequent report will be prepared to confirm the funding award and to request the required budget revisions. If the County is unsuccessful in the funding application, the project will remain as identified in the proposed 2025 capital budget.

It should be noted that the completion of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan will make the County eligible to apply for future grant funding for programs that include work related to climate impacts such as shoreline protection, flood mitigation, etc.

## **STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:**

Not applicable.

## **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

## **REFERENCES:**

None.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

None.