



Report to Council

Department: Development Services
Division: Development Services
Date: September 2, 2025
Prepared by: Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services
Report Number: Development Services-2025-06
Subject: Climate Change Adaptation Plan 5-year Update Grant Application
Number of Pages: 4

Recommendations

That Development Services Report 2025-06 entitled “Climate Change Adaptation Plan 5-year Update Grant Application” prepared by Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services dated September 2, 2025 be received;

That Council direct Administration to apply for the “Climate Ready Plans and Processes” Grant Program from the Federation of Canadian Municipality’s Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation Initiative; and

That Council approve the post-budget capital expenditure in the amount of \$100,000 for the “2026: Climate Change Adaption Plan Update” to be contingent and funded with \$70,000 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities grant monies and \$30,000 from the Town’s Green Fund Reserve.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's direction in completing a 5-year Update of the Town's Climate Change Adaptation Plan in 2026, and to obtain Council's resolution of support in a grant application for same.

Background and Discussion

At the Regular Meeting on February 16, 2021, Council adopted "Climate Ready: A Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) for the Town of Essex, 2021-2026". The CCAP provides a roadmap for both Council and Administration on how we can prepare and adapt to the impacts of climate change through policy, process, infrastructure, and communication developments. The action items in the CCAP were developed in a way to avert damages to public and private assets, operations, services, heritage, economy, and the quality of life of residents.

Since 2021, Annual Reports have been completed to monitor progress of the various action items, both within the corporate objective stream, which are action items achieved by Town Administration, and the community objective stream, designed to educate and promote climate resilience for citizens and stakeholder groups.

Preparing for climate impacts and building resilience is a constantly evolving and dynamic process. Scientists continue to update climate projection data, and it becomes imperative to keep track of this information as it pertains to the Town of Essex. Additionally, community needs and urgencies also evolve based on social, political, economic, and environmental factors. Since the CCAP was designed for a

5-year period ending in March 2026, it is intended to be re-evaluated and updated in 2026 based on the latest available information and resources.

The vision for completing the 5-year Update will include procuring baseline climate projection data, revisiting identified impacts and considering new impacts, assessing current and future vulnerability and risk, reviewing progress of identified actions, and establishing new goals and actions. The 5-year Update is also envisioned to include internal, community, and stakeholder consultation to provide insight, guidance, and technical expertise.

To be eligible for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' "Climate Ready Plans and Processes" Grant Program, a resolution adopted by Council is required. The deadline to submit a full application for this funding is September 16, 2025, and the project must be completed within two (2) years of grant approval.

Financial Impact

The preparation of the Council-adopted 2021 CCAP was made possible with funding and support from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) through the Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (MCIP). At the time of grant approval in 2020, the Town of Essex received a grant in the amount of \$106,912 for a contract employee to complete the CCAP.

Accordingly, the preparation of a 5-year Update is estimated to cost up to \$100,000. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' "Climate Ready Plans and Processes" Grant Program would fund 70% of the costs for a maximum of \$70,000. If successful at obtaining the grant, the Town may fund the remaining

30% of the costs through the Green Fund Reserve which has sufficient balance to do so. Administration is also exploring an additional grant opportunity through Enbridge to fund a portion of the Town's 30% contribution.

This project is contingent on a grant, therefore if unsuccessful at obtaining the grant, Administration will report back to Council with alternative funding options or postponement of the project to a later time.

Consultations

RaeAnn Schroeder, Analyst, Economic Development and Business Relations

Ann Marie, Manager, Finance & Business Services

Link to Strategic Priorities

- Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.
- Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".
- Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Climate Change Adaptation Plan Update Grant Application - Development Services-2025-06.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Aug 25, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer was completed by delegate Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services

Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Aug 25, 2025 - 9:53 AM