



Report to Council

Department: Development Services
Division: Development Services
Date: April 20, 2026
Prepared by: Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services
Marc Tortola, Manager, Communications
Report Number: Development Services-2026-03
Subject: Climate Change Adaptation Plan Annual Report
Number of Pages: 4 plus attachments

Recommendation(s)

That Development Services Report 2026-03 entitled “Climate Change Adaptation Plan Annual Report” prepared by Lori Chadwick, Director Development Services and Marc Tortola, Manager, Communications dated April 20, 2026 be received.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update to Council on the status of initiatives and action items identified in the Council-adopted Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

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 future impacts of climate change through policy, process, infrastructure, and communication developments. The presented 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.

As identified in the CCAP, Administration will be delivering an Annual Report to Council which will highlight the actions that have been initiated and implemented across the Corporation and the community. This 5th and Final Annual Report, attached herein, highlights the progress made from March 2025 to March 2026.

Since the CCAP was designed for a 5-year period ending in March 2026, it is intended to be re-evaluated and updated based on the latest available information and resources. Following this Final Annual Report, and as Council directed in September 2025, Administration will be completing a 5-Year Update of the Town's CCAP to be initiated in Summer 2026, contingent on grant funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

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.

Financial Impact

The cost of implementing action items in the CCAP have been estimated in the ranges stated within the document itself.

Consultations

Senior Management Team

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 Annual Report - Development Services-2026-03.docx
Attachments:	- ClimateReport_AnnualReport2025.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 15, 2026

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Giurissevich". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and timestamp.

Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Apr 15, 2026 - 12:11 PM