



The Corporation of The Town of Amherstburg

November 25, 2019

VIA EMAIL

Honourable Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park 5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Re: Declaration of Climate Emergency in the Town of Amherstburg

Dear Hon. Yurek,

At its meeting of November 12th, 2019, Amherstburg Town Council passed the following resolution as recommended by the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee:

***“WHEREAS** the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee is sounding the alarm and urging the City of Windsor and the County of Essex to declare Climate Emergencies and work together to reduce emissions; and,*

***WHEREAS** more than 444 Canadian municipalities (including Chatham-Kent, London, Sarnia, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Guelph, Kingston, Kitchener and the Waterloo Region) have declared Climate Emergencies, some of which are also implementing strategic plans in order to help reduce global carbon emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and,*

***WHEREAS** Amherstburg distributed sandbags to residents this summer in the face of historic water levels and has 43.7 km of shoreline along the Detroit River and Lake Erie, along with 12.4 km of shoreline on inland waterways, and is thus greatly affected by water levels in the Great Lakes basin; and,*

WHEREAS the most recent report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has indicated that within 12 years, in order to keep the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degree C and maintain a climate compatible with human civilization, there must be a reduction in carbon emissions of about 45% from 2010 levels, reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050; and,

WHEREAS based on current projections of the future impacts of human-caused climate change, climate change will adversely the local economy, local infrastructure and property, put a strain on municipal budgets and result in significant economic and health burdens for local residents, particularly our vulnerable populations; and,

WHEREAS climate change will jeopardize the health and survival of many local plant and animal species as well as their natural environments and ecosystems; and,

WHEREAS Amherstburg and the surrounding region is already experiencing climate change impacts including, but not limited to, overland flooding, heavy rain event flooding, emergence of invasive species, an increased number of high heat days, the rise of vector borne diseases, the re-emergence of blue-green algae and harmful algal blooms in our lakes and rivers; and,

WHEREAS municipalities are understood to produce and/or have regulatory jurisdiction over approximately 50% of carbon emissions in Canada; and,

WHEREAS Amherstburg is embarking on a review of the Town's Official Plan; and,

WHEREAS implementing climate action and making a transition to a low-carbon economy also represents a significant opportunity to stimulate economic growth, increase job opportunities and develop new technologies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Amherstburg declare a Climate Emergency and direct administration to prepare a report containing recommendations for priority actions items, implementation measures and cost requirements to accelerate and urgently work towards the reduction of emissions and preparing for our climate future.”

cc:

Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)
Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)
Ontario Municipalities
Taras Natyshak, MPP, Essex
Chris Lewis, MP, Essex
Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee

Regards,



Tammy Fowkes
Deputy Clerk
tfowkes@amherstburg.ca