

# Staff Report



Development Services Department

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**REPORT TO:** Climate Change and Environment Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** May 16, 2024

**SUBMITTED BY:** Natalie Goss, Manager Policy and Research, 519-741-2200 ext. 7648

**PREPARED BY:** Hilary Irving, Sustainability Advisor, 519-741-2200 ext. 7137

**WARD(S) INVOLVED:** Ward(s) – All

**DATE OF REPORT:** April 29, 2024

**REPORT NO.:** DSD-2024-216

**SUBJECT:** CorCAP 2.0 – Part 2 – TransformWR, continued discussion

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**RECOMMENDATION:**  
For discussion

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to continue the dialogue from the April 2024 Climate Change and Environment Committee on CorCAP 2.0 – Part 2, which shifts focus from corporate emissions to community-based emissions.
- Staff intend to have a structured discussion regarding TransformWR, identifying areas of focus to ensure staff resources are deployed where they can make the greatest impact.
- This report supports **Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.**

## BACKGROUND:

Kitchener's Corporate Climate Action Plan 2.0 involves 3 bodies of work. Part 1 (Pivot: Net-Zero), has focused on Corporate GHG Emissions and Part 2 will shift focus to Community GHG Emissions, while Part 3 will turn to Climate Adaptation.

Community emissions will/have been addressed through the [Kitchener Utilities Clean Energy Transition Strategy](#), as well as [TransformWR](#). TransformWR was completed through the ClimateActionWR collaborative, made up of local municipalities and townships, REEP Green Solutions and Sustainable Waterloo Region. The document lays out 78 actions across 6 transformative changes to guide the Region of Waterloo towards our community GHG reduction goals of 50% by 2030 (upgraded from initial commitment of 30% by 2030) and 80% by 2050. Of these 78 Actions the City of Kitchener was appointed to Lead (23), Collaborate (5), Participate (13) or Support (11) 52 of them. Council endorsed TransformWR on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2021.

\*\*\* This information is available in accessible formats upon request. \*\*\*  
Please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994 for assistance.

## REPORT:

The table below outlines the TransformWR actions that the City of Kitchener was assigned as a Lead, Collaborator, Participant or Supporter. In support of implementing TransformWR, staff wish to continue a guided discussion with the Climate Change and Environment Committee on some specific actions, gathering input from the Committee based on what has been done, what can be done, and any challenges that may be faced.

Please note work has already begun on many of these actions. Details can be found on the [TransformWR Progress Dashboard](#).

*Table 1 - City of Kitchener TransformWR Actions*

Transformative Change	Action	Commitment
1. By 2050, most trips are taken using active transportation, with the support of a robust public transit system.	Action 1.1.1: Plan a network of major active transportation corridors across cities and townships, that will provide high-volume priority travel for walking, cycling, and rolling to key destinations across the region, as well as access to public transit.	Lead
	Action 1.1.2: Plan for and build neighbourhood connections to the active transportation network.	Lead
	Action 1.1.3: Implement further policies across the region to prioritize active transportation in road and trail design and reconstruction.	Lead
	Action 1.1.4: Identify and implement policy and program opportunities to de-incentivize driving.	Lead
	Action 1.1.5: Design and maintain active transportation infrastructure to ensure year-round access, safety, and comfort for people of all abilities.	Lead
	Action 1.2.2: Ensure priority access for walking, cycling, and rolling to transit stations and bus stops.	Collaboration
	Action 1.2.4: Connect people to intercity, multimodal, and emerging transportation solutions.	Lead
	Action 1.3.1: Launch micro mobility systems (bike, e-bike and e-scooter-sharing systems) in Waterloo Region communities.	Lead

Transformative Change	Action	Commitment
	Action 1.3.2: Expand and innovate on existing programming (e.g. Travelwise) that supports employers and employees in making active transportation and transit the easy and preferred choice for commuting and business travel.	Participant
	Action 1.3.3: Create community active transportation hubs to provide customized support, education, training, and resources.	Collaboration
	Action 1.3.4: Develop active transportation and transit programs that target equity-deserving communities.	Lead
	Action 1.3.5: Post-pandemic continued adoption of work from home and flexible work schedules for reducing trips or shifting trips to off-peak times.	Participant
	Action 1.4.1 Increase the efficiency of commercial goods movement.	Support
	Action 1.5.1: Create “15 minute neighbourhoods” where people can meet their daily needs by walking, cycling, or rolling.	Lead
	Action 1.5.2: Implement design standards for new developments to build for walking, cycling, and rolling to be the primary mode of travel.	Lead
	Action 1.5.3: Site key community services, health facilities, subsidized housing, etc., in central areas where they can be easily accessed using the active transportation and public transit systems.	Participant
2. By 2050, remaining personal and commercial vehicles are zero emissions vehicles.	Action 2.1.1: Complete a region-wide electric vehicle strategy.	Collaboration
	Action 2.1.2: Plan and begin to implement a transition to zero emission vehicles for municipal fleets, working towards a goal of at least half of municipal vehicles being zero emissions by 2030.	Lead
	Action 2.1.3: Plan and begin to implement the transition of commercial vehicle fleets to zero emissions vehicles.	Participant

Transformative Change	Action	Commitment
	Action 2.1.5: Develop and implement an electric vehicle public outreach and communication strategy for personal vehicles.	Support
	Action 2.2.1: Provide more public electric vehicle charging stations in public spaces, commercial spaces and other places visited by the public.	Participant
	Action 2.2.2: Require all new residential parking spaces, and a portion of new non-residential parking spaces, to be constructed as "EV-ready".	Lead
	Action 2.2.3: Investigate and implement local opportunities to address barriers to adding electric vehicle charging infrastructure in existing multi-residential buildings and homes.	Support
	Action 2.2.4: Investigate hydrogen vehicle trends and refuelling infrastructure options.	Support
3. By 2050, businesses and homes no longer use fossil fuels for space heating and cooling, and hot water heating.	Action 3.1.10: Create a one-window service to support energy-related upgrades for homes and businesses.	Collaboration*
	Action 3.1.2: Implement a public literacy campaign to explain and promote the adoption of electric heat pumps for space and water heating in residential and commercial buildings.	Participant
	Action 3.1.3 Switch home and business heating and water heating off of fossil fuels.	Participant
	Action 3.1.4: Investigate and plan for full replacement of natural gas with other, non-fossil fuel sources, such as a combination of renewable natural gas and hydrogen.	Lead
	Action 3.1.5: Identify and implement necessary supports to transition anyone still using fuel oil, or propane for heating to other fuel sources by 2025.	Support
	Action 3.1.6: Install renewable energy generation in business and residential buildings.	Participant
	Action 3.1.7: Support households on lower income with building envelope improvements, electrifying space and water heating, and renewable energy generation.	Support*
	Action 3.1.8: Identify opportunities to incentivize landlords to perform energy efficiency upgrades.	Support

Transformative Change	Action	Commitment
	Action 3.1.9: Offer innovative loans for energy-related residential and commercial building upgrades.	Lead
	Action 3.2.3: Develop region-wide building standards to encourage and support zero-carbon development of all new buildings in the region.	Lead
	Action 3.2.4: Incorporate energy planning considerations into the development application review process.	Lead
	Action 3.2.6: Build capacity and expertise in the local design and construction sector to build net-zero carbon buildings.	Support
	Action 3.2.7: Show leadership by building net-zero carbon in the public sector.	Lead
4. By 2050, Waterloo Region uses less, wastes less, and no longer disposes of organic matter in landfills.	Action 4.1.3: Support the use of compost/organics collection programs for all commercial buildings.	Participant
	Action 4.2.1: Implement community waste reduction and circular economy campaigns.	Lead
	Action 4.2.4: Reduce unnecessary building demolitions and construction waste.	Lead
5. By 2050, Waterloo Region has a thriving local food system built on local farming and food production and processing that feeds much of our community.	Action 5.1.1: Continue to develop and enforce robust land use planning protections for prime agricultural land.	Lead
	Action 5.3.1: Support the reduction of GHG emissions from livestock, and develop methane capture and energy production from manure.	Support
	Action 5.4.2: Provide a variety of low GHG food options plant-based dining options in local restaurants, grocery stores, and catered events.	Participant
6. By 2050, Waterloo Region has leveraged reducing GHG emissions to increase equity, prosperity and resiliency for all.	Action 6.1.1: Establish metrics to measure progress on increasing equity through GHG reduction initiatives in our community.	Lead
	Action 6.1.2: Incorporate education on sustainability justice and equity into climate action planning.	Participant
	Action 6.1.3: Fund a climate justice committee led by community members from equity-seeking groups.	Lead
	Action 6.1.4: Provide specialized resources/support to organizations on prioritizing equity while planning their transition.	Support

Transformative Change	Action	Commitment
	Action 6.1.6: Build reciprocal relationships between Indigenous groups and local municipalities and climate action organizations to ensure GHG reduction work is done in equitable ways that respect the land and traditions of Indigenous groups.	Participant
	Action 6.1.8: Apply an equity lens to all the actions in this transformation.	Participant
	Action 6.3.2: Implement a public literacy campaign for homeowners and property owners on renewable energy systems.	Support
	Action 6.3.3: Implement a literacy and awareness campaign for commercial scale renewable energy generation.	Collaboration
	Action 6.3.4: Evaluate how to identify and protect optimal areas for industrial-scale renewable energy generation.	Participant
	Action 6.5.1: Bring community organizations and local government together to collectively identify and communicate advocacy priorities to multiple levels of government.	Lead

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This report supports **Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.**

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial implications at this time.

**PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:**

June 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 – DSD-2021-94 – Community Climate Action Plan – TransformWR Strategy  
 April 18, 2024 – DSD-2024-158 – Part 2 Transform WR