

Staff Report



Development Services Department

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REPORT TO: Climate Change and Environment Committee

DATE OF MEETING: April 17, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Natalie Goss, Manager Policy & Research, 519-783-8970

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WARD(S) INVOLVED: All

DATE OF REPORT: April 1, 2025

REPORT NO.: DSD-2025-152

SUBJECT: Pivot Net-Zero Update, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the City of Kitchener's corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions using the 19 annual progress reporting metrics and update the status of the 47 action items identified in the Pivot: Net-Zero report (DSD-2024-074).
- 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:

In April 2024, Council approved the Corporate Climate Action Plan 2.0 – Pivot: Net-Zero report. The intent of this report was to maintain the target of reducing the City of Kitchener's corporate emissions by 8% by 2026 from the 2016 baseline year and sought to pivot the organization to reach the new target of net-zero by 2050. 47 action items were identified that will help staff achieve this emission reduction goal. As part of this report, staff are to update Council annually on the City of Kitchener's corporate GHG emissions, using the 19 annual reporting metrics identified in the 2024 report.

In March 2024, the Climate Change and Environment Committee passed a motion "that the CCEC supports the recommendation that for future GHG reduction project analysis [global warming potential] GWP 20 emission factors (as it's amended) be used to calculate GHG emissions, in place of GWP 100." GWP 20 emission factors are useful when looking at the impact of GHG's that have a shorter lifetime in the atmosphere, such as methane (CH₄), while GWP 100 emission factors focus on gases with a longer lifetime, specifically carbon

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dioxide (CO₂). Following this recommendation, staff investigated making this switch and have decided to not move forward with the use of GWP 20 emission factors. The rationale behind this decision is in part due to the prominence of CO₂ in the City of Kitchener's corporate GHG emissions, as well, to stay consistent with larger organizations for reporting purposes. While natural gas usage plays a large role in the City of Kitchener's GHG emissions, when burned, it mainly releases CO₂. The main CH₄ emissions from natural gas is a result of leaks during transportation and storage, which is considered an upstream emission, and is not within the scope of the City of Kitchener's Corporate GHG inventory. In addition, continuing forward with the GWP 100 emission factors will allow the City of Kitchener to stay aligned with the reporting frameworks we have committed to report to annually, including the Sustainable Waterloo Region Impact Network and Partner's for Climate Protection.

REPORT: Staff will provide an update on the City of Kitchener's 2024 corporate GHG emissions, using the 19 reporting metrics, and a progress update on the 47 action items identified in Pivot: Net-Zero.

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 direct financial implications of this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – In March 2024 the Climate Change and Environment Committee endorsed the City of Kitchener's second-generation Corporate Climate Action Plan Pivot: Net Zero. This report is an update on the items identified within the 2024 report. The full report will be posted on the City of Kitchener website as part of the next Council meeting agenda.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

DSD-2024-074 - [Corporate Climate Action Plan \(CorCAP\) 2.0 Pivot: Net Zero](#)