



Staff Report

Report To: Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer
From: **Stacey Jeffery, Climate Change Officer**
Date: September 8 2020
Report: CC.04.2020
Subject: South Huron's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Final Report)

Recommendations:

That South Huron Council receives the report of Stacey Jeffery, Climate Change Officer titled "South Huron's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Final Report)"; and

That South Huron adopts the adaptation strategy and the contents contained within; and

That South Huron Council authorizes staff to begin the implementation of action items according to the timeline outlined in *Appendix D: Action Plan* of the adaptation strategy.

Purpose:

Approval and Adoption

Background and Analysis:

The purpose of this report is to present the final South Huron Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (referred to hereafter as 'CCAS') to South Huron Council, for adoption.

Project Funding

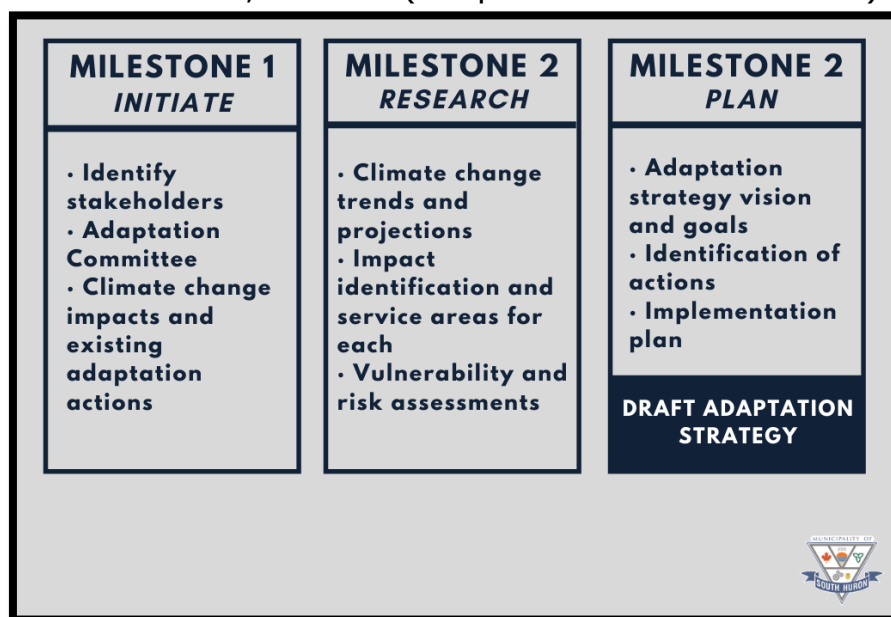
In December 2018, the Municipality received a grant through the Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (MCIP) delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for the creation of a municipal CCAS over a two year period, from March 2019 to March 2021.

Development of the CCAS

The development of South Huron's CCAS was achieved through a collaborative effort between municipal staff and Council, members of the Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Committee, stakeholders and members of the general public. A complete summary of engagement is provided in *Appendix E* of the CCAS.

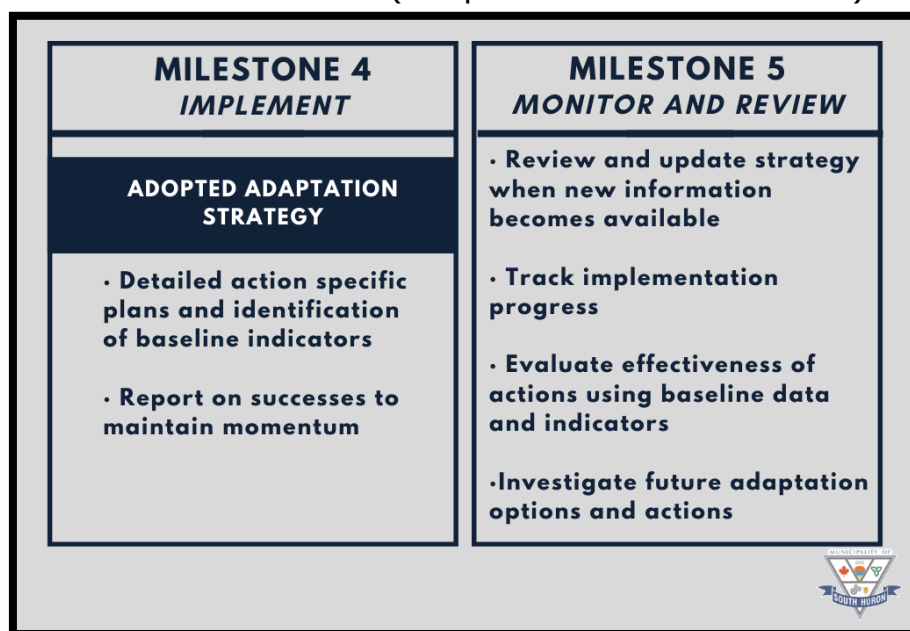
The CCAS aligns with Milestone 1 (Initiate), Milestone 2 (Research), and Milestone 3 (Plan) of ICLEI Canada's Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) program. Figure 1 demonstrates the tasks involved in the completion of Milestones 1 to 3.

Figure 1: South Huron Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Framework: Milestones 1, 2 and 3 (Adapted from ICLEI Canada)



Once the CCAS is adopted by Council, the project will move to Milestone 4 (Implement) and Milestone 5 (Monitor and Review). Figure 2 demonstrates the tasks involved in the completion of Milestones 4 to 5.

Figure 2: South Huron Climate Change Strategy Implementation: Milestones 4 and 5 (Adapted from ICLEI Canada)



The following summarizes the key findings and elements included in the technical CCAS:

- 75 impact statements were identified for the Municipality of South Huron to consider
 - Of this, 40 impact statements were carried forward to be considered in the vulnerability and risk assessments
 - Of this, 22 impact statements fell within the parameters to be carried over to action planning
- The following vision for the CCAS was developed: *A future-ready South Huron that is resilient to the impacts of a changing climate*
- The following goals for the CCAS were identified:
 - Goal 1** *Integrate climate change adaptation into municipal planning, asset management and operations;*
 - Goal 2** *Support municipal and community resilience awareness and action;*
 - Goal 3** *Ensure community readiness and a coordinated response to extreme weather events;*
 - Goal 4** *Reduce risks to buildings, properties and people from flooding;*
 - Goal 5** *Minimize disruption to municipal service delivery;*

Goal 6 *Reduce health and safety risks to municipal workers and community members from extreme temperatures;*

Goal 7 *Protect and enhance the natural landscape to mitigate impact; and*

Goal 8 *Strengthen the resiliency of municipal infrastructure and facilities*

- 38 action items were identified for the Municipality to implement to address the eight goals
 - 2 action items included in the CCAS are related to climate change mitigation but were identified as important actions for the municipality to implement
- 26 indicators were identified to measure the progress and performance of the action items implemented

The technical document findings is summarized on SouthHuron.ca on a dedicated *Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Strategy* page.

Summary of the CCAS Document

This technical document (Attachment A) is the first iteration of a climate change adaptation strategy and is intended to be living document; one in which should be updated as new information becomes available and as the Municipality moves through implementing and evaluating the actions.

South Huron's CCAS is divided into the following segments:

- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Main Document)
- Appendix A (Climate Change Projections for South Huron)
- Appendix B (Master Impact Statement List)
- Appendix C (Vulnerability and Risk Assessment)
- Appendix D (Action and Implementation Plan)
- Appendix E (Engagement Strategy)
- Appendix F (Implementation Indicators)

Monitoring and Evaluation of CCAS

To ensure the success of the adaptation strategy, the following evaluation and monitoring tasks are to be integrated in municipal business:

- Annual evaluation and monitoring of action items to report on progress and update individual action item planning, as required; and
- Five-year update to the strategy to report on successes, identify opportunities and redesign action items to reflect current realities.

Community Guide to Climate Change

Education and awareness of climate change for the public was identified as a priority throughout the development of the adaptation strategy. As part of the adaptation strategy, the Community Guide to Understanding and Responding to Climate Change (Attachment B) was created and is intended to provide a non-technical overview of climate change and how the community can respond. We have also generated a Climate Change Resource Library (organized by topic) to help individuals and businesses access resources of interest. This information is summarized on SouthHuron.ca on a dedicated *Community Guide to Climate Change* page.

Impacts from COVID-19

Due to the shift in municipal priorities during COVID-19, the project experienced a delay in the deliverables identified in the FCM funding submissions (required to be submitted at 6 months and 1 year after project commencement). Based on recommendations received from FCM regarding project delays, a letter from CAO Best dated May 29, 2020 was submitted to the MCIP Project Officer requesting an extension of funding to allow for the Climate Change Officer to work with staff to implement action items later into 2021. To date, no information regarding an extension of funding has been received.

Operational Considerations:

Throughout the implementation phase, there may be operational considerations for each action item. These considerations will be included in subsequent reports to Council for each individual action item.

South Huron's Strategic Plan:

Section 6.2.2 of the Municipality of South Huron 2015 - 2019 Strategic Plan identifies key priorities and strategic directions. The following elements are supported by the actions outlined in this report:

- ✓ Administrative Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility
- ✓ Increased Communications and Municipal Leadership
- ✓ Transparent, Accountable, and Collaborative Governance
- ✓ Dedicated Economic Development Effort

Financial Impact:

As outlined in *Appendix D: Action Plan*, each action item will be delivered and resourced through the appropriate budgetary planning progress based on initial timelines, as determined. Where applicable, external grant funding will be identified on an individual action item basis and opportunities for collaboration with community stakeholders will be encouraged.

Given the timing of the final CCAS falling outside of budget planning deliberations, the action items identified to be implemented in 2020 were chosen to have no direct financial impact on the municipality. These action items aim to provide a foundation for adaptation within the municipality and are procedural in nature to ensure the successful implementation of subsequent action items.

Legal Impact:

There are no legal impacts as a result of the information outlined within this report.

Staffing Impact:

Although there is no anticipated substantial impact to staffing, individual action items outlined in *Appendix D: Action Plan* will be delivered by the implementation lead with support from supporting department(s). It is anticipated that there will be staff time and effort required in order to implement each of the action items.

Communication Actions:

Communication actions related to the development of the CCAS are outlined in the final CCAS in *Appendix E: Engagement Summary*.

Throughout the implementation phase, the following communication actions are anticipated:

- Communications to Municipal staff will be required for action items that may impact their roles and responsibilities and/or operational changes; and
- Communications to the public regarding action items that contain an educational or awareness element, or action items that involve the public directly.

A dedicated Climate Change page and subpages on SouthHuron.ca will be regularly updated to reflect required communication actions.

Policies/Legislation:

None

Consultation:

Dan Best, CAO

Scott Currie, Manager of Community Services

Municipal staff

Members of the Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Committee

Related Documents:

- Final South Huron Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Technical Document)
- A Community Guide to Understanding Climate Change and How to Respond (Non-technical Document)

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Jeffery, Climate Change Officer

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CC.04.2020 Final Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Presentation 20Sept08.pptx- Final South Huron Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.pdf- Community Guide to Understanding Climate Change and How to Respond.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Sep 3, 2020

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

Sandy Becker - Aug 28, 2020 - 1:33 PM

No Signature - Task assigned to Rebekah Msuya-Collison was completed by workflow administrator Dan Best

Rebekah Msuya-Collison - Sep 3, 2020 - 1:57 PM

Dan Best - Sep 3, 2020 - 1:57 PM