

CITY OF OWEN SOUND

CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY

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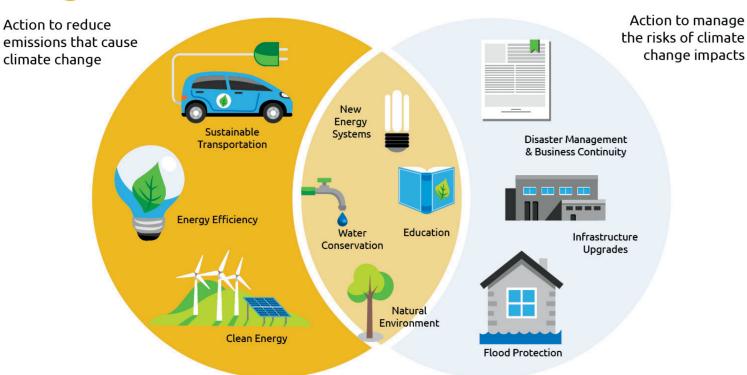
Chapter 1 - Climate Mitigation Plan

Status of Actions of Adaptation Plan 2023

Chapter 2 - Corporate Adaptation Plan

Mitigation

Adaptation



OWEN SOUND'S COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The City of Owen Sound's Refreshed Strategic Plan aims to guide the City to becoming the best that it can be. The Refreshed Strategic Plan identified being a 'Green City' as a priority of City Council and outlined Key Results to lead the City toward achieving this goal. Key Result 5 states that the City will "develop a Climate Mitigation



Plan as part of a Climate Action Strategy that incorporates the 2021 Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan". The development of the new Climate Mitigation Plan, as a part of the Climate Action Strategy, supports Key Result 5 and continues to enhance the City's resilience and capacity for mitigating climate change, leading to a healthier and more sustainable future for Owen Sound.

BEING A 'GREEN CITY' IS A PRIORITY OF CITY COUNCIL AND OUTLINES KEY RESULTS TOWARD ACHIEVING THIS GOAL.

The City's Official Plan sets goals and policies to guide development and growth in the City and aims to support the City's vision of being a vibrant and thriving community. The Official Plan states that regarding climate change, the City will "respond and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and [act] on the City's responsibility to provide mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resiliency to a changing climate." The Climate Mitigation Plan provides insights pertaining to climate change in Owen Sound and outlines several measures for the City to take to reduce the production of greenhouse gas emissions. The development of the Climate Mitigation Plan supports the Official Plan by addressing climate change mitigation efforts, and ultimately builds the City's capacity to withstand the impacts of a changing climate.



Introduction to the

CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY

Climate change is a critical global problem that requires local solutions and collaborative efforts from all levels of government and every facet of society. The City of Owen Sound has already experienced the impacts of a changing climate in the form of increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as flooding, heat waves, winter storms, and high wind events. Climate change will continue to affect the City of Owen Sound in terms of resident health, natural ecosystems, transportation systems, food security, and insurance and recovery costs, as well as how we design and build our homes.

To tackle climate change in our area, the City of Owen Sound has developed a Climate Action Strategy that will guide the City in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of a changing climate. The Strategy focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions generated in the City to prevent the negative impacts of climate change and on implementing measures that enable the City to adapt to the effects of a changing climate already being experienced in Owen Sound. In doing so, the City has worked closely with the County of Grey and is committed to supporting Grey County's Climate Change Action Plan.

The City's Climate Action Strategy includes the Climate Change Mitigation Plan, referred to as Chapter 1 of the Strategy, and the Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan, referred to as Chapter 2 of the Strategy.

The Climate Change Mitigation Plan features:

- a baseline emissions inventory for the City of Owen Sound
- highlights corporate and community actions to be taken in the City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our area

The Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan:

- identifies climatic threats and impacts to infrastructure and services
- evaluates and prioritizes efforts by assessing the vulnerability and the risks to Owen Sound's physical, economic, social, and ecological systems

City staff will report to the Operations Committee on an annual basis about the progress of the actions and initiatives outlined in the final Climate Action Strategy.

