

CCATC First Annual Report to Council

Through the Chair to Council:

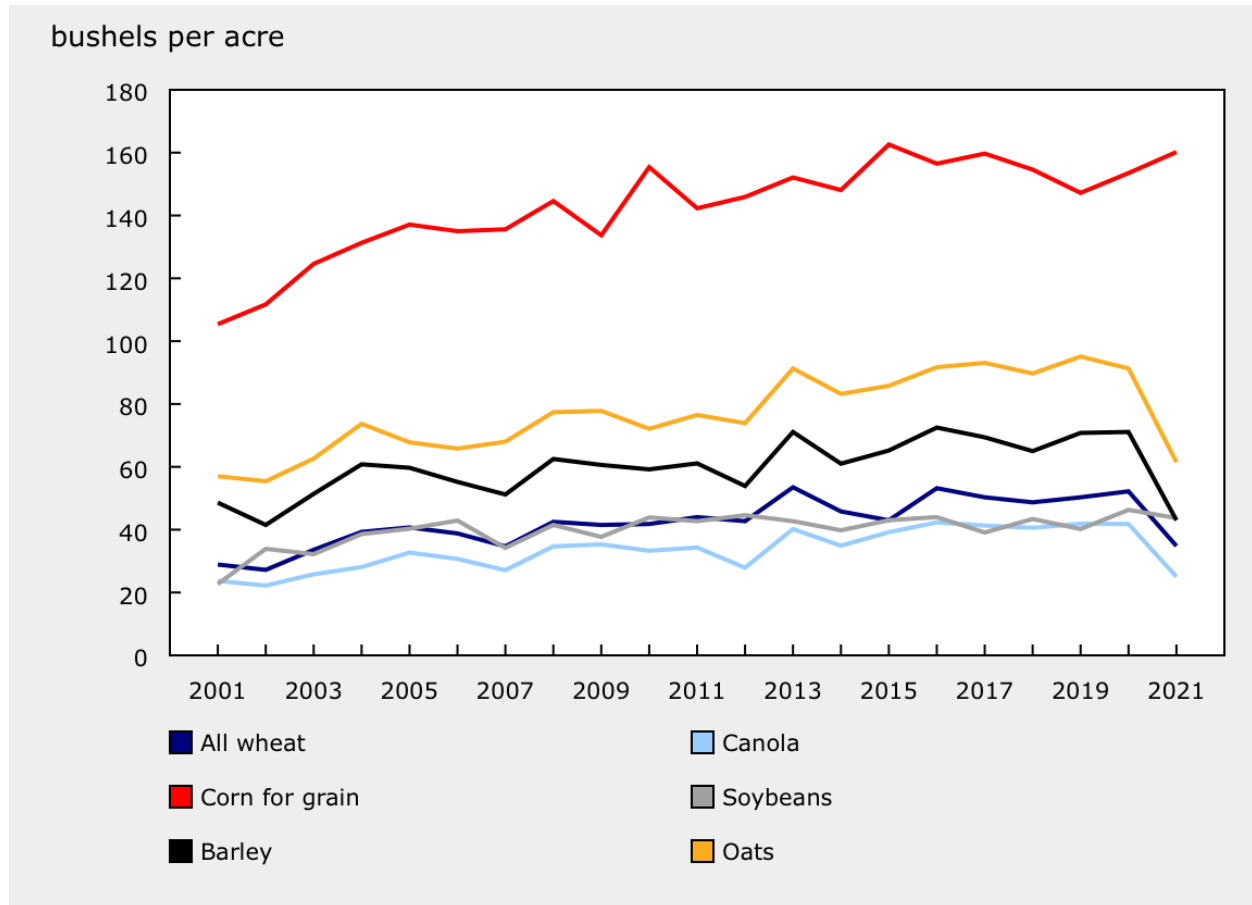
We don't need to start today by revisiting the details of the tornado and the ensuing crisis. You all worked tirelessly to get us through it and we want to thank you for your commitment and service to the town over an exceptionally trying period. We survived our first climate catastrophe—not unscathed; but hopefully with a much better idea of what is required of us moving forward.

Over the last year the IPCC updated its data set and reaffirmed its previous request for binding and immediate action on climate change from all levels of government (*Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*). Collecting data from hundreds of scientists and agreed upon by 195 countries, the new research showed that the current attempt to hold greenhouse emissions is failing. GHG continues to rise and we are now on a pathway to more than doubling to the 1.5 degree limit on global temperature increase agreed upon at the 2015 Paris Summit.

Correspondingly this also means that Uxbridge has an updated data set that we should keep in mind. Following the current projections set out by the Canadian Climate Atlas and in keeping with the RCP8.5 model – what is commonly referred to as the “business as usual scenario” or the “no policy scenario”—Uxbridge can expect the following changes over the next 60 or so years.

Our average annual temperature will increase from 6.3 C to 12.3 C.

- Average annual precipitation will rise 14%.
- The hottest day of the year will increase from 36.2 C to 43.7 C.
- In total, we should be preparing for a shift from about 9 very hot days per year (+30 C) to 41 very hot days by 2050 and 74 by 2080.
- A severe decrease in food yields per hectare due to drought (35% in 2021 alone)



- An increase of frost free days from 148 days to 222 days

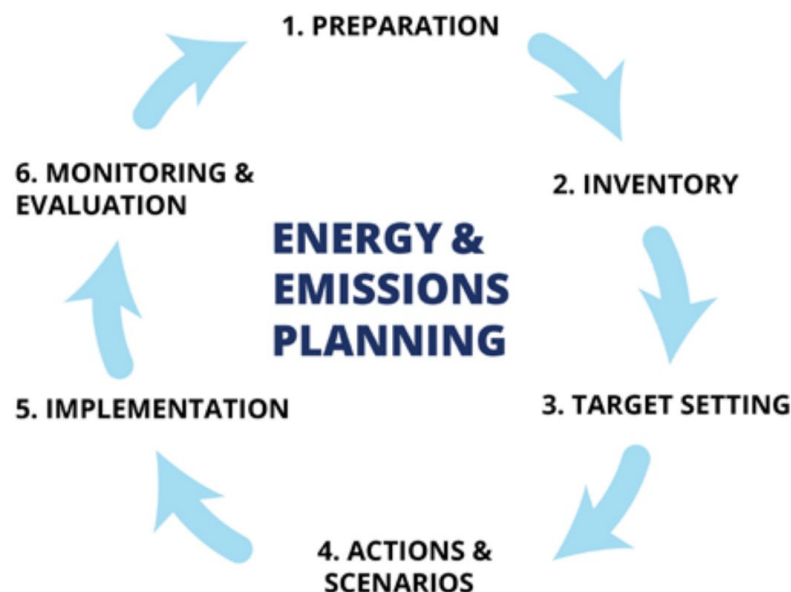
This dramatic increase in temperature will be fueling increasingly common extreme weather events. In fact, we should expect extreme weather events to become the new normal. What we are currently seeing across Canada is an accumulation of climate disasters. In Calgary, in Barrie, in Lytton and Abbotsford, Merritt, Sumas Prairie, and now in Uxbridge, it is taking longer and longer to recover from so-called “natural disasters” and they are piling up faster and faster – diverting time, energy, attention and funding from one tragedy as the next appears.

It also goes without saying that while this discussion can seem very abstract and at times distant, the difference between the business as usual model and a policy framework cable of aggressive GHG reductions will be weighed by the loss of human life (often the most vulnerable), the loss of biodiversity, and incalculable economic losses.

It's not enough for us to recover from the effects of the climate crisis, we need to recover in ways that make the community adaptive and resilient. In the words of Mayor Dave, we need to build back better but also greener. Moreover, given the varying degrees of inaction we have seen at the Federal, Provincial, and Regional levels, it is increasingly clear that local municipalities are uniquely placed to implement the practicalities of adaptation and mitigation strategies to combat climate change. From Toronto, Ontario to Tiny, Ontario, municipalities are taking responsibility for their emissions by enacting both policies and programs that make both the community and the world a more livable place.

For our part, while we have assisted Council with some modest initiatives over the last year and a half, the bulk of our efforts have been dedicated to mobilizing the committee to act in place of a formal community sustainability manager. To this end we have spent the majority of our time reviewing the regional policy framework and attempting to outline a strategic plan for the reduction of both corporate and community GHG emissions within the municipality.

These efforts can be organized by the 6 point strategic plan outlined in Government of Ontario's publication "Community Emissions Reduction Planning: A Guide for Municipalities." The 6 points are outlined below:



- 1. Preparation:** Develop a Steering Committee. Develop a terms of reference, identify the governance structure and complete a situational analysis that describes the planning context.
 - We have established a steering committee, we now have to develop our terms of reference.
- 2. Inventory:** Establish partnerships necessary to complete a GHG Inventory
 - We are undertaking a GHG inventory building on previous township work, and seeking to expand to include the whole community.
- 3. Target Setting:** Consult and agree on targets.
 - Once the GHG emissions inventory is complete, we will have a snapshot of the sources of emissions in the Township. The next step will be to develop a Climate Change Action Plan with the involvement of the Township, community residents, and businesses. The partners will review the inventory together to understand the major sources of GHG emissions and set short, medium, and long-term targets.
- 4. Scenarios and Actions:** Work with influencers & stakeholders to identify alignments/conflicts between planning goals & aspirations.
 - Complete a business as usual scenario and identify low carbon actions. Develop low carbon scenarios that include the actions. Undertake analysis of the co-benefits associated with the scenarios.
 -
- 5. Implementation:** Implement identified policies, partnerships, bylaws & other opportunities identified in the plan. Deploy the support of influencers & stakeholders.
 - Identify policies and mechanisms to implement the preferred low carbon scenario. Integrate the community energy and emissions plan with the Official Plan and other policies, plans and strategies. Develop an investment strategy.
- 6. Monitoring and Evaluation:** Work with partners to share data, assess progress, and continuously improve the plan.
 - Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan.

We would like to further explain to the council the progress made so far on steps 1,2, 3 and 4 while also outlining our future plans.

1. First, beyond the Steering Committee, we have developed a set of subcommittees that are working to address education and public outreach, fundraising, data collection, and sustainable agriculture and food security.
2. Secondly, we have begun to develop a community GHG inventory in two phases
3. Third, We are reviewing our progress so far and developing preliminary project plans.

Phase One: Understanding the sources of GHG emissions in the municipality is a key step in planning for emissions reductions. Many Ontario municipalities both small and large have completed GHG emissions inventories. We have reviewed many of these inventories as well as guidance from Federation of Canadian Municipalities -Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability who have created methodologies for GHG emissions inventories.

Our plan is to build on and expand the work already done by the Township with the Partners for Climate Protection Milestone Protocol (PCP).

- Update data gathered by the Municipality on Municipal GHG in (2019?) and conform with the plan laid out in the Township of Uxbridge Energy conservation and demand management Plan 2019 - 2023

Complete the implementation and progress report for the municipality's community-wide emissions reduction activities, which constitute **Community Milestones 4 and 5** of the Partners for Climate Protection Program”

To get to this point, we want to fully implement **Milestones 1,2 and 3**, not just for Municipal GHG but for the community as well.

We are planning to conduct the inventory to include community and municipal emissions. Community emissions are expected to include residential, commercial and industrial emissions to the extent that such data are available. We are currently in the data collection phase of the process and have obtained limited data to date. The availability and quality of data will largely drive what will be included in the inventory.

We have requested the following from the Township:

- · Township of Uxbridge Facilities Gas, Electricity and Water Usage

- · Township of Uxbridge Vehicle/Truck Fleet Gas/Diesel consumption or Mileage

And have asked the township to formally request data from:

- · Enbridge natural gas usage for Township and entire community - 2021 year
- · HydroOne/Elexicon - Township/Community Electricity usage - 2021 year

And have asked the township for contacts at Durham Region who can help find the connections to obtain data on:

- · Water/Wastewater
- · Municipal Solid Waste/Recycling
- · Other services (eg. Police)

Completion of the above will be Phase 1 of the GHG inventory process and will be repeatable year-over-year so that emissions can be tracked.

Phase Two: Phase 2 of the GHG inventory process is to involve our citizenry in recording and tracking our GHG emissions, and suggest practical strategies to reduce them. We are developing an innovative idea to carry out Phase 2, working with students at Durham College, under the direction of Linda Cheng, an award winning faculty member. The idea is to develop an interactive app that will help people in the township calculate their carbon footprint, using inputs specific to the township. Data can also be gathered anonymously from this app, to help us develop a more complete picture of our GHG emissions as a township.

Funding and Missed Opportunities: As mentioned above, many Ontario municipalities have completed GHG inventories and prepared Climate Change Action Plans. Since we were late to the game, we missed out on funding to support the development of GHG inventories and a CCAP and are now working to do it with largely committee volunteer time. Any funds you care to contribute at this time can be used effectively for a more complete GHG inventory that is delivered in a more timely manner. Or, if funds cannot be contributed to aid in our current efforts, we need to have serious discussion about the type of fundraising models that would be acceptable to council



Community Involvement: We have begun working with the community to identify community needs, goals, and desires. From the beginning of this process we have all affirmed that any effective long term change has to come from the community and serve the community.

- a. Survey (graphics/chart)
- b. We have started writing a monthly article in The Cosmos Newspaper covering the work of the Committee, environmental initiatives in town such as those carried out by the Rotary club; and sharing useful knowledge on Climate adaption strategies for our citizens, such as accessing the Greener Homes grants;
- c. Community outreach: We are also restarting our speaker series covering useful environmentally focused topics: One coming up that we can possibly all relate to is on 'Disaster preparation for households and neighbourhoods.

Looking Forward:

As it stands, steps 5 and 6 cannot be undertaken until earlier steps are completed. We are, however, trying to put together project plans to serve both council and the community.

- Build the structures for continuously gathering and tabulating GHG data for our township.
- Replant suburban canopy post-tornado
- Cooling center plan
- Green development standards
- Changes to the official plan
- Fundraising to augment municipal, provincial and federal funds

The GHG inventory and Climate Change Action Plan and the other items discussed above that are currently in process or planned are the initial steps to understanding our contribution to climate change. These actions will allow us to develop a plan to reduce those emissions. Looking forward, and especially given the recent tornado event and expectations for more frequent severe weather in the future, the Committee recommends that council expedite the GHG inventory and Climate Change Action Plan, and begin planning a Community **Adaptation** Plan. This will allow us to identify risks and vulnerabilities in our community and to develop a plan to mitigate and adapt to the changing climate. After the storm, we may also have access to government funding streams that support this type of planning study.

What we are immediately seeking from the Council:

- Help and active involvement in obtaining the data needed to create a community GHG inventory and participation with the local community residents and businesses in developing a Climate Change Action Plan.
- A request from the Municipality re. data from Mpac for Phase 2 of our GHG inventory plan. (step 2)
- Creating a system so that this data is acquired annually and recorded and monitored to track our progress.
- Support with funding application for and development of a Community Adaptation Plan so that we can better understand our risks and be better prepared for the future.
- An acknowledgement that there is a significant proportion of our population who would like to see action on climate change happen at the municipal level, and

that we should devise a plan that allows citizens to move forward on this crucial area. Working as a community will be much more effective than individual actions. (Step 4 and 5)

- We would like to develop two projects that the community can rally behind, and feel that at least one level of government is taking direct and specific action in the face of the climate crisis. We suggest as two possible projects:
 - Replant suburban canopy and provide education on carbon capture and appropriate planting for a changing climate
 - Developing an ambitious plan to improve the ability of the Uxbridge Arena and Community Centre to perform as a disaster relief centre/cooling centre. Build a proposal to access funding from the Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund. Revive the plan for solar power generation on the new Arena roof; let's build back better and greener.