



December 2, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

10C Shared Space (10C) is pleased to offer a letter of support for the Race to Zero/2050 is too late resolution. This resolution comes to Council as parts of Canada are experiencing extreme weather and devastating flooding, as a direct result of climate change. Over the last few weeks we have seen entire communities displaced and critical transportation infrastructure destroyed with the impact of local and national economies still unknown. While these events are unfolding in real-time, we must also uplift the voices of Indigenous communities and land defenders who have recognized the impacts of climate change, and called for leadership across levels of government for years. Across Canada, the impacts of climate change are costing us dearly, and addressing it is both urgent and necessary.

In Guelph, the goals to reach net zero emissions and achieve 100% renewable energy for the corporation of the City of Guelph by 2050 are aligned with existing national targets. However, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and climate scientists word-wide, 2050 is too late. Urgently revisiting our current targets at all levels of government, is critical if we hope to keep global temperature increases below 1.5°C, as called for in the Paris Agreement. In fact, the IPCC, the Climate Crisis Advisory Group (CCAG) and others predict that we will exceed the threshold of warming by 2030 if urgent action is not taken.

Locally, climate change is also impacting our community. Throughout our region, extreme heat events have increased as a result of climate change with local projections estimating both the number and magnitude of high heat days will continue to increase if urgent action is not taken. We also know that the impacts of climate change disproportionately affect those most vulnerable in our communities including children, the elderly and individuals experiencing homelessness.

This resolution asks Council to acknowledge current climate science and revisit existing goals, recognizing that 2050 is too late. The incremental targets, monitoring and reporting also called for in this resolution aim to ensure we can reach our goal of zero emissions by 2040, or sooner. Strengthening climate policies in the City's Official Plan will also ensure that critical decisions are made to address and mitigate climate change. Importantly, the motion recognizes the need to engage Indigenous communities and seek their leadership as we plan for climate change mitigation and adaptation into the future.

10C is a forward thinking, community-based organization that recognizes the critical need to address the climate emergency at a local level. Through a partnership with Pillar Nonprofit Network in London, 10C recently brought \$900,000 of federal funding to support localization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to Guelph. The SDGs are a global call to action to address the world's most pressing challenges, including climate change, by 2030. **SDG 13: Climate Action** identifies the need to increase adaptive capacity and resilience while also improving planning and policy making to effectively address climate change. SDG 13 also presents clear directives for higher income countries to act now and provide leadership.

Locally, we have the capacity to make an impact and passing this motion will ensure the necessary policy direction, and accountability measures are in place. With this motion Guelph has the opportunity to join cities across Canada and around the world taking active leadership to address climate change to mitigate the inevitable social and economic costs we all face.

In community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Grady', with a stylized, flowing script.

Julia Grady
Co-Founder and Executive Director
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