

Correspondence – Douglas – Cities race to Zero

The Climate Crisis and Guelph's Response for Decarbonization: A Timely City and Community Collaboration

I would like to make three brief points.

Before doing so, I commend the City through its Committee of the Whole for its foresight and vision in bringing this timely motion to City Council for a formal ratification. You are on the right side of history.

First, as I indicated in my presentation to the Committee of the Whole (December 6, 2021), this is a fortuitous and timely initiative. Pairing this initiative with the current statutory Official Plan Review, due next year, affords the City an opportunity to present a tangible, public report on longer term commitments to sustainability and decarbonizing our community. Here the “rubber hits the road”. The reconfigured design and redesign of our growing urban community, expected in mid-22, presents *the* pivotal opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to this new direction in our community's development.

Second, I want to highlight that the monitoring and regular public reporting that this motion calls for, fits perfectly with the City's commitment to, and practice of judicious management. You are no strangers to monitoring and evaluation, and the associated metrics transparently measuring progress along a predetermined path. You do this on a regular basis for most projects and programmes. So, this initiative is a good fit for the City's current management and decision-making practices.

Third, the City of Guelph's growing commitment to, and practice of City/community collaborations, is highly commendable. And it is what one would expect of a 21st century city. We have seen the fruit of these progressive participatory approaches to governance in the City's delegated collaboration with the Guelph Hiking Trail Club. And there are several other examples. This motion will underpin a unique and very appropriate collaboration between the City and the community in decarbonizing the Municipal Corporation's own operations, and decarbonizing all facets of life in our growing urban community.

I strongly recommend full support of this motion.

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December 15, 2021.