

# **GREEN ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## **MANDATE**

The purpose of the Working Group is to provide advice and recommendations to Council by thinking globally and acting locally in reference to our local climate change concerns. The climate is changing and Tay Valley Township wishes to be part of the solution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while lowering energy costs and building a local sustainable economy. To fulfill its mandate, it is anticipated the Working Group will, among other things:

- Identify current greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory;
- Investigate opportunities for the Township to reduce GHG emissions;
- Promote the reduction of GHG emissions while working to lower energy costs;
- Support a local sustainable economy through the reduction of GHG emissions;
- Identify funding and grant opportunities, including the preparation of grant applications, that may be available to the municipality to implement GHG reduction projects, green energy programs, etc.;
- Develop a GHG Emission Reduction Plan;
- Identify and prepare for upcoming deadlines for municipal compliance regarding climate change and GHG emission policies, including the Township's Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan;
- Promote community energy initiatives;
- Identify and prepare for the impacts and implications of climate change;
- Provide advice with respect to energy audits of municipal buildings and fleet.

## **SCOPE OF AUTHORITY**

The Working Group is advisory in nature and established by Council in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference.

Actions of the Working Group are restricted to the scope described herein, unless an amendment is explicitly authorized by Council. The Working Group:

1. Shall not communicate externally on behalf of the Township. All communication must go through Council.
2. Shall not authorize any expenditures not previously approved by Council.

3. Shall have the authority to assign special projects, research or matters that arise from time to time to its members that are within the mandate of these Terms of Reference. The responsibility for these assignments rests with the Chair of the working group.
4. Shall not use staff resources, Township equipment or other resources other than those outlined herein.

## **REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY**

The Green Energy and Climate Change Working Group will communicate its findings and recommendations to the Committee of the Whole. Attendance and agenda topics will be coordinated through the Planner or designate. The Working Group will present an annual report to Committee of the Whole highlighting the Working Group's activities over the last year, along with goals for the next year. In-year updates from the Working Group will be communicated to Committee of the Whole on a regular basis by the Council Member representative(s).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Green Energy and Climate Change Working Group shall comprise a maximum of eight (8) members appointed at the beginning of each Council term by Council. Replacement members can be appointed, if needed, during the course of the term. Two members shall be Council Members, one will also serve as Chair. The Planner or shall act as a resource person to the Working Group.

## **MEETINGS**

The Working Group will meet at least quarterly or at the call of the Chair or Planner (or designate). Agendas will be posted on the Township website one week prior to the meeting. The Planner or designate will serve as Recording Secretary. Meeting minutes will be action only and will record those members in attendance and any topics discussed. A quorum of members (majority) will be required for a meeting to take place. All meetings will be open to the public and will generally occur at the Municipal Office.

## **TERM**

The term of appointment shall be for the term of Council. Re-appointment is encouraged to facilitate continuity.