

Statement of Support for Sustainability and Climate Change Manager Position
Jan 30, 2023

Dear Members of Woolwich Township Council

The Woolwich Environmental Advisory Committee would like to express its strong support for the proposed Sustainability and Climate Change Manager in the budget being considered on February 14, 2023. The Township of Woolwich has committed to both community and corporate GHG emissions reductions targets that serve to be central goals and the work to be lead by this position. This means that the township is already well positioned to begin making real change in both its corporate GHG emissions as well as the community climate action work.

A corporate GHG emission intensity target of 20% GHG by 2027 has been set by Woolwich Township. This initial goal has now been reached and now the work to make deeper change and continue the journey will require deeper knowledge of opportunities and benefits of this kind of work. The work to complete this will require dedicated support that looks at all the functions, programs and infrastructure owned and operated by the Township and to make plans for energy and efficiency improvements, as well as fuel switching programs to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels by the Township.

The community GHG reduction target of 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 has also been adopted by the Township Council. The actions required locally to achieve these targets are all clearly outlined in the TransformWR document created in collaboration with Township staff by the staff of the ClimateActionWR collaborative (led by Reep Green Solutions and Sustainable Waterloo Region). There are many actions that are listed in this document that are the responsibility of the Township and must be undertaken as soon as possible.

We advise council to support this role in the 2023 budget and future budgets. The expertise that this role will bring to the Township would allow for work planning to begin for implementation of these plans as well as the adoption of other sustainability initiatives by the Township. The current barrier to making progress on these targets and other projects is capacity and knowledge and we believe that this role can help to fill this gap.

This is our first statement to council, as a newly formed advisory body, and it is appropriate that this first message is to support the creation of more capacity within the staff team and to create the resources necessary to take meaningful action on sustainability and climate change.

Respectfully

Woolwich Environmental Advisory Committee