

# Town of Aurora Community Energy Plan

## Stakeholder Working Group Meeting #2

October 24, 2019, 4:00pm to 6:00pm

### Introduction

The Town of Aurora is developing a Community Energy Plan (CEP) – a comprehensive long-term plan to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas production. The CEP will result in a comprehensive plan that fosters a culture of conservation, consider the impact of future growth and options for local clean energy generation and supports economic development by better meeting local energy needs.

The Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) provides an ongoing mechanism for input and advice to the Project Team on key points in the development of the CEP.

### Session Objectives

The second SWG meeting was held on October 24, 2019. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review baseline energy consumption, GHG emissions, and energy costs in Aurora;
- Review the Business-as-Planned scenario;
- Review energy consumption mapping;
- Discuss opportunities for energy and/or GHG emission reduction in connection to the baseline and business-as-planned scenario; and
- Discuss a vision statement, targets and potential goals and objectives for the plan.

### Presentation and Project Introduction

The meeting began with welcome remarks and introductions conducted by Anca Mihail, Town of Aurora, and Susan Hall, LURA Consulting. Susan commenced the presentation with a brief reintroduction to the project and quick discussion highlights from the first SWG, a review of results from the first phase of community engagement, and an update on the project's progression. Sarah Shenstone-Harris, ICLEI Canada, provided participants with an overview of Aurora's Energy and Emissions baseline from 2018 data sources and associated costs to the Town. Tijo Joseph, Wood, reviewed energy maps for the town indicating energy consumption rates both for both residential and non-residential energy users and electricity and natural gas consumers. Sarah shared Business-As-Planned energy consumption and GHG emissions scenarios for the Town.

Participants provided comments on potential revisions to the energy mapping related to how the story of energy consumption in the Town is visually demonstrated. The following captures highlights of the discussion:

- Regarding residential consumption, energy intensity would be valuable.
  - The consulting team noted the challenges in mapping energy intensity given the data parameters provided and the protection of privacy.
  - Participants suggested that granular data related to the square footage and age of a home could be considered as a way to demonstrate energy efficiency

- or that the population density could be added to the maps to help distinguish energy consumption on a per-capita basis.
- Windfall Ecology Centre may be able to supplement data where available. The organization also has a database of homes where energy efficiency audits have taken place in York Region that may support the visual narrative of Aurora's energy consumption.
- Regarding non-residential energy consumption, utilities provided three-digit postal code level, which is the entire Town. This has made mapping a difficult exercise to parse out energy consumption at a more granular level.
  - The group discussed and agreed that there is value in providing more detail on energy consumption at a granular level especially in comparison to residential uses.
  - The project team will continue to work with Alectra, Enbridge and Windfall Ecology Centre to see what data can be acquired.

### Discussion – Opportunities for reducing energy consumption and GHG emissions

Following the presentation, participants discussed opportunities based on the baseline and Business-As-Planned scenario. The following list summarizes the key points.

#### Opportunities

- York Region Transit is testing a program using ridesharing and carpooling as a method of getting people to GO Transit.
  - This program should be supported and expanded to encourage a reduction in single-occupancy vehicle use.
- Increase the uptake of active transportation (e.g., protected cycling infrastructure).
- Give people the opportunity to work from home to reduce consumption and emissions from personal vehicles.
- Recognize that heating and cooling costs are increasing with climate change. New multi-unit developments need localized metering rather than a centralized meter. Work with developers to encourage efficient development.
- The IESO, in collaboration with the Ontario Energy Board, just recently completed and published an Achievable Potential Study. The greatest opportunity is through HVAC systems.
  - The Achievable Potential Study breaks down by subsegment residential and non-residential consumption and where the greatest energy efficiency potential. This is in HVAC efficiency and contribution to peak demand.
- Later in November, the IESO will publish the Annual Planning Outlook. It is at the bulk system level but provides projections in terms of energy capacity and cost projections.
- Biogas (anaerobic digestion) presents an opportunity for a cleaner energy source. For example, the City of Toronto garbage fleet will eventually be powered by biogas, which is a carbon-neutral source.
- The Ontario Clean Water Agency is working on an initiative in Peel Region. The Region commissioned a large project to upgrade the processing systems at a waste facility. This is part of a suite of Save on Energy programs delivered by the IESO. Biogas recovery is a key opportunity that is funded until the end of 2020 pending on the Provincial government direction.

### Discussion – Vision Statement

Four draft vision statements were crafted responding to key outcomes shared at the first SWG meeting. The four statements were as follows:

1. To achieve a green community and economy by supporting the efficiency and sustainability of Aurora’s energy system.
2. To demonstrate leadership and innovation in managing energy consumption and foster a mindset of conservation in response to a changing climate while retaining energy dollars in our community.
3. Aurora is a community that works collaboratively to cultivate an efficient, adaptable and sustainable energy system by empowering residents and businesses to take action towards addressing our changing climate.
4. The Town of Aurora thrives on an adaptable, efficient and economically viable energy system because of our commitment to reducing energy consumption and emissions.

Participants suggested that option two and three were the strongest, and provided the following comments:

- The links to a changing climate and the mindset piece are strong components of statement two.
- The third statement’s reference to collaboration is strong. This is not just the municipality’s responsibility.
- ‘Partnership’ could be considered.
  - E.g. partnerships between the town and residents. Partnerships between external organizations.
- Consider blending statements two and three.
- Steer away from references to the “energy system” as it is not geographically contained within the municipality.
- Make the statement as short and concise as possible.
- Keep “retaining energy dollars in our community” in an updated statement.
- Consider moving the second part of statement three to the end of statement two with additional modifications to manage length.

Updated draft vision statements will be presented at the next meeting.

### Discussion – Project Goals

Susan asked for feedback on the proposed project goal areas. The consensus was that the correct goal areas have been established, but a few additional points were discussed:

- The Town should take a leadership role in technological partnerships and pilot programs.
- Natural heritage should be a goal area.

A series of draft goal statements will be presented for review and discussion at the next SWG meeting.

### Discussion – Targets

Having reviewed the baseline and Business-As-Planned scenario, participants were asked to consider the target for the Plan. Participants were shown targets set by neighbouring municipalities. Considering

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Aurora’s recent discussion about declaring a climate emergency, participants were motivated to set an aspirational target of working towards net zero emissions by 2050 with an interim goal between 2018, the baseline year, and 2050. The aspirational goal would also help the Town determine where they are “falling short” if that should be the case. Participants generally agreed.

### Next Steps

Anca and Susan thanked participants for their time and contributions. Susan noted that the finalized meeting summary would be distributed. The next meeting is anticipated for February 2020 and will refine the draft vision and goal statements, review targets and potential strategies and criteria for strategy selection.