

Municipality of East Ferris

Report to Council

Report No.: PLAN-2022-01 Date: January 25, 2022
Originator: Greg Kirton, Manager of Planning and Economic Development
Subject: Budget considerations from the *Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations* document from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of East Ferris accepts this report for information purposes and approves forwarding the report to department managers for further consideration during the 2022 budget process.
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BACKGROUND

The East Ferris Strategic Plan contains an action item within the Protect our Environment section as follows:

Recommend **climate change reduction measures**, that are aligned with Ontario's Environment Plan *Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations*, during annual budget deliberations.

The *Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations* Plan (**Appendix A**) is a 53-page document that was produced by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. The document gives a high-level overview of the government's approach on climate change with broad topics and associated action items that are intended to guide the implementations of their approach. This report will highlight all of the stated action items and attempt to identify which ones can be best addressed at the municipal level.

ACTION ITEMS

Table 1 gives an overview of all of the broad categories outlined in the plan as well as each action item. The bolded action items represent the ones that are most likely to be relevant and practical for municipal climate change reduction measures that can be addressed in the short term.

Table 1

Category	Action Item
Clean Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve air quality in communities by creating unique solutions to their individual challenges. • Reduce emissions from heavy duty vehicles. • Improve understanding of different sources of air pollution and their impact. • Strengthen collaboration on addressing air pollution that comes from outside of Ontario's borders.
Clean Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue work to restore and protect our Great Lakes. • Continue to protect and identify vulnerable waterways and inland waters (This section specifically addresses Lake Simcoe, Lake of the Woods, and St. Clair / English-Wabigoon Rivers). • Ensure sustainable water use and water security for generations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thoroughly review the province's water taking policies, programs and science tools to ensure that vital water resources are adequately protected and sustainably used. ○ Enhance how we manage water takings to ensure we have sustainable water resources in the face of a changing climate and continued population growth. We will do this by examining approaches to assessing and managing multiple water takings, establishing priorities for different water uses, and preparing and responding to drought conditions. ○ Ensure the knowledge gained through the drinking water source protection program helps inform our water management programs. • Help people conserve water and save money: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promote the use of technologies and practices to ensure water is used more efficiently. This includes water conservation planning; water use tracking and reporting; improving standards for household fixtures and appliances, such as dishwashers or washing machines; and profiling provincial and broader public sector leadership in this area. • Improve municipal wastewater and stormwater management and reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase transparency through real-time monitoring of

	<p>sewage overflows from municipal wastewater systems into Ontario's lakes and rivers. Work with municipalities to ensure that proper monitoring occurs, and that the public is aware of overflow incidents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update policies related to municipal wastewater and stormwater to make them easier to understand. We will consider how wastewater and stormwater financing could be updated to improve investment and support new and innovative technologies and practices. ○ Encourage targeted investment and innovation in managing wastewater that overflows into our lakes and rivers.
Helping Families and Communities Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve our understanding of how climate change will impact Ontario. • Help Ontarians understand the impacts of climate change. • Update government policies and build partnerships to improve local climate resilience. (This is focused primarily on modernizing provincial documents like the Building Code and various other provincial legislation)
Make Polluters Accountable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement emission performance standards for large emitters.
Activate the Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch an emission reduction fund – The Ontario Carbon Trust – and a reverse auction to encourage private investment in clean technology solutions. • Enhance corporate disclosure and information sharing. • Encourage private investments in clean technologies and green infrastructure.
Use Energy and Resources Wisely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve energy in homes and buildings to cut costs and reduce emissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The plan focuses on provincial coordination of information and updates to legislation with are outside of the scope of municipal works but this section has been included because energy conservation of individual buildings could be a municipal initiative. • Increase access to clean and affordable energy for families.
Government Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make climate change a cross-government priority. • Empower effective local leadership on climate change. • Improve public transportation to expand commuter choices and support communities. • Support green infrastructure projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The plan focuses on provincial support for green infrastructure projects and the transition of provincial vehicles to electric vehicles. Solutions like this could also be implemented at a local level.
Reduce Litter and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce and divert food and organic waste from households and businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand green bin or similar collection systems in large cities and to relevant businesses. ○ Develop a proposal to ban food waste from landfill and

	<p>consult with key partners such as municipalities, businesses and the waste industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Educate the public and business about reducing and diverting food and organic waste. ○ Develop best practices for safe food donation. • Reduce plastic waste. (The plan focuses on provincial and federal standards for plastic waste and recycling) • Reduce litter in our neighbourhood and parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with municipal partners to take strong action against those who illegally dump waste or litter in our neighbourhoods, parks and coastal areas. ○ Develop future conservation leaders through supporting programs that will actively clean up litter in Ontario's green spaces, including provincial parks, conservation areas and municipalities. ○ Connect students with recognized organizations that encourage environmental stewardship so they could earn volunteer hours by cleaning up parks, planting trees and participating in other conservation initiatives • Increase opportunities for Ontarians to participate in waste reduction efforts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with municipalities and producers to provide more consistency across the province regarding what can and cannot be accepted in the Blue Box program. ○ Explore additional opportunities to reduce and recycle waste in our businesses and institutions. • Make producers responsible for the waste generated from their products and packaging. • Explore opportunities to recover the value of resources in waste. • Provide clear rules for compostable products and packaging. • Support competitive and sustainable end-markets for Ontario's waste.
Clean Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the redevelopment and clean-up of contaminated lands in Ontario to put land back into good use. • Make it easier and safer to reuse excess soil. • Improve management of hauled sewage.
Conserving Land and Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the resilience of natural ecosystems. • Support conservation and environmental planning. • Promote parks and increase recreational opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The plan focuses on access to provincial parks but this could also be implemented locally. • Sustainable forest management. • Protect species at risk and respond to invasive species.

REVIEW OF THE MOST RELEVANT ACTION ITEMS

After reviewing the list of provincial action items and considering the municipality's relative scope of authority and financial ability, the following items are the most relevant to further explore:

- **Clean Water**
 - Ensure sustainable water use and water security for generations.
 - Help people conserve water and save money.
 - Improve municipal wastewater and stormwater management and reporting.
- **Use Energy and Resources Wisely**
 - Conserve energy in homes and buildings to cut costs and reduce emissions
- **Government Leadership**
 - Support green infrastructure projects
- **Reduce Litter and Waste**
 - Reduce and divert food and organic waste from households and businesses
 - Reduce litter in our neighbourhood and parks
 - Increase opportunities for Ontarians to participate in waste reduction efforts
- **Conserving Land and Green Space**
 - Promote parks and increase recreational opportunities

2022 BUDGET PROCESS CONSIDERATIONS

This section provides some thoughts on how the goals of the provincial plan could be furthered through our budget process by allocating funds to certain initiatives.

Table 2

Clean Water	
Ensure sustainable water use and water security for generations	
Implementation Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider a broad study across the municipality to review water availability based on existing well records• We know that water availability is good in most areas of the municipality; however, with no end in sight to our growth and additional development we may wish to proactively evaluate water availability based on geographic areas within the municipality.

Table 3

Clean Water	
Help people conserve water and save money	
Implementation Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the saving money aspect is less relevant in East Ferris due to the lack of metered municipal water systems, it is still valuable to consider water conservation efforts. • Develop promotional material related to water conservation, possibly in conjunction with the NBMCA or other external agency. • Promote the value of properly functioning wells and water systems

Table 4

Clean Water	
Improve municipal wastewater and stormwater management and reporting	
Implementation Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although we do not have widespread wastewater and stormwater management systems in the municipality, there may be opportunities for related programs exploring runoff and stormwater diversion on our roadways, shorelines and other lands.

Table 5

Use Energy and Resources Wisely	
Conserve energy in homes and buildings to cut costs and reduce emissions	
Implementation Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider our energy usage in municipal facilities and whether there is an opportunity to implement things to reduce that usage (automatic or motion sensor lighting, smart thermostats, retrofitting of doors and windows or other sources of heat loss, etc.) • Consider whether energy solutions such small scale solar systems may be viable for applications where the energy draw is low.

Table 6

Government Leadership	
Support green energy projects	
Implementation Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider implementing green energy initiatives at municipal facilities where viable (EV charging stations at municipal facilities, etc.) Explore adding a Community Improvement Plan subsidy for the installation of green technology in new development projects.

Table 7

Reduce Litter and Waste	
Reduce and divert food and organic waste from households and businesses	
Implementation Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is a green bin program viable within the framework of our existing waste collection agreement? If individual household pickup is not viable for a green bin service, could green bins be implemented at municipal facilities as a starting point?

Table 8

Reduce Litter and Waste	
Reduce litter in our neighbourhood parks	
Implementation Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a review of all of our existing park facilities to evaluate whether adequate waste and recycling collection bins are provided. Budget to add new collection bins as required.

Table 9

Reduce Litter and Waste	
Increase opportunities for Ontarians to participate in waste reduction efforts	
Implementation Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support and promote the municipal clean up day and expand contributions towards this event. Consider additional partnerships related to the clean

	up event or another clean up event focused on lakes and streams.
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Table 10

Conserving Land and Green Space	
Promote parks and increase recreational opportunities	
Implementation Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase parks programming to make use of our existing and new facilities such as the new pickleball and tennis courts. • Integrate the Active Transportation Plan initiatives where possible. • Update the facilities master plan to guide the longer-term implementation of parks and recreation goals. • Explore partnerships with local and regional organizations for increased recreational opportunities (Wasi Ski club/North Bay Mountain Bike Association, Discovery Routes, Lake user groups, etc.)

CONCLUSIONS

This report is intended to provide an overview of the *Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations* plan, which was published by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. The recommendations and highlights in this report are intended to provide a starting point for considering new budget items that may not currently exist, while recognizing that not all items may be feasible based on financial or logistical constraints. The intention is that this document can serve as a reference point for department heads during the budget review process.

OPTIONS

1. Option 1

That Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of East Ferris accepts this report for information purposes and approves forwarding the report to department managers for further consideration during the 2022 budget process.

2. Option 2

That Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of East Ferris does not accept this report for information purposes and directs staff to make amendments to the report prior to forwarding to department managers for further consideration during the 2022 budget process.

3. Option 3

That Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of East Ferris receives this report for information purposes only and does not forward the report to department managers for further consideration in the 2002 budget process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications of this report will vary significantly based on the impact that the information has in guiding the 2022 budget process. This report does not commit any funds to be spent but serves as a guideline for the future implementation of projects that may carry their own financial commitments.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be accepted for information purposes and forwarded to department managers for further consideration during the 2022 budget process (Option 1).

Respectfully Submitted,



Greg Kirton
Manager of Planning and
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I concur with this report,
and recommendation



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CAO/Treasurer