

Legislative requirements to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change

Federal Government

- On December 12, 2015, Canada and 194 other countries reached the [Paris Agreement](#) to address climate change, including efforts to limit global average temperature increase to 1.5°C.
- In 2016, Canada released the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF), Canada's first-ever national climate plan as an important first step for Canada to achieve its 2030 Paris Agreement emissions reduction target.
- In December of 2020, the Government of Canada introduced A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy – Canada's strengthened climate plan. The plan builds on the efforts that are currently underway through the PCF.
- The *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* became law on June 29, 2021, establishing a target for net-zero emissions by 2050 with a framework of accountability and transparency to deliver. As required by *the Act*, the [2030 Emissions Reduction Plan](#) was released in March 2022. The 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, through regulation development and funding, provides a roadmap for the Canadian economy to achieve 40-45% emissions reductions below 2005 levels by 2030.
- The [December 2021](#) Minister of Environment and Climate Change Mandate letter outlines direction and policy priorities in support of the legislated 2030 climate goals and states:
 - Consultation with provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples, industry and civil society to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, with five-year targets to stay on track
- [Canada's National Adaptation Strategy](#) is currently under development, anticipating release in 2022. The Strategy will establish a clear framework for action to achieve climate resilience.

Provincial Government

- On November 29, 2018, the [Ontario Provincial Government](#) released the [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#) that considers provincial specific priorities, challenges and opportunities and commits to reducing emissions to 30% below 2005 levels by 2030, a target that aligns with the Federal Government's Paris commitments.
- The *Electricity Act, 1998* through [Ontario Regulation 507/187](#), requires municipalities to develop an Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan.
- The [Planning Act](#), R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13 includes:
 - Part I, Section 2: The council of a municipality shall have regard to matters of provincial interest including the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to a changing climate, and
 - Part III, Section 14 Climate change policies section states: An official plan shall contain policies that identify goals, objectives and actions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to provide for adaptation to a changing climate, including through increasing resiliency. 2017, c. 23, Sched. 3, s. 5 (2).
 - The [Provincial Policy Statement](#) (2020) is issued under [Section 3 of the Planning Act](#) which requires planning authorities to support energy conservation and efficiency, improved air quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and preparing for the *impacts of a changing climate* through land use and development patterns. Infrastructure and public service facilities shall also be provided in a manner that prepares for the impacts of a changing climate.
 - The [Places to Grow – Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](#) (2020) directs municipalities to integrate climate change considerations into planning and managing growth, including: Develop strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve resilience through the identification of vulnerabilities to climate change, land use planning, planning for

infrastructure, including transit and energy, green infrastructure, and low impact development, and the conservation objectives in Policy 4.2.9.1;

- Develop greenhouse gas inventories for transportation, buildings, waste management and municipal operations; and
- Establish municipal interim and long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction targets that support provincial targets and reflect consideration of the goal of low-carbon communities and monitor and report on progress made towards the achievement of these targets.
- The [Greenbelt Plan](#) (2017) and [Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan](#) (2017) also direct municipalities to integrate climate change considerations into planning and managing growth.
- Building resiliency, the [Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act](#) requires all municipalities to implement emergency management programs, and mandates annual hazard identification and risk analysis, identification of critical infrastructure, public education on local risks and hazards and annual emergency preparedness activities.

Municipal Government

- In [May 2019](#), Council approved the [York Region Corporate Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan](#), which satisfies provincial requirements under the *Electricity Act*. This Plan will continue to be updated every five years. In [2021](#), emissions to deliver York Region services totaled 53.7 kg/person
- In January 2020, Council passed by-law 2020-01 to adopt [The Emergency Management Program](#), which satisfies provincial requirements under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act RSO 1990* and Ontario Regulation 380/04. Annually, Council receives an update on activities undertaken by the Region to comply with annual requirements of the Act and Ontario Regulation 380/04 which was last reported to Council in [January 2022](#)
- In 2017, York Region Council endorsed development of a Climate Change Action Plan to coordinate and align efforts to address climate change. In March 2020, the [draft York Region Climate Change Action Plan](#) went before Council, providing a holistic and Regional level plan to link climate action across programs and initiatives and advance climate change adaptation and mitigation activities across the Region.
- In December 2020, Council approved the [Transit Fleet Electrification Plan](#) that will transition the entire fleet to electric by 2050 in alignment with Canada's target of net-zero emissions by 2050.
- In June 2022, Council approved the [Zero Emissions Transit Fund Application](#), a federal government program providing financial support to municipal transit agencies pursuing fleet electrification. This will support York Region Transit vehicle electrification acceleration from 2051 to 2041.
- In June 2022, Council approved the alignment of the Region's long-term corporate greenhouse gas emissions target with the federal government's 2050 net-zero emissions target as defined in the *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* through the [2021 Corporate Energy Report](#)
- In June 2022, Council adopted and submitted the 2022 York Region Official Plan for provincial review and approval, in accordance with Section 17 (22) and 26 of the Planning Act. The Plan includes policy updates, including the integration climate change considerations, required to conform to provincial plans.