



To: Climate Protection Working Group  
From: Richard Grant, Planner I  
Date: August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Title: Climate Action Plan Draft Milestone 2 Survey

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**Recommendation: That the Climate Protection Working Group receive Report # CPWG-2024-10 and provide direction to staff regarding the draft Milestone 2 Survey**

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**Purpose:** To obtain the community’s views and priorities related to Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) reductions through a survey that will inform an emissions reduction target in accordance with Milestone 2 of the Partners for Climate Protection Program.

**Background:** Milestone 2 deals with establishing the Town’s GHG emission reduction targets at the community and corporate level. A GHG reduction target sets the tone and direction of the Town’s reduction efforts. Completion of Milestone 2 requires the description of our targets, including the baseline year, target year and percentage from the baseline year. Finally, a council resolution affirming the proposed targets is required to finalize its adoption. Once confirmed, our progress will be reviewed by the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) for completion. Throughout the Milestone Framework, PCP reviews and confirms each milestone completion.

To facilitate the implementation of Milestone 2, staff have created a 10–15-minute survey for the Working Group to review and comment on. Please note that an earlier draft had been circulated, and the comments provided were incorporated into the latest draft presented in this report for consideration. The principal intent of the survey is to engage the public on potential environmental initiatives designed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within Smiths Falls.

Following the completion of Milestone 1, which establishes the GHG emissions inventory and business as usual forecast, the Milestone 2 survey will help assess the public’s awareness, interest, and appetite to participate in GHG emission reduction initiatives, which will help the Town develop emission reduction targets.

Ultimately, the data from this public engagement exercise will inform the creation of the Climate Action Plan (Milestone 3), a multi-year climate change adaptation and energy management plan designed to achieve the Town’s climate change goals by identifying GHG emission reduction strategies. Strategies to reduce GHG emissions range from promoting electric vehicle use and infrastructure to a local home energy retrofit program.

The Milestone 2 emission reduction targets will be informed by the GHG emission inventory and stakeholder consultation and reflect what the municipality determines is feasible in implementing emission reduction measures. The target will be expressed based on the local baseline inventory from Milestone 1 and periodically reviewed and renewed every five years.

Although only one target (for both the community and corporation) is required to comply with Milestone 2's requirements, the Partners for Climate Change organization recommends using a science-based two-target approach that aligns with the scientific imperative established by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of limiting global warming to 1.5C by reducing emissions by 45% by 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 for both community and corporate emissions?.

### ***Appendix 'A' – Draft Climate Action Plan Milestone 2 – GHG Emission Reduction Initiatives Survey***

#### **Analysis and Options:**

Through the implementation protocol established by the CPWG Communication Plan, the Milestone 2 Survey will combine these options to maximize public engagement and survey response participation.

- 1) Establish the CWPG page on the Town website to host the Milestone 2 survey (draft stages)
- 2) Timed social media posts to encourage public participation, driving users to the Town website
- 3) Identify potential community organizations and stakeholders to establish a communication network through which further communication will flow
- 4) Provide paper copies of the survey available at the Town Hall, Memorial Center/ Arena, Welcome Centre and other appropriate locations
- 5) Post an ad in the Record Journal requesting public survey participation
- 6) Staff propose that the survey be open for a minimum of 30 days and a maximum of 3 months.
- 7) Press release announcing the rollout of the Milestone 2 survey

Understanding that public participation and community consultation play a critical role in creating the Climate Action Plan, the Working Group is invited to review and comment on the draft Milestone 2 survey available in Appendix A—Climate Action Plan Milestone 2 – GHG Emission Reduction Initiatives Survey. The Milestone 2 Survey is an important component to completing the ultimate M2 deliverable – the emission reduction targets, which must be agreed by Council, based on the recommendation of CPWG.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Original Signed*

Richard Grant, Planner I

Respectfully and Approved:

*Original Signed*

Karl Grenke RPP, MCIP

Manager of Development Services

**Appendix 'A' – Climate Action Plan Milestone 2 – GHG Emission  
Reduction Initiatives Survey**

**Climate Action Plan Milestone 2 – GHG Emission Reduction Initiatives Survey**

Canada has pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Participating in the Partners for Climate Protection five-step Milestone Framework, the Town is developing a Climate Action Plan, a multi-year strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Smiths Falls with the help of the Climate Protection Working Group (CPWG), a Council-appointed environmental advisory committee.

To lay the groundwork for this ambitious plan, the Town is undertaking a survey to help us understand the community's interest and values relating to climate resilience and greenhouse gas emission reductions. The data collected from this survey will inform the Town's Climate Action Plan.

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**Demographics**

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|---|--|
| <p>1. Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Female</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Male</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li></ul> <p>2. How old are you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Under 20</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 20-40</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 41-65</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Over 65</li></ul> <p>3. Do you live in Smiths Falls?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> No</li></ul> | <p>4. For your primary residence, what is your home ownership tenure?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Homeowner</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Renter</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li></ul> <p>5. What type of housing is your primary residence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Single-detached home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Semi-detached home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Townhouse</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Apartment</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li></ul> <p>6. What is your primary form of transportation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Driving</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Carpooling</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Walking</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Biking</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li></ul> |
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**Environmentally Conscious**

- |  |   |
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| <p>7. How concerned are you about climate change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Extremely</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Very</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Not very</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Not at all</li></ul> |
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8. Should Smiths Falls do more to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

- Yes
- No

9. How well do you think Smiths Falls is currently addressing Climate Change?

- Very Well
- Well
- Okay
- Poor
- Bad

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### Environmental Initiatives

10. How likely are you to support initiatives that promote electric vehicles, such as charging stations?

- Very likely
- Likely
- No opinion
- Not Likely
- Won't use it

11. How likely are you to support initiatives that promote an electric heat pump rebate program?

- Very likely
- Likely
- No opinion
- Not Likely
- Won't support it

12. How likely are you to support a local home energy retrofit program?

- Very likely
- Likely
- No opinion
- Not Likely
- Won't support it

13. How likely are you to support initiatives such as a green compost bin collection program?

- Very likely
- Likely
- No opinion

- Not Likely
- Won't support it

14. How likely are you to support initiatives that promote green building development (incentivizing low GHG and energy-efficient building practices)?

- Very likely
- Likely
- No opinion
- Not Likely
- Won't support it

15. What do you perceive to be the top barrier(s) to effective community climate change adaptation? Check all that apply.

- Limited public funding and grants
- Lack of community partnerships
- Limited municipal staff capacity
- Insufficient public awareness
- Implementation is time intensive

16. How likely are you to support investing in carbon sequestration and climate resilience value of Town's wetlands, greenspaces and other naturalized areas?

- Very likely
- Likely
- No opinion
- Not Likely
- Won't support it

17. How likely are you to support the exploration of alternative transportation methods such as carpooling, improved active transportation infrastructure, and shuttle bus service to reduce single-occupancy automated vehicle trips?

- Very likely
- Likely
- No opinion
- Not Likely
- Won't support it

18. Are there any initiatives not mentioned here that you think Smiths Falls should incorporate into our Climate Action Plan? E.g., promote the use of solar panels, energy storage systems, etc.

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### Stakeholder Data

19. How did you hear about the CPWG?

- Newspaper
- Online
- Word of Mouth
- This is the first time hearing about the working group

20. Are you interested in subscribing to the CPWG's page so you can receive information regarding the Climate Action plan in the future?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure