

## **Urban Climate Alliance**

*Brief Update: City of Windsor climate accountability progress*

*July 2021*

### **Introduction**

Windsor has been adept at creating a variety of climate related plans and policies, including the Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2020) and the response strategy to the declaration of climate emergency in 2019. However, there has not been significant implementation progress to decrease energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. A deep energy building retrofit program has not been implemented, district energy use has not been expanded and an organic waste reduction program has not been started.

### **Science Based Emission Targets**

Windsor does not have a comprehensive climate action plan. Windsor has a corporate climate action plan covering the municipal corporation's emissions and a community energy plan focussed on community energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Windsor's emissions inventory includes various sectors and tracks progress of emission reductions in the sectors, including residential, commercial, and institutional, manufacturing industries and construction, on-road transportation, and solid waste. Windsor has an overall target of 40% emission reduction of 2014 levels by 2041 but does not have comprehensive interim or sectoral targets. Some interim targets exist through the Active Transportation Master Plan (2019).

In addition to the Community Energy Plan (2017) and Corporate Climate Action Plan (2017), several other plans include climate considerations and goals. These plans include the Environmental Master Plan (2017), the Active Transportation Master Plan (2019), and the Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2020). Together, the various plans are community-wide and include both corporate and community wide emissions data.

In 2020, Windsor moved to annual emissions reporting instead of biennial reporting. Emissions reporting is also compared to the 2014 baseline, annually. The most recent data, 2019, reveal that (compared to 2014) emissions from the corporation are 3.6% higher and community wide emissions are .73% higher, although per capita emissions decreased slightly.

Community-wide targets are not in line with IPCC targets and do not aim for complete decarbonisation by mid-century.

### **Clear Policies and Action Strategy with Clear Outcomes and Commitments**

Windsor's Community Energy Plan includes an implementation strategy and schedule. A climate gap analysis of the Community Energy Plan was also published.

The City's Official Plan has built-in expansion plans. Urban sprawl contradicts plans for energy and emission reductions although there is a recognition of the need to develop net-zero neighbourhoods. The City of Windsor is working with the FCM's Partners for Climate Protection, ICLEI Canada, and Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

There are some benchmarks for reducing emissions in key sectors across multiple plans, but it is not organized in a consistent or comprehensive way to make it easily accessible to the public. Windsor has published a carbon budget in line with IPCC requirements. However, the carbon budget has not been integrated systemically into decision making by the municipal government.

The City has also implemented a climate risk analysis for all administrative reports and added a climate reserve fund for climate actions in response to the climate emergency declaration of late 2019.

**Priority Area: Buildings**

The major component of emission reductions in Windsor's Community Energy Plan is a deep energy retrofit of residential, commercial and institutional buildings. Over 300,000 tonnes/CO<sub>2</sub>e are estimated to be saved on an annual basis if the program meets its targets. Implementation of this program was scheduled to begin in 2019. However, the DEER (Deep Energy Efficiency Retrofit program) remains in the design stage as of this writing.

**For Reference**

[Community Energy Plan](#)

[Active Transportation Master Plan](#)

[Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#)

[Climate Change Emergency Declaration](#)

[Acceleration of Climate Change Actions](#)

[Carbon Budget blog](#)