



## CORPORATE SERVICES

### *Staff Report*

---

REPORT NO: COR 2022-030

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Ashton Romany, CPA Manager of Finance / Deputy Treasurer  
Sustainability Working Group

PREPARED BY: Ashton Romany, CPA Manager of Finance / Deputy Treasurer

REVIEWED BY: Sharon Chambers, CAO  
Patrick Kelly CPA, CMA Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer

DATE: September 12, 2022

SUBJECT: Sustainability Working Group – Annual Report

---

#### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report COR 2022-030, from the Sustainability Working Group be received for information purposes.

#### SUMMARY:

This report outlines activities conducted by the Sustainability Working Group since the last report to Council (June 14, 2021).

#### BACKGROUND:

The Township is a member with Sustainable Waterloo Region (SWR). SWR is a dedicated team, motivated by a shared passion for progress towards sustainability across Waterloo Region. Their shared vision is an environmentally and economically resilient community that prioritizes the well-being of current and future generations. The SWR mission is to foster collaborations that enable local organizations to convert their sustainability interest into action.

In 2019, the Sustainability Working Group (SWG) was formed broadening the representation to include two (2) community members with expertise in this field, a member of Council and the executive director from Sustainable Waterloo Region (SWR).

The SWG acts in a supportive/consultative manner; supporting and bringing recommendations regarding initiatives that fit municipal goals in relation to sustainability.

The SWG reports on an annual basis to Council on sustainability activities and successes. Best efforts are made for this report to coincide with a Council meeting involving members of SWR and/or ClimateActionWR.

## REPORT:

### **Sustainability Working Group (SWG) Composition**

The committee currently includes the following members:

- Ashton Romany, Manager of Finance / Deputy Treasurer (Chair);
- Leslie Nanibush, Asset Management Coordinator;
- Bruce Baechler, HVAC Technician;
- Harold O’Krafka, Director of Development Services;
- Bryan Bishop, Manager of Engineering;
- Jennifer Pfenning, Ward 4 Councillor;
- John Jordan, Expert Community Member;
- Dean Peachey, Expert Community Member; and
- Tova Davidson, Executive Director, Sustainable Waterloo Region;

### **Projects and Initiatives**

The SWG provides input and feedback on sustainability-focused projects proposed for inclusion in municipal budgets for Council consideration. These projects may generate cost savings and align well with the Township’s Strategic Plan goal of Environmental Protection.

Subsequent to the last annual report, the SWG and Township continued to support/work on several initiatives including, but not limited to the following:

- Monitoring the Township’s Green House Gas (GHG) emissions
- Approval and participation with TransformWR (ClimateActionWR’s 80x50 Project)
- Installation of EV Charging Stations
- Tree Canopy Policy Update
- Inclusion of dedicated staffing resources towards sustainability in the 2022 Operating Budget
- Other energy efficiency measures (e.g. replacement of aged HVAC, Alternate Energy Sources)

- Community engagement such as the 2022 Earth Day community clean-up in conjunction with the Wilmot Trails Advisory Committee

### Carbon Accounting Tool (CAT)

The SWG alongside Corporate Services staff continue to utilize the Carbon Accounting Tool (CAT), provided via membership with SWR. This tool tracks utility statistics that are populated by staff to allow for modelling and tracking of reductions year-over-year. As such, this information allows staff to monitor progress towards the Township's target outlined below.

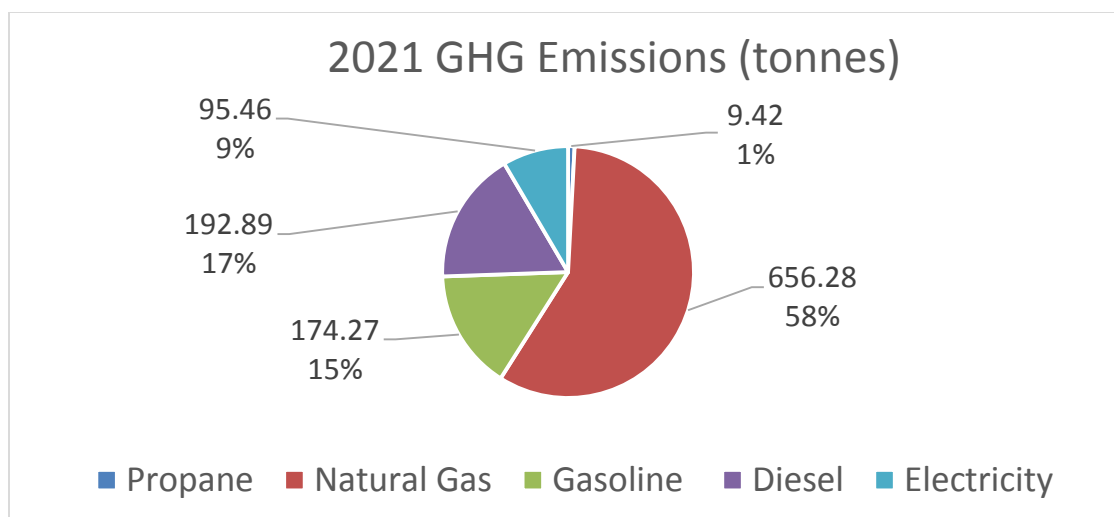
### Green House Gas (GHG) Reduction Target

In late 2017, Council approved a 25% absolute reduction target by the year 2027 with a 2012 base year. This was a significant step for the municipality, showing leadership in the sustainability movement amongst peers and the business community.

At the time of approval, the Township had already achieved a 19.4% reduction from 2012 to 2016 (target of 903 tonnes). However, at the time, due to data gaps, fuel and water usage were not initially included within the model. With the inclusion of fuel and water in 2019, the target was updated to 1261 tonnes.

The Township's target is absolute, meaning that the reduction target is not re-adjusted with any square footage growth the corporation may observe.

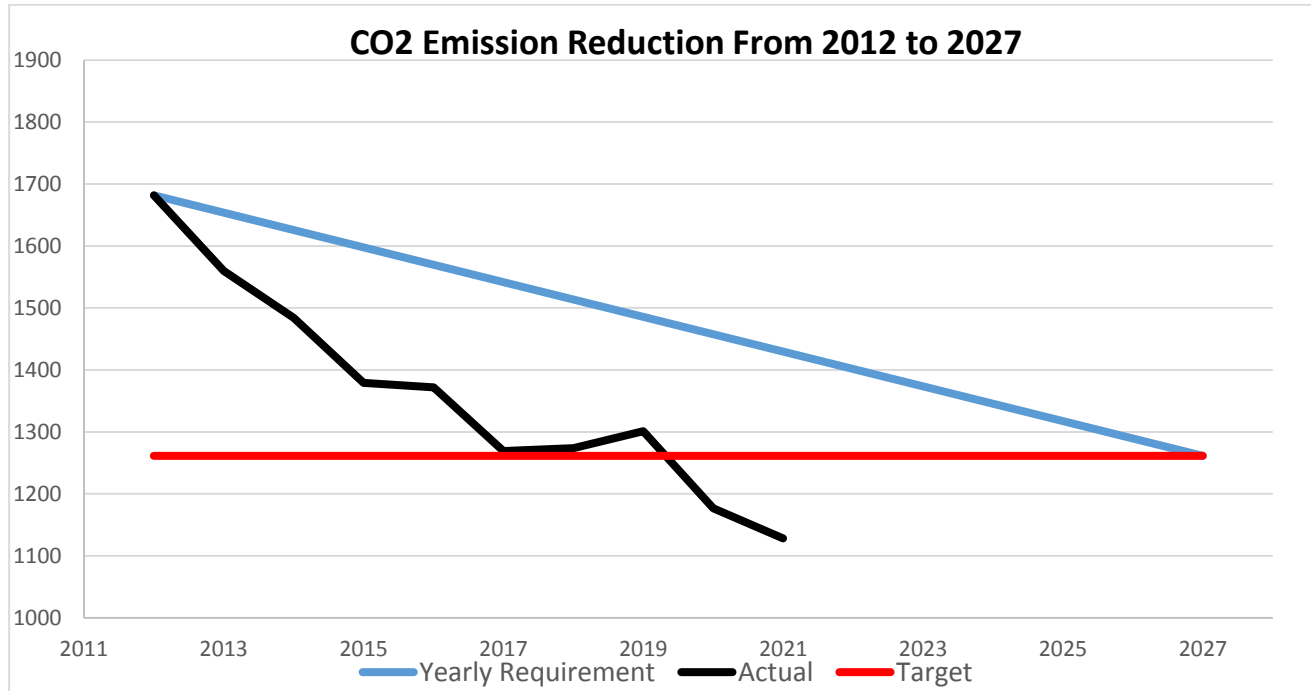
Annually, the committee reviews the data. This year, fuel consumption and natural gas remain the primary drivers. Fuel and natural gas consumption accounted for approximately 90% of the Township's GHG emissions in 2021. Focus in these areas continues to be a priority for the SWG. Below is a breakdown of our tracked emissions:



Including the 2021 emissions into our progress towards the corporate target, the Township achieved a 32.91% reduction in emissions by the end of 2021 (total emissions of 1,128 tonnes).

As such, the Township achieved our 25.0% target, and have now surpassed it by 7.9%. While this is a significant achievement, COVID-19 has certainly influenced the amount of fuel and natural gas consumption throughout 2020 and 2021. Operating factors such as facility closures and reduced fleet usage at certain points in the year attributed to reduced overall emissions.

Below includes a chart outlining the Township's progress:



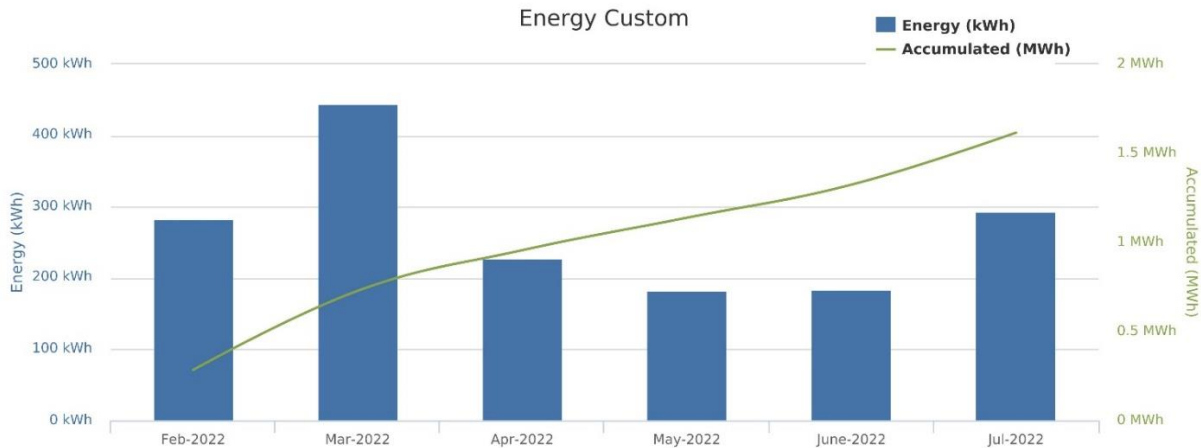
## **EV Charging Stations**

In early 2022, EV Charging Stations were made publicly available at the following locations:

- Wilmot Recreation Complex
- Wilmot Street (on-street)
- Administration Complex

Since activation in February, the Township's charging stations have witnessed steady usage. Between the months of February and July 2022 there have been a total of 116 unique drivers/vehicles that have utilized the charging stations. Between this time period, approximately 1,600 kWh of energy was used to charge vehicles which translates to approximately 1.7 tonnes of GHG emissions saved (according to the Township's EV Station provider).

Usage has remained relatively stable for the past few months with an average of 270 kWh and can be seen in the chart below:



Overall, the Township, with support from the Sustainability Working Group, has continued to make incremental reductions in GHG's, while providing opportunities for community members to help reduce emissions across the broader municipality.

#### ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report is aligned with the Strategic Plan goal of Environmental Protection.

#### ACTIONS TOWARDS UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

- Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-Being
- Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13 – Climate Action

#### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The annual membership fees to Sustainable Waterloo Region, approximately \$4,000 is included within the Council operating budget. Any sustainable projects listed above are funded through departmental capital and operating budgets.

ATTACHMENTS: None