

Region of Waterloo
Planning, Development, and Legislative Services
Community Planning

To: Regional Council

Meeting Date: October 25, 2023

Report Title: Collaborative Funding Agreement with Reep Green Solutions and Sustainable Waterloo Region for ClimateActionWR

1. Recommendation

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo authorize the Region's Commissioner of Planning, Development and Legislative Services to enter into a new collaborative agreement with Waterloo Region Green Solutions operating as Reep Green Solutions, and Sustainable Waterloo Region to operate the ClimateActionWR program for a five year period, as outlined in report PDL-CPL-23-030, dated October 25, 2023, to the satisfaction of the Regional Solicitor.

2. Purpose / Issue:

To request Council endorsement to enter into a collaborative agreement.

3. Strategic Plan:

The agreement helps to achieve the Strategic Plan priority of "Climate Aligned Growth" through the delivery of the ClimateActionWR program, which oversees the implementation of TransformWR, our community climate change mitigation strategy.

4. Report Highlights:

- On August 15th 2023, Council approved a five year total Regional contribution of \$315,380 to support the continued delivery of the ClimateActionWR program between 2023 and 2027, as outlined in PDL-CPL-23-024.
- This report corrects an administrative error made in the Recommendation included in PDL-CPL-23-024, which failed to accurately reference the collaborative agreement with Waterloo Region Green Solutions operating as Reep Green Solutions, and Sustainable Waterloo Region, who have jointly hosted the ClimateActionWR program since 2013. The previous agreement with Waterloo Region Green Solutions operating as Reep Green Solutions, and Sustainable Waterloo Region has now expired, and as such a new agreement is required.

- To fund this program, the Region of Waterloo also holds an agreement with the City of Cambridge, City of Kitchener, and City of Waterloo. The aforementioned error does not impact the status of this agreement in any manner.
- Staff therefore recommend entering into a new collaborative agreement with Waterloo Region Green Solutions operating as Reep Green Solutions, and Sustainable Waterloo Region for a five year term (2023 – 2027).

5. Background:

A comprehensive summary of the ClimateActionWR program is provided in PDL-CPL-23-024, which is attached to this report.

This report is intended to clarify for Council that two agreements are required to fund and operate the ClimateActionWR program. This first is a collaborative funding agreement with the Cities of Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge, which is currently in place. The second is a collaborative agreement, which has now expired, with Waterloo Region Green Solutions operating as Reep Green Solutions and Sustainable Waterloo Region, who jointly host the program by providing supervision and strategic direction to ClimateActionWR staff. In addition, Sustainable Waterloo Region provides office space and administrative support.

Staff are therefore seeking Council approval to enter into a new agreement with Waterloo Region Green Solutions operating as Reep Green Solutions, and Sustainable Waterloo Region, which was the original intent of PDL-CPL-23-024. This omission was made in error.

6. Communication and Engagement with Area Municipalities and the Public

Area Municipalities:

All eight municipalities in Waterloo Region participate as members of this collaborative; ClimateActionWR staff convene the collaborative on a bi-monthly basis.

Public:

ClimateActionWR staff regularly participate in or host community events in order to showcase the work of the collaborative, seek input from residents, and encourage climate action across the community.

7. Financial Implications:

All financial implications have previously been outlined in PDL-CPL-23-024, which requested a total Regional contribution of \$315,380 over the next five years (2023-2027). There are no additional implications.

8. Conclusion / Next Steps:

With the entering into of this agreement, staff will continue to work together with all members of the ClimateActionWR collaborative to advance the actions outlined in TransformWR.

9. Attachments:

Appendix A: PDL-CPL-23-024 ClimateActionWR Collaborative Funding Agreement
(staff report dated August 10, 2023)

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Approved By: Rod Regier, Commissioner, Planning, Development and Legislative Services