

CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS DECLARATION

WHEREAS:

Climate change poses a significant threat to the environment, economy, and well-being of communities, risking the extinction of millions of species and weakening the health and integrity of ecosystems worldwide; contributing to billions of dollars in property and infrastructure damage; and harming the health and security of all people;

Urgent action is necessary to mitigate the effects of climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and transition towards a sustainable and resilient future; and

Collaboration and coordination among all levels of government, the private sector, and society are essential to achieve meaningful progress in combating climate change.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF GODERICH:

Officially declares a climate change crisis for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting our local ecosystem, economy, and community from climate change;

Expresses its full support for climate change initiatives and urges the federal, provincial, and other municipal governments to prioritize and implement comprehensive climate change policies and programs that align with international commitments and targets;

Calls upon the federal and provincial governments to provide adequate funding and resources to municipalities to support climate change mitigation efforts, and supports the development and implementation of climate change adaptation strategies to protect vulnerable communities, infrastructure, and natural resources;

Commits to continuing its work under the Climate Protection Program coordinated between the Town and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, setting additional policy goals and mobilizing our community to implement these goals by raising awareness and promoting public education on climate change issues, emphasizing the importance of both individual actions and inter-departmental coordination in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resilience; and

Commits to regularly reviewing and updating Town of Goderich policies to align with best practices in addressing climate change, and revisiting this resolution with each term of Council when developing the Corporate Strategic Plan.

AND THAT:

This resolution shall be provided to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; all federal Opposition party leaders; MP Ben Lobb; Premier Doug Ford; all provincial opposition party leaders; MPP Lisa Thompson; Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks, County of Huron, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority; all Ontario Municipalities and the local media.