



## AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

RFD# 2019064

Date: June 24, 2019

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**TO:** Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Gregory D. Herrett, CAO

**DATE:** June 24, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Declaration of a Climate Emergency

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**ORIGIN:** Consultation with the Amherst Youth Town Council to Declare a Climate Emergency.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:** MGA Section 47 (1) The Council shall make decisions in the exercise of its powers and duties by resolution, by policy, or by by-law.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council Declare a Climate Emergency.

**BACKGROUND:** The Town of Amherst has identified environmental stewardship, including adaption, mitigation and sustainability as a key pillar of its strategic plan, which is an acknowledgment of the importance of incorporating climate-change implications into the Town's long-term strategic planning and budgeting.

The Town has also recently entered a contract with the Nova Scotia Government's Solar for Community Buildings Pilot Program which will see the installation of 75 kW of solar on the roof of the stadium and is currently partnering with Nova Scotia Power on the Smart Meter Pilot Project. Amherst also has a strong Active Transportation Plan and currently is expanding this infrastructure.

**DISCUSSION:** The Town of Amherst is working to meet all provincial targets in terms of renewable energy.

Should Council declare a state of climate emergency, staff will be directed to develop a reporting outlining steps the Town of Amherst could undertake to reduce its carbon footprint to meet the IPCC targets to keep warming below 1.5°C as expressed in the 2018 IPCC Report; and steps the Town of Amherst could undertake to support the businesses and residents of the Town of Amherst to further reduce or eliminate the communities carbon footprint.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** Staff will be directed to develop a report outlining any related budgetary implications.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS:** Ensuring responsible environmental stewardship will benefit all sectors of our community.



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:** By declaring a climate emergency, the Town of Amherst will be ensuring that minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and threat of sea level rise are top of mind in Council decision making and climate change mitigation and adaptation issues will be important criteria in project prioritization and management.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** There has been no community engagement at this time.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Do not declare a climate emergency.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Draft Declaration of Climate Emergency

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Report prepared by: Greg Herrett, CPA. CA CAO  
Report and Financial approved by: