

Date: 27 Jun 2019 12:03:29 -0400

Tay Valley Township Launches Climate Change Survey – Due end of July

It's an easy bet that most people live in Tay Valley Township because they love living in the country. They may farm, or grow some of their own food, and they love being surrounded by forest and fields and creeks and lakes. Because climate change is already affecting our way of living, Tay Valley Council has committed to doing its part to increase the Township's resilience to our dramatically changing climate.

In 2018 Tay Valley Council formed the Green Energy and Climate Change Working Group and subsequently applied to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' *Partners for Climate Protection* program for funding to develop a plan to address climate change in the Township. Approximately 65% of the Canadian population lives in communities which have such plans.

With funding from the Federation, the Township has hired Sue Brandum to assist the Working Group in developing the Climate Change Plan. Brandum is the former manager of the Rideau Environmental Action League and has a long history of working on climate and energy issues.

"As one of the first actions to develop the plan, we have posted a short survey that asks our residents a number of questions including how they heat their homes, how much they drive, whether they grow some of their own food, and what types of garbage they produce," said Reeve Brian Campbell. "We'll only be using the data in a collated form, not identified by individual," he added.

The survey is available on the Township website at <https://forms.tayvalleytwp.ca/Building-and-Planning-Department/Climate-Change-Survey> as well as in paper form at the municipal office, waste sites, and other locations around the Township. The project has a very tight time frame. Over the next six months, Brandum and the Working Group will gather data on the greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) generated by the municipality itself (for example, from its buildings, fleet, street lighting, and landfills) as well as from the community at large.

"Once the data are collected, the Township will hold public meetings to work out how, together, we can make substantial emissions reductions," said Deputy Reeve Barrie Crampton.

A key report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change last year stated the world had only until 2030 to cut its emissions by 45% and until 2050 to virtually eliminate GHGs. A subsequent report showed that most of Canada is heating at twice the pace of the rest of the world. "People everywhere have a lot of work to do, to meet that goal, but frankly it will be much less expensive to work to constrain climate change than it will be to bear the costs," said Councillor Rob Rainer, a member of the Working Group. "Here in Tay Valley we will seek

out and support opportunities for existing businesses to retool and to grow new business and new activities that are healthier for us and for the Township.”

Among the eight lower-tier municipalities of Lanark County and Smiths Falls, only the Town of Perth had previously received the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ funding and developed a climate action plan. “We’ll certainly be looking to borrow some ideas from them,” said Reeve Campbell, “but we’re rural and have a lot of different considerations.”

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Additional information:

FCM news release <https://fcm.ca/en/news-media/news-release/fcmp/communities-receive-support-clean-innovation-climate-change-resiliency>

[Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program](#)

Photo included below of Reeve Brian Campbell and Climate Change Plan Coordinator Susan Brandum in the Council Chambers holding a handbook from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program.

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