

Motion to declare a climate emergency in Prince Edward County

From the minutes of the May 28, 2019 meeting of Council:

A vote was then taken on Motion 2019-433, as Amended as follows: THAT the following Motion CW-181-2019 as Amended, as contained within the May 16, 2019 Committee of the Whole report as follows be approved:

1. WHEREAS, locally, the County is experiencing the early effects of climate change: * increasing weather volatility: wind storms; increasingly frequent polar vortices and ice storms; hotter, longer droughts; unpredictable thaws and extraordinary flooding events and; * predictable long-term effects of hotter climate and intermittent, sustained droughts and flooding like desertification, soil erosion and greater risk of grass and forest fires;
2. AND WHEREAS the land provides a living for many hundreds of families and individuals in Prince Edward County and we therefore have a duty to do all we can to protect that land;
3. AND WHEREAS the municipality has already invested time and resources in mitigating the direct effects of climate change in Prince Edward County;
4. AND WHEREAS this climate change and human activity that propels it is already having a devastating effect internationally on coastal communities, the polar caps, ocean habitats and biodiversity;
5. AND WHEREAS the social, economic and environmental costs will continue to rise on a local and global scale as this crisis grows;

NOW THEREFORE, The Council for The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward resolves: To support other communities that have elected to 'name and frame' this global crisis by officially declaring a climate emergency;

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee be re-established as a Council priority; and to reach out to encourage other municipalities, as well as the provincial and federal governments, and urge them to commit to protect our air, soil and water and to commit to use all the tools available to reduce the human activity that is causing this climate emergency and to promote a safe and sustainable planet for future generations.