

# CLIMATE ACTION MUST BE A COMMON GOAL: YOUNG ADVOCATE

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forth by Coun. Jane Fogal that was recently passed by council, the objective is to "build momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy" before the United Nations' 2021 Climate Change Conference, which will soon be attended by world leaders.

"They're looking for 1,000 cities around the world to make these pledges as a way to show the national leadership that the people in their own municipalities want them to take action, and we are already taking action," said Fogal.

"It should be something that inspires them to be bolder, because for certain they do need to be bolder."

Halton Hills has already declared a climate emergency and established corporate and community greenhouse gas reduction targets of net zero by 2030.

The motion approved by council says that the next decade "will decide the fu-

ture for humanity."

"Delivering a green and just recovery to the COVID-19 crisis, creating strong, fair economies that serve everyone, and cutting greenhouse gas emissions quickly enough to limit global heating to the 1.5 degrees Celsius target of the Paris Agreement are one and the same thing," reads the motion.

"None are possible without the others. Success in all is the only way to prevent a catastrophic crisis."

As part of the Race to Zero, Halton Hills pledges to do the following:

- Recognize the global climate emergency
- Commit to keeping global heating below the 1.5 C goal of the Paris Agreement
- Commit to putting inclusive climate action at the centre of all urban decision-making
- Invite partners — municipalities, businesses, unions, investors and residents — to recognize the



Herb Garbutt/Metroland file photo

Halton Hills Climate Action is planning a 'Walk for the World' on Oct. 22 along Guelph Street, similar to this rally held last month in Georgetown.

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- Coun. Jane Fogal

global climate emergency and help deliver on science-based action to overcome it

• Report annually on progress toward targets and actions being taken.

The resolution goes on to detail steps Halton Hills has already started taking on the climate change front, including its home energy retrofit program, installation of electric ve-

hicle charging stations, updated green development standards, a low carbon transition strategy for municipal facilities, and electrification of the town's fleet and machinery.

"It's important to include the things we've done as we may inspire other municipalities to be as bold as Halton Hills has been so far," said Fogal.

Georgetown youth and

climate action advocate Spencer Lipka said while joining the Race to Zero is a good thing for Halton Hills, he expressed concern about a few aspects of the initiative, such as the lack of consequences if the net zero target isn't achieved.

Looking at the bigger picture, the 14-year-old said the most important thing that would move the needle globally on climate change is to get every individual, not just governments and businesses, working toward a common goal.

"We want to get the civilians buying electric cars," he said. "We need to get everyone on the same page as individuals working together. We need to be a community."

Locally, Halton Hills Climate Action is planning a "Walk for the World" on Oct. 22 along Guelph Street, where participants will be encouraged to pick up litter on the walk as a sign of commitment to a better planet.

"Walkers will be calling attention to the coming UN Climate Summit Nov. 1 to 12 in Glasgow, Scotland, telling world leaders we're out of time to reduce global carbon emissions," states a media release from the Halton Hills Climate Action team.

"The promises leaders made in the 2015 Paris Agreement are far from being honoured. Canada's carbon emissions per person are still among the highest in the world."

Participants are invited to gather in Dominion Gardens Park beside Christ the King Catholic Secondary School by 2:25 p.m., when the school dismisses for the day. Walkers will then parade down Guelph Street to Georgetown High beginning around 2:45 p.m.

*STORY BEHIND THE STORY: With the push for meaningful climate action continuing in Halton Hills and beyond, we wanted to take a closer look at what the Race to Zero pledge means and what it will entail for the municipality.*

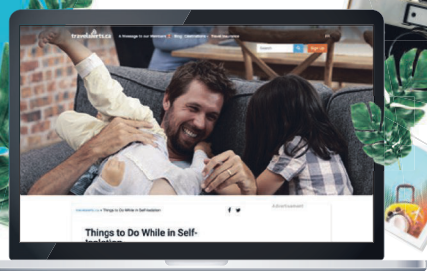


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