

July 16, 2020

Dear Mayor Meed-Ward, Council and City Staff,

BurlingtonGreen would like to thank City staff for their work on this important report and for taking the first major step for City action on climate following the approval of the Climate Action Plan in the spring.

The report provides an excellent outline of the needs and benefits of the program and lays out several scenarios for the funding and administration / delivery of the program. Notably missing from the report were concrete timelines / milestones, and solid financial costs associated with different funding and implementation models.

The progress and implementation of the Deep Energy Retrofit Program is an indicator of how all program areas of the Climate Action Plan will unfold. Challenges in financing, setting concrete implementation targets and the underlying lack of urgency will all have an impact on meeting the carbon reduction targets of the plan. Burlington's Climate Action Plan must be implemented with the urgency befitting a climate emergency declaration and be backed by appropriate financial and resourcing commitments. The community has seen governments at all levels act swiftly and efficiently to deliver relief programs and support during the COVID pandemic and will expect and call on political leaders to apply the same urgency in addressing climate change. BurlingtonGreen advocated for [stronger commitments to climate action in the 2020 City budget](#), and we continue to believe that a higher level of commitment and urgency is necessary to ensure the success of all program areas of the climate action plan. Commitments will go towards offering rebates, administration and widespread, effective program delivery, promoting the program to homeowners and setting up concrete program milestones.

We support council's direction to staff to report back in September 2020 on the initial implementation of the Deep Energy Retrofit Program including but not limited to a scale-able home owner pilot project, research on resident take up and commitment, homeowner technical support to energy retrofit including the involvement of Burlington Enterprises Corp, and that staff report back with any financial implications of the pilot project. In the meantime, we urge council and staff to make stronger commitments and fully invest in what is required to ensure the success of the program.

BurlingtonGreen supports the advancement of low carbon solutions through our [Make the Switch](#) program which focuses on helping Burlingtonians transition from traditional gas vehicles and home heating systems to electric / hybrid vehicles, public transit, active transportation options ( cycling and walking) and heat pumps. The program also offers resources including information on [available rebates](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important step in the Climate Action Plan. We look forward to future consultations, along with the demonstrated speed and scale required to address the declared climate emergency.

Regards,



Amy Schnurr

Executive Director

BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association