



**Report**  
**Staff Report**  
**The Corporation of the City of Brampton**  
**9/4/2024**

**Date:** 2024-08-02

**Subject:** **Recommendation Report - Centre for Community Energy Transformation (CCET) Update**

**Contact:** Pam Cooper, Manager, Environmental Planning, Environment and Development Engineering

**Report number:** Planning, Bld & Growth Mgt-2024-641

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the report from Pam Cooper, Manager, Environmental Planning, Environment and Development Engineering Division to the Committee of Council Meeting of September 4, 2024, re: **Recommendation Report - Centre for Community Energy Transformation Update**, be received;
2. That the City of Brampton enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the not-for-profit Centre for Community Energy Transformation (CCET), for operations related to establishing a home energy retrofit program and integrating district energy, in the form of contractual payments under a Service Level Agreement (“SLA”);
3. That the Commissioner, Planning, Building & Growth Management be authorized to negotiate the SLA with the CCET Board and be delegated the authority to execute the SLA with the CCET on such terms and conditions as the Commissioner, Planning, Building & Growth Management approves and, in a form, satisfactory to the City Solicitor or designate; and
4. That the City of Brampton support CCET in the investigation of opportunities to work with other agencies and organizations and to enter into additional Service Level Agreements to provide energy planning services to their respective municipalities.

**OVERVIEW:**

- **This report provides an update on the Centre for Community Energy Transformation (CCET) since the 2022 Council endorsement of the recommendations from the CCET Advisory Task Force.**

- **To date, CCET has received \$300,000 from the City of Brampton through a Service Level Agreement (SLA), which was applied to the costs to establish the CCET and costs for its first year of operations.**
- **CCET has also received financial contributions from other municipal partners.**
- **Two of the CCET focus areas in their Business Plan (Advancing Deep Home Retrofits and District Energy Adoption) are of particular interest as they align with two Priority Projects of the Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (CEERP):**
  - **Establish a system to deliver standardized retrofits to Brampton homeowners**
  - **Integrate District Energy Systems in appropriate locations within the City of Brampton**
- **As CCET has a Business Plan which aligns with the environmental sustainability work the City of Brampton is undertaking, entering into a further Service Level Agreement (SLA) with CCET will allow the City of Brampton to continue its progress.**
- **\$200,000 in existing capital funds from the Environmental Master Plan capital budget are proposed to be provided through a Service Level Agreement.**

## **BACKGROUND:**

Originally identified as a catalytic action in Brampton's 2040 Vision, the [Centre for Community Energy Transformation \(CCET\)](#) is now a not-for-profit organization operating across Peel, advocating for energy investments, private and public funding opportunities and acting as a hub for municipal energy excellence. It will assist residents, businesses and commercial property owners with improving energy efficiency and lowering carbon emissions in collaboration with its municipal partners.

CCET's mandate is focused on convening partners to implement catalytic priorities to accelerate a community transition towards a low-carbon future. CCET's initial focus will be to collaborate with its municipal partners on:

- Advancing Deep Home Retrofits
- District Energy Adoption
- Spurring Institutional, Commercial and Industry (ICI) Energy Efficiency
- Promoting Climate Change Related Outreach and Engagement

## CCET History

### 2018

- Brampton Council endorsed "[Brampton 2040 Vision: Living the Mosaic](#)". A key theme in the document was the creation of public non-profit institutions to take on the role of change agents. The first action from Vision 1: Sustainability and the Environment, states: "Action 1-1, Institute for Sustainable Brampton: Found a public-private facilitator for local environmental progress to position Brampton in the vanguard of suburban sustainability".
- Members of the Grow Green Network created a task force to look at options for creating the Institute for Sustainable Brampton (ISB). In February 2019, the Institute for Sustainable Brampton Task Force presented a White Paper outlining the recommended purpose, operation and benefits of an ISB, and sought support for its establishment. As a result of this delegation, Council passed resolution [C054-2019](#) directing staff to report back at a later date about establishing an "Institute for Sustainable Brampton".

### 2019

- June 5, 2019, Brampton Council officially declared a Climate Emergency for the purpose of aiming, framing, and deepening the City of Brampton's commitment to the protection of our ecosystems and community from climate change.
- September 25, 2019, Council passed resolution C360-2019 directing staff to initiate the process necessary to have the City join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

### 2020

- September 23, 2020, Council unanimously passed resolution CW196-2020 to endorse the City's Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (CEERP). The CEERP developed ambitious GHG reduction targets and six key priorities actions to undertake in the next five years.
- September 23, 2020, as a means of meeting the City's ambitious GHG targets, Council unanimously passed resolution CW213-2020 to support staff's recommendation to establish a [Centre for Community Energy Transformation](#) (formerly ISB) and recommended moving forward with creating the not-for-profit organization.

### 2021

- Council endorsed the recommendations of the CCET Advisory Task Force in principle. Council Resolution [CW030-2022](#) supported the City in reallocating \$300,000 in existing capital funds from the Environmental Master Plan capital budget to be applied to the costs to establish the CCET and costs for its first year of operations, including those of the transitional board, either in the form of grants or contractual payments under a Service Level Agreement.

- Staff noted at the time that subsequent funding of \$1.2 million for years 2 through 4 (as noted in the report Establishing a Centre for Community Energy Transformation (CCET) Report) would be outlined in future Service Level Agreements between the City and CCET.
- CCET Advisory Task Force held its first meeting, which included 15 members from many Brampton sectors (Enbridge, Johnson Controls, Alectra, Peel District School Board, Brampton brick, Ontario Clean Water Agency, KPMG, Berger Group, Owens Illinois Brampton).
- Established a governance structure that corresponded to the approved CCET Framework and a Funding and Partnership Strategy

#### 2022

- CCET Board was established and CCET was incorporated as a non-profit.
- CCET received funds from Brampton and Region of Peel

#### 2023

- CCET Executive Director was recruited
- Advisory Group and Municipal Working Group established
- Lead for home energy retrofits was recruited
- CCET named one of Canada's 2024 Clean50 Top Projects

#### 2024

- Launch of the free Energy Coach service and related community engagement
- Receipt of Close Out Report by City of Brampton
- Business Plan completed
- Exploration of funding/joint projects with Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Enbridge, Alectra, Efficiency Canada
- Planning a District Energy workshop in Fall 2024 in partnership with the Danish Consulate

## Funding

### *City of Brampton*

Council Resolution CW030-2022 states that the City would re-allocate \$300,000 in existing capital funds from the Environmental Master Plan capital budget to be applied to the costs to establish the CCET and costs for its first year of operations, including those of the transitional board, either in the form of grants or contractual payments under a Service Level Agreement.

CCET has received the \$300,000 payments from the City of Brampton as follows:

Amount	Date
\$15,000	seed money (June 2022)
\$90,000	signing agreement (October 2022)
\$175,000	hiring Executive Director (May 2023)
\$20,000	provision of Close-out Report (March 2024)

### *Other Municipal Funding*

Funding contributions received from other municipal partners include:

Municipality	Amount	Status
Peel Region	\$100,000	\$50,000 (November 2022) \$50,000 (January 2024)
City of Mississauga	\$100,000	\$100,000 (January 2024)

CCET is in discussions with other municipal partners regarding additional potential funding contributions for the years 2025-2027.

CCET is evaluating various foundations and other levels of government for future proposals to support efforts to address the energy burden and underserved households, the energy coach service, and dwelling archetype analysis.

### *CCET Close-Out Report*

The CCET Close-Out Report (Attachment 1) was provided in accordance with Paragraph 2.8 of Grant Agreement 2 from October 2022, which states that the City will pay any remainder of the Grant Agreement upon “receipt, review and satisfaction with the Recipient’s Project Close-Out Report for the Project”:

“completion of the Project or ii) the expiry of the Term, the Recipient shall deliver to the City the Project Close-Out Report in the form required by the City including a final completed Project Budget; details and confirmation of all other funding received for the Project including funding from other City sources, all invoices and receipts for the expenses incurred by the Recipient for the Project which are

eligible expenses pursuant to the Grant Terms and Conditions, and true copies of the incorporating document, corporate filings and organizing by-laws for CCET”

Finance has confirmed approval of the city-related financials of the Close-out Report.

### **CCET Business Plan**

CCET’s mandate is focused on convening partners to implement catalytic priorities to accelerate a community transition towards a low-carbon future. CCET’s initial focus areas are:

- Advancing Deep Home Retrofits
- District Energy Adoption
- Spurring Institutional, Commercial and Industry (ICI) Energy Efficiency
- Promoting Climate Change Related Outreach and Engagement

Two of the CCET focus areas, Advancing Deep Home Retrofits and District Energy Adoption, are of particular interest to the City of Brampton as they align with two Priority Projects of the [Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan \(CEERP\)](#):

- Establish a system to deliver standardized retrofits to Brampton homeowners
- Integrate District Energy Systems in appropriate locations within the City of Brampton

### Home Energy Retrofits

Carbon emissions in Brampton, Mississauga and Caldon increased by 9% between 2021 and 2022 (The Atmospheric Fund 2023). Most of the increase is a result of the ‘Buildings’ sector (8.9% increase) and ‘Transportation’ sector (11.5% increase). While the population in Peel increased by about 16,000 people or just over 1%, per capita emissions increased by 8.7% (see Table 1 below), from 6.9 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) per person in 2021 to 7.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person in 2022.

Table 1 - Peel population and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2021 and 2022:

	2021	2022
People	1,499,917 (Census)	1,516,019 (Estimated)
Dwelling Units	450,740	455,673
GHG Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	10,410,575	11,349,874
GHG Emissions per capita	6.9	7.5

Population estimates from [Peel Region](#)

GHG emissions calculations from [The Atmospheric Fund](#)

To reduce carbon emissions from buildings there needs to be a focus on residential home retrofits. CCET will track progress towards the goal of “Accelerating Home Energy Retrofits for Low Rise Buildings” according to the Objectives and Outcomes below. Key

performance indicators (KPIs) developed for each Objective can be found in the CCET Business Plan in Attachment 2.

Objective	Outcome
Become a trusted advisor in the community	<p>CCET established as a trusted source of information</p> <p>CCET's presence and brand enhanced</p>
Raise awareness of energy retrofits benefits through community engagement	<p>Increased awareness of home energy retrofits</p> <p>Community feedback integrated into CCET's offerings</p>
Address energy burden	<p>Established partnerships or working relationships with community groups that serve income eligible and underserved households</p> <p>Gathered and incorporated feedback and research options (e.g. turnkey programs) for measures to address energy burden</p>
Build strategic partnerships	<p>Partner and stakeholder relationships established and maintained</p> <p>Support for funding and grant applications to implement the enabling services and financial tools is secured</p>
Launch an energy coach service	<p>Increased uptake of existing retrofit programs</p> <p>Improved likelihood of successful application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) stream of funding</p> <p>Increased awareness of incentives and financial tools (e.g. LIC financing)</p> <p>The ability to track homeowner progress on their retrofit journey is determined</p> <p>Work plan to grow the energy coach service under varying scenarios (e.g. with and without CEF funding) is developed</p>
Launch a One-stop Window	<p>Improved functionality of a One-stop Window</p>
Secure private capital	<p>Confirm the processes and legal arrangements for CCET to collaborate with municipal partners to capitalize an LIC financing offering</p> <p>Alternate financing tools identified and tested</p>
Prepare an application to the Community Efficiency	<p>Demonstrate ability to implement the applicant intake process for a potential LIC offering</p>

Objective	Outcome
Financing stream of funding of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities	Demonstrate ability to manage financial flows

## District Energy

The Heritage Heights Community Energy Plan (CEP) was commissioned to identify a pathway to achieving a near net zero future for the Heritage Heights Community with much less reliance on fossil fuels. The Heritage Heights Secondary Plan includes Sustainability and Climate objectives related to district energy as follows:

- facilitate efficient energy generation of all types and associated distribution systems, including, but not limited to, district energy services,
- the City will work with appropriate partners to develop a District Energy Utility (DECO) that will provide cost effective district heating and cooling services to development in Mixed Use Areas and on lands designated Employment, wherever appropriate.
- New development in Mixed Use Areas and on lands designated Employment will be designed to be district energy ready following guidelines provided by the City, and connect to the district energy system, except where the City has determined district energy will not be provided or a connection is not appropriate.
- The use of waste heat from large facilities as an opportunity to supply heating and cooling to buildings via district energy networks is encouraged.
- The City of Brampton will explore opportunities for incentive programs to support building efficiency and other measures to improve energy performance, to support the vision of establishing a near net zero carbon emitting community. The City will collaborate with the Centre for Community Energy Transformation to ensure the ready availability of information and assistance on available incentive programs.

To meet the objectives of the Heritage Heights Secondary Plan, staff need to explore the future of district energy in Heritage Heights and the City's role. CCET has a Board Resolution to convene a 'coalition' and develop a business plan for a Heritage Heights District Energy Company.

As well, many cities are using or exploring the use of district energy systems to help them reach their climate goals, such as the cities of Mississauga, Kitchener, Guelph and Markham. Brampton Plan refers to developing District Energy Ready Guidelines and requiring district energy systems to be incorporated into all major growth and intensification areas. The Downtown Revitalization team is leading the Downtown Brampton Secondary Plan Review and are exploring a component study for an



Integrated Energy Resilience Plan (IERP). The IERP will look at energy needs for the downtown as a whole, including district energy as one solution. As part of future work/support on the IERP, the team may seek input of CCET on the scope of work and review of the draft/final plan.

### **CURRENT SITUATION:**

In 2022, Council endorsed the recommendations of the CCET Advisory Task Force and supported the City to re-allocate \$300,000 in existing capital funds from the Environmental Master Plan capital budget to be applied to the costs to establish the CCET and costs for its first year of operations. Staff noted at the time that subsequent funding would be outlined in future Service Level Agreements between the City and CCET.

As CCET has made strides in becoming a non-profit and their Business Plan aligns with the goals of the Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (CEERP) and its priority projects, staff will re-allocate existing capital funds from the Environmental Master Plan capital budget in the amount of \$200,000 to allow CCET to assist the City in establishing residential energy retrofit program to Brampton homeowners and integrating District Energy Systems in appropriate locations within the City.

### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:**

#### **Financial Implications:**

There is sufficient funding available in the existing capital funds in the Environmental Master Plan capital budget to re-allocate \$200,000 for the Service Level Agreement:

Project #	Amount
237485-001	\$600,000

Any subsequent funding for additional years will be outlined in a Service Level Agreement between the City and CCET, subject to Council approval.

#### **Other Implications:**

There are no other implications resulting from the approval of the recommendations of this report.

### **STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:**

The information in this report directly fulfills the “Environmental Resilience and Sustainability” Strategic Focus Area of enhancing energy & climate resilience.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The 2040 Vision recommended the establishment of an arms-length community organization to achieve the goals of “One Planet Living” over the next 25 years. CCET

will work together with Brampton to rapidly advance meaningful climate action and to respond to our collective Climate Emergency.

CCET's mandate, priority projects and business plan have been developed through extensive engagement with community stakeholders, the Advisory Group and Municipal Working Group.

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**Attachments:**

- Attachment 1 – Close-out Report
- Attachment 2 – Business Plan