

50by30 Target Approved by City of Waterloo to Secure a Safe Climate Future

Waterloo, May 31, 2021 - The City of Waterloo's Council made a bold statement today that we need to take climate science seriously and lower our society-wide emissions 50% by 2030, to secure a safe climate future. At today's council meeting Council approved the TransformWR report which outlines a local strategy for Waterloo Region for an 80% reduction by 2050 and a 30% reduction of emissions by 2030, achievable with proven local capacity and resources. In addition, Council also endorsed the bolder emissions reduction target that grassroots advocacy group 50by30WR has been pushing for of 50% by 2030 to better align with the action climate science says is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and align with the Paris Climate Agreement's stated threshold of limiting warming to no more than 1.5°C for climate safety.

"Waterloo City Council understands that it will take all of our collective efforts to secure a future worth having. Halving our emissions and embracing the transformation required by the climate crisis means a better life for everyone in Waterloo Region."

- 50by30WR delegate Megan Ruttan

"Waterloo is in good company, joining over 700+ global cities around the world that have now committed to doing their fair share to reduce emissions 50% by 2030 as part of C40 Cities, as we take on the critical action required to ensure a safe and livable climate future for us all. We applaud this urgent step forward, and are excited to get to work helping to catalyze the countless solutions we know are possible, that will both reduce emissions and make life better in Waterloo and region-wide." - 50by30WR delegate Kai Reimer-Watts

Two years ago, municipal governments across the Region declared a climate emergency and recognized the need to take urgent and decisive action to deal with climate change. Taking on the bold 50% by 2030 reduction target, and the TransformWR strategy to catalyze action toward it, are critical steps to living up to this commitment.

"We have been working to push for more ambitious climate action in this Region for over three years. From getting a climate emergency declaration in each of the 8 municipal governments, to working with CAWR on the TransformWR report, and now finally pushing our government to take on the work that is needed and set a 50% by 2030 target, the work has all been worth it. But there is more to do, the City of Waterloo is just the beginning and it will take all of us to be able to live up to this goal," said Andres Fuentes.

50by30WR will now continue talking to councilors and delegating at council meetings to push each of the remaining 7 municipalities to also endorse the 50% by 2030 target. Our community must step up and join all those around the world who are taking climate action seriously, to be leaders in the global clean economy and secure a safe climate future.

For more information visit www.50by30wr.ca

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