

# Hamilton Community Energy & Emissions Plan Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee

## Expanding and Decarbonizing District Energy Workshop

### Workshop Summary

**Date & time:** February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, 2:30 -3:30 pm

**Location:** Webex Video Conference

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### Attendees

1. Spencer Skidmore (City of Hamilton, Planning)
2. Tom Chessman (City of Hamilton, Energy Office)
3. Trevor Imhoff (City of Hamilton, Public Health)
4. Christine Newbold (City of Hamilton, Planning)
5. Heidi Levitzky (Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association)
6. Chris Hamilton (Enbridge)
7. John Lundrigan (AMD Dofasco)
8. Kevin Van Hartingsveldt (McCallumSather/HBSA)
9. Bianca Caramento (Bay Area Climate Change Council)
10. Tony Cupido (Mohawk College)
11. Sara Yonson (Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority)
12. Andrew Sebestyen (Stelco)
13. Tony Cupido (Mohawk College)

14. Hugo Vargas (Alectra)
15. Vickram Lakhian (Smarter Alloys)
16. Ankur Mehrotra (Hamilton Community Energy Inc.)

## Workshop Objectives

- To facilitate a discussion on the decarbonization and expansion of Hamilton’s district energy systems, including constraints, opportunities, obstacles and potential partners.
- Group discussion was guided by a series of questions within a Google Form. The following questions were asked to each group to stimulate discussion:
  - *In order to implement these targets is there a key policy, action, or strategy that needs to be applied? Is there an existing City or other corporate policy or strategy that should be updated?*
  - *Beyond GHG reductions, low-carbon actions are often accompanied by other community benefits, called co-benefits. Which co-benefits do these actions present for Hamilton?*
  - *Who are the “Key Partners” in implementing these actions?*
  - *What will these partners roles or opportunities be in relation to advancing these actions?*
  - *What funding or other resources are available to help implement these actions? Do you know of any similar programs that have succeeded in other cities or jurisdictions?*
  - *What conditions or competing interests might interfere with implementing this action? What might mitigate this challenge or overcome it?*

## District Energy (DE) Expansion and Decarbonization Feedback

### Participant Comments & Feedback

- Carbon credits – clarity is required over what qualifies for a credit under provincial and federal programs. Who benefits from those credits is important to consider.
- Maintenance of DE infrastructure once installed is important. Will maintenance of infrastructure be by the City, HCE Inc, or another group?
- Cost for DE needs to be competitive with other renewables sources of energy – there needs to be a lot of incentives to make it an attractive option for consumers.

- Clean energy and an abundance of clean electricity is key to industrial participation in decarbonization and the low-carbon transition, this includes potential energy sources for district energy systems.
- A business case that makes DE waste-heat attractive to industry to maintain competitiveness and avoid carbon leakage to other jurisdictions is important.
- Implementing a DE-ready initiative for new buildings in the downtown will ensure buildings can easily hook-up to existing and future DE systems.
- OPG, IESO and energy suppliers need to be part of conversation on DE.
- DE systems can be more flexible in the future in terms of fuel source. Waste heat, small modular nuclear reactors, RNG, etc. can all be used for district energy. Once infrastructure is in place energy source can be switched/augmented fairly easily.
- Business case of implementing DE should include the importance of short and long-term job creation. The potential to attract further industry once the DE systems are in place should be considered an advantage, particularly if carbon credits can be provided for waste-heat generation and capture. DE should be considered as an incentive to attract industry to Hamilton.
- A district energy strategy is needed to identify the various types of developments from a DE perspective. Consideration of incentives from municipal, provincial and federal government should be discussed in the strategy.
- Marketing DE to different types of development/developers requires different messaging.
- Two key stakeholders need to be in lockstep, the development industry and the municipality.
- The market must be ready, willing and able. Education on DE options for development needs to be provided to the development community – consultants, developers, builders and trades. DE options need to be considered early in the design process for any development.
- DE options should be flagged by the municipality to developers early in the design process, if the development is in a DE service area or future service area.
- Education and understanding, we need to do a better job about talking about district energy and making the public aware of what DE is and how it can benefit the overall community. Leverage low-carbon DE as marketing tool.
- DE needs to be considered pre-design for developers in most instances, before detailed architectural and mechanical designs are developed.
- Competitiveness – creating a level playing field when doing a comparison of DE vs. other available energy options. DE must be cost effective and have a competitive advantage (low-carbon/resilient) to be prioritized over other options.
- DE has come a very long way since being a simple boiling and hot water solution, there needs to be education on what DE is and what the advantages are. These need to be marketed to consumers.
- Capitalize on the great work done by the Chamber of Commerce on waste heat recovery for DE to-date.