

## Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Board of Directors  
Friday, September 23, 2022 Meeting

**FROM:** Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

**RE:** **PEEL ZERO EMISSIONS VEHICLE STRATEGY ENDORSEMENT**

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### **KEY ISSUE**

Endorsement of and direction for implementing the Peel Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Strategy, a major deliverable of the Low Carbon Communities strategic priority of the Peel Climate Change Partnership (PCCP).

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**WHEREAS the Peel Climate Change Partnership (PCCP) works collaboratively on climate change initiatives that will help each partner achieve greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and adapt to climate change;**

**WHEREAS international science demonstrates electric vehicles powered by low carbon electricity offer the largest potential to reduce land-based transportation emissions on a life cycle basis;**

**WHEREAS the PCCP Steering Committee approved and funded the development of the Peel Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Strategy in 2019;**

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Peel ZEV Strategy be received and endorsed by the Board;**

**AND FURTHER THAT the Board support, in principle, TRCA staff working to implement the Peel ZEV Strategy actions along with other PCCP members.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Peel ZEV Strategy ('The Strategy') was developed under the Low Carbon Communities strategy of the PCCP. The Strategy's intent is to develop and implement actions that result in reducing community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in priority areas. Early work on supporting zero emission vehicle adoption was undertaken in 2018, when the PCCP conducted an inventory existing charging stations within the Region of Peel and opportunity areas for future ZEV charging stations to inform grant applications.

In 2019, TRCA presented to the PCCP Steering Committee findings of a research report that highlighted municipal levers to encourage small and light duty ZEV uptake. This report also identified potential processes and outcomes of a regional ZEV strategy that aligned with PCCP priorities. A proposal for the PCCP to fund the development of a regional ZEV strategy was received and approved such that in 2019/2020 each municipal partner (Region of Peel, Cities of Mississauga and Brampton, Town of Caledon) committed \$50,000 in their 2019 budgets to develop the Peel ZEV Strategy. Following this approval, the task of completing the Peel ZEV Strategy was initiated, which included several strategic steps necessary to inform its development, as highlighted in Figure 1, on the following page.



Figure 1. Steps taken to develop the Strategy

On June 22, 2022 the Region of Peel received and approved the Peel ZEV Strategy.

## Development of the Peel ZEV Strategy

The Peel ZEV Strategy was led, and project managed, by the TRCA with development further supported by the Low Carbon Communities Technical Support Team (ZEV Strategy Working Group). The Low Carbon Communities Technical Support Team worked collaboratively and was made up of members of the City of Mississauga, the City of Brampton, the Town of Caledon, The Region of Peel, Alectra and Hydro One Utilities as well as The Atmospheric Fund.

## RATIONALE

### Peel ZEV Strategy Objectives, Focus Areas and Actions

The main objectives of the Peel ZEV Strategy are:

- Reduce GHG emissions and air pollution from the transportation sector;
- Improve business and resident knowledge on the benefits of ZEVs;
- Increase ZEV driving experiences, availability, and ownership;
- Enhance planning processes and access to charging infrastructure; and,
- Promote local job creation and economic development.

The Peel ZEV Strategy consists of 5 Focus Areas with actions and progress metrics as outlined in the table below. Details of proposed actions and implementation roles/ responsibilities are presented in the full Peel ZEV Strategy (attached).

Focus Area	Description
Expanding Access to public ZEV charging stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions in this section focus on supporting sufficient and equitable access to charging stations and enhancing awareness of their locations.</li> <li>• Progress will be evaluated by mapping the distribution and tracking the number of ZEVs and charging stations across the region.</li> </ul>
Enhancing ZEV Education and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions in this section aim to increase ZEV knowledge amongst Peel residents, businesses, and PCCP members.</li> <li>• Progress will be measured by re-conducting community and staff surveys to measure changes in their understanding of ZEV technologies, programs and policies.</li> </ul>

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Enhancing Private Investment in ZEVs and Charging Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actions in this section focus on municipal programs to support businesses and residents in purchasing ZEVs and charging infrastructure.</li><li>• Progress will be measured by program uptake.</li></ul>
Embedding ZEV Infrastructure Considerations in the Planning Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actions in this section focus on enhancing municipal policies and development standards for charging infrastructure, as well as coordinating with local electric utilities on planning, programming, and innovation.</li><li>• Progress will be demonstrated by the application of new by-laws and development standards, and ongoing collaboration with electric utilities.</li></ul>
Advocating, Implementing and Reporting Collectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actions in this section focus on establishing the governance and partnerships needed to implement the ZEV strategy and advocating on the PCCP Members' needs to achieve Federal ZEV sales targets.</li><li>• Progress will be measured by the formation of a task force, support for advocacy positions, and reporting the ongoing achievements from implementing the ZEV strategy.</li></ul>

### Implementation of the Peel ZEV Strategy

The Peel ZEV Strategy is intended to be implemented over a 5-year term with the Strategy identifying PCCP Members as Implementation Leads across a number of key action areas where the actions are within scope of each member's climate action plan. Collectively, Implementation Leads work on program development and undertake specific actions identified in the Strategy while also coordinating with key stakeholders across other levels of government, not-for-profit organizations, utilities, and the business sector. To respect available resources and capacity, the scale and timing of participating in implementation activities would be self-determined by each PCCP member.

Implementation Leads will report on outcomes of The Strategy to stakeholders, including all PCCP member organizations, on an annual basis and continue to implement actions as The Strategy advances through the 5-year term.

Implementation of the Peel ZEV Strategy will require additional budget resources above current envelopes, however, there is significant opportunity to leverage new or enhanced federal funding programs that were introduced in the 2022 Federal Budget to address barriers to Zero Emission Vehicle adoption. This includes a \$500 million investment in large-scale urban and commercial ZEV vehicle charging/refueling infrastructure. Furthermore \$400 million over a five-year period to fund ZEV charging infrastructure provided through the Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP).

The PCCP has an excellent track record in successfully applying for federal ZEV-related funding. Since 2019 the PCCP has secured \$1.177 million through the ZEVIP to support the installation of 192 public and fleet EV chargers, including five Level 3 public DC Fast Chargers. The implementation of the ZEV Strategy is key in continuing this necessary effort and increasing the adoption of ZEVs.

### Benefits and Risks

The Peel ZEV Strategy focuses on one of the highest sources of GHGs across the Region of Peel – transportation. Acting collectively to move this sector onto a zero-carbon pathway will be beneficial to each municipal member as there is strong, strategic alignment with local and regional climate change priorities. Additionally, acting collectively is anticipated to achieve efficiencies in collaborating with external stakeholders, such as the utilities, and realizing greater

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impact in the community, for example, turn out for events such as pop-up EV test drives. Along with these synergies, further benefits include acceleration and scaling of shared goals; resource or knowledge sharing; and collaborating with the appropriate partners on defined, tangible actions.

If the Peel ZEV Strategy is not endorsed, there will be less cohesion and coordination to support the accelerated transition to ZEVs across the Region of Peel. The transition to ZEVs is critical in reducing transportation emissions to meet municipal and regional climate change targets.

### **Alignment with Municipal Climate Plans**

ZEVs are only one component of the sustainable transportation hierarchy. The Peel ZEV Strategy aligns with existing plans and strategies to enable climate action across all PCCP Members. Municipalities also have broader plans that focus on public transit, micro-mobility (e-bikes, e-scooters, e-skateboards) and active transportation (walking and cycling). These plans support residents in transitioning to healthier and safer modes of travel, while connecting our communities. Passenger vehicles will continue to be an integral component of the region's transportation system and the Peel ZEV Strategy will focus on converting these kilometres into low carbon kilometres.

### **Conclusion**

Zero Emission Vehicles are essential in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Currently, transportation emissions account for 35% of the Region's community GHG emissions. There is a critical role for PCCP members to support the transition to zero-emission transportation. This Strategy signals a commitment from the PCCP to work with all levels of government to accelerate light-duty electric vehicle adoption across the community.

### **Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan**

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

**Strategy 1 – Green the Toronto region's economy**

**Strategy 10 – Accelerate innovation**

**Strategy 12 – Facilitate a region-wide approach to sustainability**

### **FINANCIAL DETAILS**

Implementation and funding of ZEV Strategy actions will be subject to the annual budget process for each PCCP member. Opportunities to leverage the considerable federal funding programs identified in this report will also be pursued either through joint application or by individual organizations.

### **DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE**

The Strategy is being brought forward to local municipal Councils, and conservation authority Boards for endorsement and/or for information, as appropriate.

In addition to securing Council and Board endorsement over the 2022 calendar year, PCCP partners will:

- Develop implementation plans to advance The Strategy and begin work immediately on high priority actions, including Action 2.2 - *Work with auto industry, not-for-profits, and utilities to provide ZEV test drives, raise awareness and ensure ZEV availability across the community*
- Commence program planning to provide ZEV test drive and education opportunities for residents and businesses across the community as its first initiative. Examples of similar municipal led initiatives include: E-Mission Durham and MEET Burlington.

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**Date: August 4, 2022**

**Attachments: 1**

Attachment 1: Peel Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy