

MOTION: EV Charging Stations in Cambridge

Moved by: Councillor Hamilton

Seconded by:

WHEREAS human-induced climate change constitutes a global emergency that demands immediate action;

WHEREAS a significant percentage of greenhouse gases (GHGs) causing climatic change are emitted from the internal combustion engines of automobiles;

WHEREAS, in an attempt to reduce GHG emissions and stave-off the worst effects of climate change, a global movement in the automobile sector is occurring, to design, build, and sell zero-emission electric vehicles (ZEVs), electric vehicles, (EVs), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and hybrid vehicles, that produce far less GHG emissions than internal combustion engines, with 7.8 million units sold globally in 2022, up 68 percent from 2021;

WHEREAS the Canadian federal government has now committed itself to ensuring EV production and sales are a central pillar of the future of the automobile sector and public transportation in the future, with draft regulations requiring that 100% of all new passenger vehicles and light trucks sold in Canada after 2035 be electric zero-emission vehicles, with this transition beginning in 2026, with a 20% increase per-year until 2035;

WHEREAS the City of Cambridge is currently experiencing rapid growth and development, with an estimated increase of 70,000 residents in the next 30 years, adding thousands of vehicles and a need for suitable charging stations for parking and storage for these vehicles;

WHEREAS the construction, production, sales, and ownership of electric vehicles in Canada and in the City of Cambridge will very likely increase substantially over the coming years and decades due to environmental crises, consumer demand, and government incentives, and the City must prepare for these emerging consumer and environmental realities;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to examine the possibility of mandating all new developments, retail locations, and city parking lots, possess a certain number or percentage of Electric Vehicle charging stations and parking spots, and that this percentage rises in accordance with federally mandated numbers of electric vehicle ownership rates, ensuring that the City of Cambridge provides future proofing for green infrastructure that is able to meet consumer demand for electric charging stations while helping to fight climate change by encouraging the removal of internal combustion engines from our roadways and parking lots.