

To Newmarket Council – Greetings and congratulations on your success in the elections last Fall.

I know that your work is well underway, and that you have had some contentious issues to deal with already, but I want to share with you my perspective on Council's most important task.

The UN's IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), issued its most recent report, known as IPCC1.5, near the time of the election. In it, the IPCC's expert panels point out that humanity has only about twelve years to solve the problem of climate change. That does not mean twelve more years to get ready to get started – it means twelve years to make real, deep progress.

That's your Council, plus the next two.

Fortunately, Newmarket has laid considerable groundwork in recent years:

- In April 2016, Council passed a motion affirming our support for the Blue Dot Project, with both supportive statements and practical measures to protect the environment. (The link is very long – please use the Newmarket.ca site and search for Blue Dot. You will find the April 18, 2016 meeting with the motion. Or ask staff.)
- Council and staff are working on the Active Transportation Implementation Plan (ATIP) which supports active transportation, such as walking and cycling, for practical (as compared with recreational) purposes. This also serves to reduce the use of gas-powered vehicles. (<https://www.newmarket.ca/activetransportation>)
- Council and staff, with community members, are developing the Community Energy Plan, as you heard at your December 11 workshop. The plan was first approved by Council in June 2016. (Search the Newmarket.ca site for Community Energy Plan, or ask staff.)

As you can see, each of these three items links to one or more of your draft Strategic Priorities.

I bring these to your attention because I believe that there is no greater task for Council than to reduce Newmarket's contribution to climate change. Municipalities across Canada, the United States and all other parts of the world are taking the lead in this fight, and Newmarket must do its part.

Thank you for your positive involvement in our community, and I wish you all the best in your endeavours on Council.

Sincerely,

David Kempton, Newmarket

Climate Reality Leadership Program

Endorsements by other Newmarket residents:

Peggy Stevens, Christine Loree, Krystyne Carruthers, Greg King, Jon Aston, Kaz Higuchi, Melissa Williams, Margaret Koopmans, Lee Webb, Kevin Shackleton

4. [Item 2 of the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of March 2, 2016 regarding the Blue Dot Movement.](#)

An alternate motion was presented and discussion ensued.

Moved by: Councillor Sponga

Seconded by: Councillor Kerwin

a) THAT the deputation by Ms. Christine Glenn and Ms. Jen Turla, Blue Dot York Region be received and the following recommendations be forwarded to Council, endorsing the principles of the Blue Dot Movement:

i) WHEREAS the Town of Newmarket understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

ii) NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Town of Newmarket finds and declares that:

1. All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:

- The right to breathe clean air
- The right to drink clean water
- The right to consume safe food
- The right to access nature
- The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment
- The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment

The Town of Newmarket has the responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights.

2. The Town of Newmarket shall apply the precautionary principle: where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the Town shall take cost effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment and protect the health of its citizens. Lack of full scientific certainty shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the Town to postpone such measures.

3. The Town of Newmarket shall apply full cost accounting; when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives, the Town will consider costs to human health and the environment.

4. The Town of Newmarket shall specify objectives, targets and timelines and actions that the Town of Newmarket will take, within its jurisdiction, to fulfill residents' right to a healthy environment, including priority actions to:

- a. Ensure infrastructure and development projects protect the environment, including air quality;
- b. Address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;
- c. Responsibly increase density;
- d. Prioritize walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
- e. Reduce solid waste and promote recycling and composting;
- f. Establish and maintain accessible green spaces in all residential neighbourhoods.

The Town shall review the objectives, targets, timelines and actions every five (5) years, and evaluate progress towards fulfilling this declaration and consult with residents as part of this process.

iii) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town shall send a letter to the provincial government calling for a public review of the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights in order to improve the Act and to include recognition that all people have the right to live in a healthy environment. The Town will also send a letter to the federal government calling for the development of federal legislation that recognizes that all people have the right to live in a healthy environment.

Carried