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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Chief Administrative Officer
Report: #2024-INFO-14
Date: March 15, 2024

Subject:

2023 Annual Report – Empowering the Community: Durham’s Nuclear Sector Strategy
2022-2032

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 To report on progress in 2023 to advance [Empowering the Community: Durham’s Nuclear Sector Strategy 2022-2032](#) (Strategy).

2. Background

2.1 In December 2021, Regional Council unanimously [approved](#) the Strategy.

2.2 The Strategy is Durham’s long-range plan to build capacity within our organization and community to understand, anticipate and respond to the evolving nuclear activities in Durham and influence policy and decision-making that affect the Region.

2.3 Implementation of the Strategy will ensure that Regional Council and staff:

- a. Are well-versed on the impacts and opportunities related to the nuclear sector as a key employer within Durham Region,
- b. Have the knowledge and capacity to participate effectively in related nuclear policy and regulatory matters,
- c. Have a framework for understanding where Regional efforts will be most effective, and for setting and revising priorities as needed in an evolving sector, and

- d. Are equipped to manage uncertainty, support and make evidence-based decisions, recognize opportunities, and work collaboratively with partners.
- 2.4 The Strategy also supports planned actions to implement the low carbon pathway adopted in the [Durham Community Energy Plan](#) (2019) and address the climate emergency [declared by Regional Council](#) (2020). The availability of low-carbon electricity from nuclear generation will be critical to power the Region's achievement of these targets.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 Reports relevant to the Strategy include:
- a. [2021-COW-37](#) Durham Region Nuclear Sector Strategy 2022-2032.
 - b. [2023-INFO-59](#) 2022 Annual Report – Empowering the Community: Durham's Nuclear Sector Strategy 2022-2032

4. 4. Implementing Durham's Nuclear Sector Strategy

- 4.1 The Region's internal Nuclear Sector Working Group, in partnership with external organizations, has led the implementation of the Strategy.
- 4.2 The key actions taken in 2023 to advance the goals of the strategy are summarized in Attachment #1.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- 1.1: Accelerate the adoption of green technologies and clean energy solutions through strategic partnerships and investment
 - 1.4: Demonstrate leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change
 - 2.2: Enhance community safety and well-being
 - 3.1: Position Durham Region as the location of choice for business
 - 3.2: Leverage Durham's prime geography, social infrastructure, and strong partnerships to foster economic growth
 - 3.4: Capitalize on Durham's strengths in key economic sectors to attract high-quality jobs
 - 5.3: Demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement and communicating results

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Strategy provides Regional staff with a valuable framework that has allowed the Region to prioritize and align actions, identify where to invest our resources, and enhanced our ability to plan and prepare for developments in the sector.
- 6.2 Regional Council will receive ongoing annual reports on the implementation of the Strategy.
- 6.3 This report was prepared by the Nuclear Sector Working Group (Planning and Economic Development, Works, Social Services, Transit, Health, Finance and the CAO's Office).

7. Attachments

Attachment #1: 2023 Annual Report – Empowering the Community: Durham's Nuclear Sector Strategy

Prepared by: Caitlin Rochon, Manager, Corporate Initiatives, at 905-668-7711, extension 6263.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



Empowering the Community:

Durham's Nuclear Sector Strategy
2023 Annual Report

2023 was a significant year for the nuclear sector with announcements from the federal government through [Budget 2023](#). In July, the Province of Ontario released its [Plan for a Clean Energy Future](#) demonstrating its continued support for nuclear generation including [additional small modular reactors \(SMRS\) at Darlington](#). The four SMRs will produce 1,200 megawatts (MW) at the Darlington site, pending regulatory approval.



Goal 1: Grow understanding of the nuclear sector among Regional Council, staff, and the community

- Hosted regular educational sessions to increase staff knowledge on economic development opportunities, the role of public health in nuclear host communities, and the financial impact of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station on the region.
- Participated in site tours of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, the Darlington Waste Management Facility (WMF), the site for Canada's first on-grid SMR, and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) test facility.
- Collaborated with the Social Research Centre at Ontario Tech University to deliver a Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Survey. More than 1,450 residents completed the survey.
- Participated in Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Open House event at the Darlington Energy Complex (DEC), which saw over 3,500 visitors. Durham staff spoke directly with over 1,100 attendees and provided educational resources.
- Promoted Emergency Preparedness Week with messaging focused on knowledge gaps among residents as identified in the Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Survey.
- Launched Durham's completely re-imagined At the Ready guide, a no-fuss approach to emergency preparedness.
- Coordinated the Durham Nuclear Health Committee, a forum to discuss radiological emissions from nuclear facilities in Durham Region and assess the potential environmental and human health impacts.
- Launched three communication campaigns promoting the availability and safety of Potassium Iodide (KI) tablets including a new animated video.
- To simplify how residents access emergency preparedness information, various pages on durham.ca were streamlined and consolidated.
- In collaboration with the CAO's Office, Planning and Economic Development, Finance and the Works departments, staff developed an [information report](#) to keep Council informed of changes in the broader energy sector in Ontario.

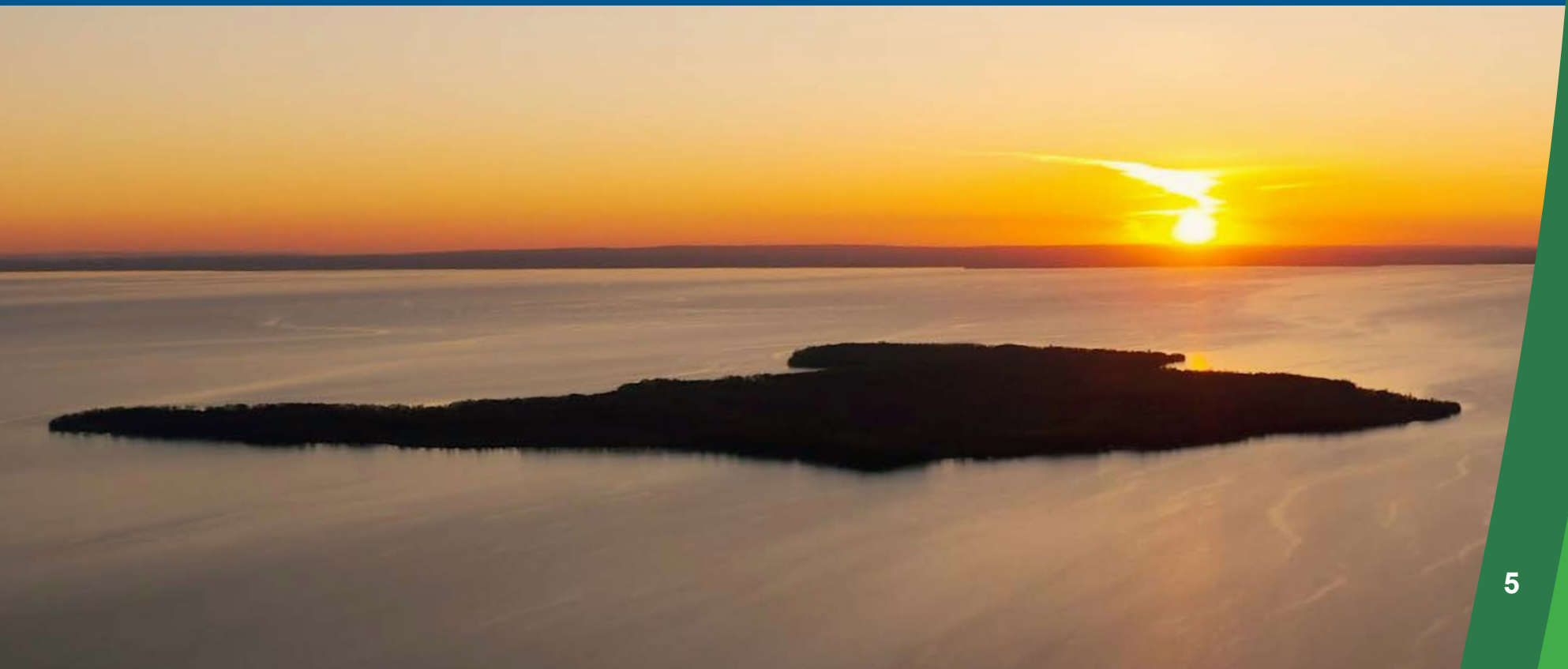
Goal 2: Build prosperity by maximizing the benefits of being a nuclear host community and Canada's premier centre of the nuclear industry and innovation

- Partnered with OPG to host an "Amp up your business in Durham Region" booth at Collision Conference.
- Welcomed GE Hitachi and SNC Lavalin to the new OPG headquarters in Oshawa.
- Sponsored, exhibited and provided opening remarks for OPG Supplier Days at Pickering and Darlington.
- Continued to attract partners from around the world to learn about the nuclear sector and the opportunities in Durham Region:
 - Collaborated with the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade to welcome global diplomatic missions to tour Durham Region and meet with OPG. The Government of Ontario Trade and Investment Office helped the Region profile and promote Durham Region for Ontario's commercial trade opportunities in OPG's projects and supply chain.
 - Welcomed the Swedish Consulate and Swedish Embassy of Canada, Federal Committee of Industry and Trade for the Swedish Parliament as they toured Durham Region and OPG's mock SMR training reactor. Guests received a presentation on activities and discussed OPG's expertise in the development of SMRs.
 - Participated in an SMR roundtable with the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Energy and Prime Minister of Poland.
 - Coordinated a tour for delegates from the Intelligent Communities Forum Conference at OPG.



Goal 3: Protect and sustain the community by addressing the impacts and opportunities of being a nuclear host community

- Developed and submitted an [intervention](#) to participate in the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's (CNSC) first of two hearings to consider OPG's application for a licence to construct the first SMR at Darlington.
- Continued to maintain staff awareness around key policy decisions including the Minister of Natural Resources' [approval](#) of NWMO's strategy development process for low- and intermediate-level waste in Canada.
- The new Regional Official Plan was adopted by Council on May 17, 2023. There have been significant updates to the policies related to nuclear power generation, including policies and mapping to protect the Automatic Action Zone (AAZ) surrounding both the Darlington and Pickering Nuclear Generation Stations. The new Regional Official Plan also recognizes the history and the long-term opportunities related to nuclear power generation in Durham.





Goal 4: Lead and develop partnerships within the nuclear sector to build leadership capacity and influence decision-making

- Continued our partnerships and memberships including with the Canadian Advanced Manufacturing in Nuclear Alliance (CAMiNA), Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI) and the Canadian Nuclear Association.
- Sent a delegation to represent the Region at the 2023 Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) Conference in Ottawa.
- Increased our participation in the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) including participation in a delegation to Vienna, Austria to attend a [meeting](#) with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) together with leaders of nuclear facility host communities, representatives of facility operators, safety authorities and government officials from some 50 countries to share experiences in fostering positive relationships with local stakeholders in the nuclear sector.



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