

Conservation & Demand Management Plan
For the Township of Baldwin
2024 - 2029



Prepared by: Holly Zahorodny
CAO/Clerk-Administrator/Treasurer

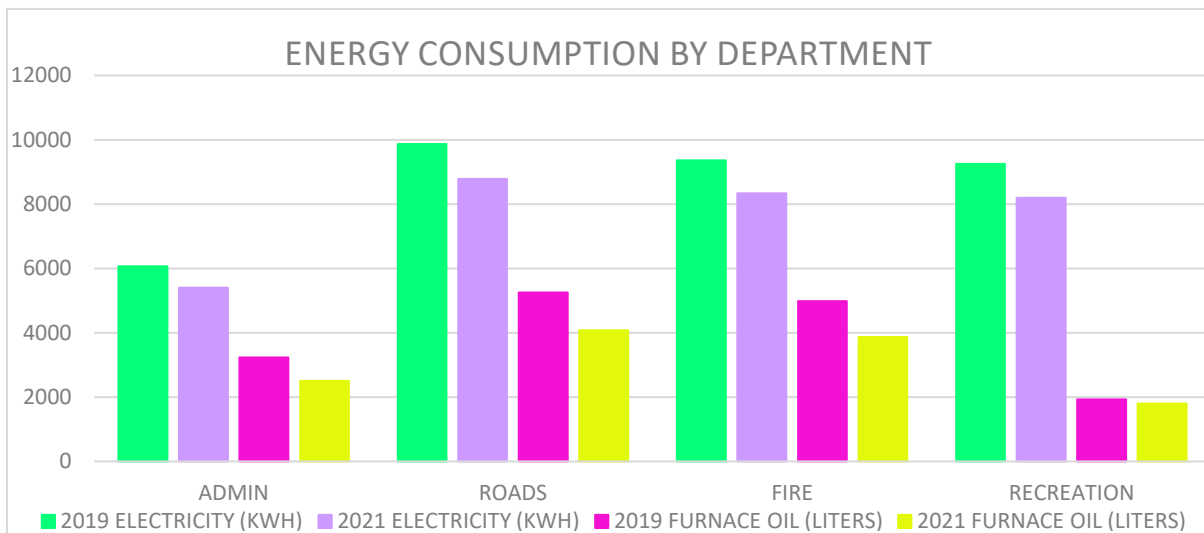
Introduction

The following document has been prepared for the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin to achieve compliance with [Ontario Regulation 25/23](#) (Formerly O. Reg 507/18). Under this regulation municipalities and other public service bodies must prepare a five-year plan on how they will conserve energy and optimize consumption patterns.

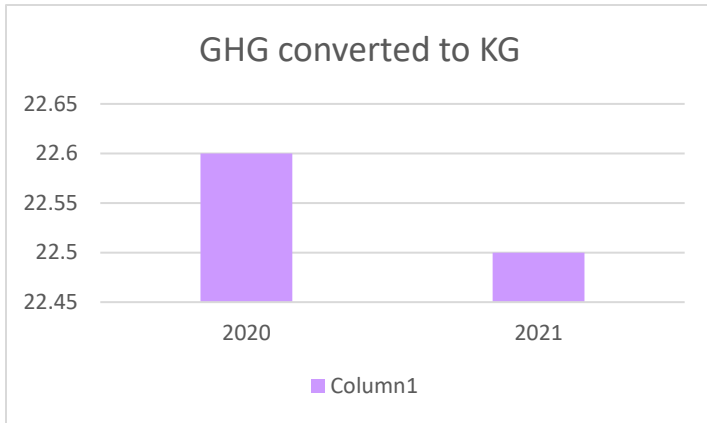
Background

Baldwin Township is a small rural northern municipality with an overall size of 83.29 km² (32.16 sq mi) having a year-round population of 579 (2021 Stats Can). The Township is situated north of the Town of Espanola and runs east and west along the Trans Canada (Highway 17). The municipality maintains 56 kms of single lane roadway. There is no municipal water or sewage treatment system. Municipal operations are conducted out of a building that was constructed prior to 1927 as a one room schoolhouse. Modifications have been made to the building over the years; most notably the addition of a fire hall and two bay garage for fire vehicles. Additionally, on the same site a steel garage was erected which houses the backup generator and heating system for the municipal office and fire hall. At a separate location, the municipality has a multi-use facility and as of 2021 a Community Peace Garden with a beautifully constructed gazebo just across the road from the town hall.

The Township operates with a staff of 4; a part-time Road Superintendent, a full-time Clerk-Treasurer, a part-time Office Administrator, a part-time maintenance/general labour person and 12 volunteer fire personnel.



Prior to the Province of Ontario mandating energy conservation, the staff of Baldwin Township practiced it as a measure of cost control. Energy efficient lights and street lighting, newer computer systems and other equipment has been purchased to reduce the consumption of electricity. Use of the Air conditioning unit has also been minimized and office lights are turned off on sunny days.



- In 2021 electricity consumption decreased for the multi-use facility by a significant amount from 7.4kg to 5.4kg due to the facility not being in use from Covid-19 restrictions. Administration, Roads and Fire Departments increased but not by a significant amount and resulted in an overall decrease of consumption.
- In 2021 the cost for electricity decreased by \$11,765.54 due to the lack of usage at the multi-use facility.

- Overall, in 2021 furnace fuel consumption increased. This is directly proportional to colder winter temperatures and an old municipal building with questionable insulation.
- The municipality also has streetlights within certain areas of the Township. These lights were updated to LED for more energy efficiency. The Township is now aware of the amount of electricity consumed in the operation of these lights as we have updated billing procedures with Hydro-one.

Five Year Plan

The Corporation of the Township of Baldwin has always exercised prudent financial practices and attempted to control electricity and fuel consumption. The Township just recently changed its heating system from oil to propane which is more energy efficient and lower costs are expected with this update. It is unfortunate that the Township may be unable to decrease its current consumption patterns further as:

- a) instituting a policy that reduces furnace fuel use will directly affect the health and well-being of staff;
- b) decreasing electricity consumption would require a reduction in service level as the office would need to be closed;
- c) it is not a wise or strategic investment of taxpayer monies into upgrading a building that is more than 97 years old and has issues beyond energy loss; and
- d) the construction of the multi-use facility was to provide the community with a building that they could use when they require it.

In addition, it is impossible to determine cost savings directly correlated to decreased use with the fluctuating costs of fuel and electricity.

Over the next five years the Township will continue with current practices in order to control energy consumption while investing into reserve funds to construct a new municipal building utilizing best practices in energy efficiency.

We do not have the financial resources to react any differently at this time. Nor do we see any circumstance over the five year time frame of this plan that we will be successful in obtaining funding from the Province as only roads, bridges and water treatment plants are considered critical infrastructure.

The following update is to reflect the usage patterns to date not to change the content or the intention of the original plan.

