

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – FEBRUARY 2, 2004

CITY OF VAUGHAN ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Economic / Technology Development and Communications in consultation with the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works and the Commissioner of Community Services recommends:

1. That this report be received;
2. That Council endorse the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on the Environment;
3. That Council appoint two members to serve as Chair and Vice Chair on the Task Force and
4. That the position of Environmental Coordinator and the associated program costs, as proposed by the Economic/Technology Development and Communications Department, be considered in the 2004 Operating Budget process.

Purpose

On June 20, 2003 Council approved Regional Councillor Frustaglio's report with respect to the Smog Summit. Subsequently, Council also approved the reports on the Task Force on the Environment and City of Vaughan Environmental Initiatives from the Mayor and the Commissioner of Economic/Technology Development and Communications, respectively, on September 15, 2003. These reports established the importance of undertaking environmental initiatives with a co-ordinated approach and adequate provision of resources.

This report responds to the recommendations of the Mayor's report (see attached) and provides Council with the next steps for advancing its strategic goal of environmental leadership as set out by Vaughan Vision 2007.

Background

In 1992, the Government of Canada became a signatory of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Canada signed the "Kyoto Protocol" in December 1997, an agreement that sets out international commitments for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions affecting global climate change. The Protocol will become legally binding when it is ratified by at least 55 countries, covering at least 55 per cent of the emissions addressed by the Protocol. Recently, the Federal Government announced funding for more than \$1-billion for measures to curb global warming.

Municipal governments have an important contribution to make to climate protection, as up to half of Canada's GHG emissions are under the direct and indirect control or influence of municipal governments. Through land use; energy and transportation planning; infrastructure design; green procurement; building retrofits; water conservation; solid waste diversion; and use of renewable energy, municipalities can facilitate the reduction of emissions.

In 1991, the City of Toronto established the Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF), an endowment of \$23 million, to support projects (through grants and loans) in the areas of transportation, green energy, public education, energy efficiency and adaptation to summer heat. Although Toronto has led the way in clean air and environmental initiatives, Toronto is not alone. Large or small, communities across Canada have made environmental commitments and adopted a diverse array of programs and some have environmental committees and advisory boards. Many of them are seeking innovative ways to expand environmental programs and federal, provincial and private sector funding are supporting them.

Vaughan's Environmental Initiatives

The Greater Toronto Area is Canada's economic engine, however its population and development growth has led to a number of environmental challenges that are beyond GHG emission reductions. These include, but are not limited to, increasing number of smog days (and its resulting health issues); traffic congestion; rising energy demands; waste management issues; resource consumption; urban sprawl; expensive municipal infrastructure demands; etc. Many of these issues are inter-regional in nature and require cooperation to resolve.

The City of Vaughan is Canada's fastest growing municipality with a current population of 220,000 and employment base of over 7,000 businesses. Every month, the City welcomes 1,000 to 1,200 new residents. Such growth places enormous demands on resources and requires a proactive approach to planning. Vaughan Vision 2007, the City's strategic plan, identified the environment as one of its top priorities. Council recognized that it could assist local businesses and residents to facilitate improvements in environmental and business practices. As such, Council has requested that Staff embark on an examination of its own municipal practices so that we may begin the improvement process within the organization, with the goal of taking our improvements to residents and businesses in the future. If the City could demonstrate GHG emission reductions, energy savings and waste reduction while improving efficiency and effectiveness of municipal operations, that would serve as a example for others.

The examination of the City's programs and practices revealed that responsibility for programs relating to environmental initiatives resides with a number of City departments. These initiatives are usually carried out within the department, with little involvement or coordination with other internal departments. Intra-departmental resources were usually stretched thin to carry out any programs in addition to the day-to-day responsibilities. The City's lack of an Environmental Coordinator has meant that there has been no overall comprehensive effort to address environmental issues across departments. It has also meant that successes and/or lessons learned from past initiatives were not communicated or shared; and opportunities to improve local business competitiveness were not capitalized.

Resource Requirements

While making its commitment to environmental leadership, Council must recognize that it must match its strategic goals with budget and staff resources; and that these resource allocations must be ongoing. While there may be program funding from the federal and provincial governments, the funding will only be allocated to new initiatives, not salaries and ongoing program costs.

An Environmental Coordinator must be hired with the necessary resources to implement an Environmental & Business Leadership Plan. In addition to coordinating and communicating the City's environmental programs, the Environmental Coordinator will work with local businesses to implement workplace environmental practices and improve business competitiveness amongst those firms in the environmental products and services sector. With this role, the City of Vaughan will be unique amongst municipalities in providing an integrated approach to economic development, betterment of quality of life and promotion of environmental practices.

A job description and preliminary operating budget allocations are being developed and will be reviewed by senior staff.

Task Force or Advisory Group on the Environment

To garner greater coordination and involvement from City staff, businesses, community and environmental organizations, the Environmental Coordinator would benefit from the advice of an environmental task force or advisory group. By establishing a Task Force and adopting the attached Terms of Reference, Vaughan will gain advice, expertise and input of stakeholders and environmental groups for new City environmental initiatives. A partnership, such as the Task Force, demonstrates commitment from a broad cross-section of the community and allows the City to leverage funding opportunities from the private and public sector.

Brochure on Environmental Initiatives

As a first step to communicating with stakeholders, Council approved the production of an environmental brochure to increase awareness and encourage public participation. The brochure entitled "How will Vaughan's Future Unfold" is a cooperative marketing piece with Hydro Vaughan Distribution Inc. The brochure features brief descriptions of current and future environmental initiatives as well as energy saving tips. Given the number of initiatives, it would be more feasible to provide details via a visit to the City's website. Hardcopies of the attached brochure will be available for distribution. An electronic version of the brochure will be available in the environmental component of the City's website and is currently under development.

Next Steps

Following the establishment of the Task Force on the Environment, and under the guidance of an Environmental Coordinator, the City will develop an Environmental & Business Leadership Action Plan. Elements of the plan will incorporate development and marketing of environmental programs (in cooperation with internal departments); identifying new funding opportunities and development of environmental sector businesses.

The Coordinator will advance the City's participation in GTA environmental activities including, but not limited to, involvement with the GTA – Clean Air Council's Annual Smog Summit and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Living City Centre at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. Both the Smog Summit and Living City Centre are currently underway, and Vaughan's participation is necessary.

The Environmental Coordinator will also work with the Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement (OCETA) to implement the Toronto Region Sustainability Program, which provides small and medium-sized manufacturers in the GTA with a 50% cost-share funding incentive for pollution prevention planning. The expected outcomes of such a program are enhanced economic and environmental performance and prosperity; skills development and technology transfer and recognition of the City and its businesses locally and internationally.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities set by Council, however the necessary resources have not been allocated nor approved.

Conclusions

The Climate Change Plan for Canada challenges individuals to reduce their GHG emissions by 20% or one tonne per individual. Achieving climate change, energy conservation and sustainable communities requires an attitudinal change that can only be accomplished through sustained awareness building and promotion. The Climate Change Plan also presents economic opportunities for communities and businesses. There are numerous business development opportunities that should be fostered by municipal economic development, not only for the quality of life benefits, but also for their economic growth potential.

In addition to the residential populace, the City must also assist local businesses to embrace environmentally friendly practices. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to work with local businesses that manufacture green products or provide environmental services to commercialise their work and thus increase competitiveness. The Environmental Coordinator working in tandem with a Task Force on the Environment, is pivotal to the City's ability to achieve its commitment to service excellence through environmental and business leadership.

Attachments

Report with Respect to the Task Force on the Environment
Task Force on the Environment Terms of Reference
"How will Vaughan's Future Unfold" Environmental Brochure

Report prepared by:

Shirley Kam, Senior Economic Developer

Emilia Valentini, Manager of Business Development

Frank Miele, Commissioner of Economic/Technology Development and Communications

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Miele

Commissioner of Economic/Technology Development and Communications

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SEPTEMBER 15, 2003

REPORT WITH RESPECT TO THE TASK FORCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Recommendation

The Mayor recommends:

- 1) That this report be received;
- 2) That once the new Council is established, more focus be given to creating new environmental initiatives and leadership opportunities by officially creating the Task Force on the Environment and that the Task Force be comprised of political, administrative and environmental representation;
- 3) That Staff provide a report, identifying the necessary resources to implement the Task Force, including the role and responsibilities of the Environmental Co-ordinator position, for the next Committee of the Whole meeting and
- 4) That the Commissioner of Economic / Technology Development and Communications undertake the development of a brochure identifying the City of Vaughan's environmental initiatives in co-operation with Hydro Vaughan Distribution and other private sector supporters.

Background

The City of Vaughan has grown into a vibrant and dynamic place to live, work and play. Every month, the City welcomes 1,200 new residents. These residents have chosen Vaughan for its myriad of employment opportunities, its diversity and quality of life. To sustain the momentum of employment and residential growth, it is necessary to realize the interconnection of quality of life, which includes environmental qualities like air, water and land, and economic opportunity. Municipalities must become active players in building the framework for all its members to participate in being environmentally conscious in their activities.

The City of Vaughan has been very active in its own environmental stewardship practices, but more work must be undertaken to publicize these practices, create awareness, activate the Kyoto Protocol and develop new opportunities for environmental sector businesses. For this reason, Council has incorporated environmental leadership as one of the goals of Vaughan Vision 2007. Furthermore as part of Vaughan Vision 2007, Council also recognizes the need to communicate the community's successes amongst residents and businesses.

City Staff is to be commended for its Report on City of Vaughan Environmental Initiatives. The City is taking leadership in environmental matters and there are already positive and tangible results that should be communicated immediately. Vaughan's citizens want to know about these results and they want to know how to further participate in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preserving the environment.

Building public awareness, encouraging community involvement, and leveraging government and private sector funding requires a co-ordinated and sustained approach. Those municipalities with progressive environmental programs all have dedicated staff resources. "Environmental Co-ordinator" or "Advisor" positions exist in Burlington, Mississauga, Oakville, Markham and Toronto, as well as in all Regions. These positions, in addition to their public engagement functions, also

serve to protect the community's interests and resources, a vitally important function in growing municipalities.

Conclusion

The qualities of life, health and economy are interconnected and interdependent. What is good for Vaughan's environment is good for the health of its citizens and makes Vaughan a sound place to do business. Cities will be at the front lines of the Kyoto Accord and a progressive municipality like Vaughan must move forward and commit to providing the necessary resources for an ongoing environmental stewardship program. Climate change and environmental engagement will occur when there is an attitudinal adjustment that is a result of sustained effort and resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Di Biase
Mayor

CITY OF VAUGHAN

TASK FORCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Terms of Reference

Reporting Structure

The Task Force on the Environment will be facilitated through the Office of the Commissioner of Economic / Technology Development and Communications.

Mission

To encourage activities targeted to reduce emissions of harmful pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and which minimize the potential harm to human health and the environment, with the view that environmental policies and practices can create economic opportunities for our local businesses.

Mandate

To assist and advise the City on “green” improvements to municipal operations, which will allow the City to be a leader in environmental stewardship; and to promote awareness and encourage green or environmental practices in homes, work places and open spaces.

Duration

The Task Force will be dissolved when an Environmental & Business Leadership Action Plan is developed. On dissolution of the Task Force, an Environmental Advisory Group will be established to provide advice and collaboration to the Environmental Coordinator.

Goals & Objectives

- To develop an Environmental & Business Leadership Action Plan that identifies specific, measurable and achievable targets in municipal operations that improve air quality, reduce GHGs and other waste generation.
- To act as environmental ambassadors and advisors thereby encouraging residents, industry and other organizations to incorporate environmental initiatives into daily activities and operations.
- To assist the City to expand representation from the environmental, residents and business sector in the City’s environmental initiatives.
- To work in co-operation with all levels of government, education, industry and environmental associations to create greater awareness and implement the Kyoto Accord principles.

The above goals and objectives will be accomplished through the following process:

- Identify current practices in municipal operations, which are environmentally friendly.
- Identify current practices working in conflict with environmentally friendly initiatives.
- Identify opportunities for improvements in municipal operations and develop an Environmental & Business Leadership Action Plan.
- Set policies and timelines for completion, implementation and incorporation of the Environmental & Business Leadership Action Plan in Vaughan Vision 2007.
- Set up an evaluation and audit mechanism for monitoring the Environmental & Business Leadership Action Plan.

Activities by the City of Vaughan will require collaboration and consultation with external stakeholders and may include:

- Participation in future Smog Summits and GTA – Clean Air Council,
- Exploring participation in the ICLEI/Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection Program,
- Monitoring and sharing Best Practices through the FCM Knowledge Network and the Association of Canadian Municipalities;
- Investigating financial opportunities through FCM’s Green Municipal Funds and other government programs to assist in developing and implementing environmental initiatives,

- Incorporating green technologies and green construction practices in the new Civic Centre, including: LEEDS certification,
- Establishing a Kyoto Access Centre in the new Civic Centre, in cooperation with Vaughan Public Libraries,
- Investigating opportunities in municipal operations for energy efficiency; alternative fuels; pesticide management, etc.,
- Developing programs for increasing public awareness and participation in energy efficiency, waste diversion, water conservation, alternative transportation programs, etc.
- Implementing a review of environmental policies and their incorporation in Official Plans,
- Working with the Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement (OCETA) to assist local business to implement pollution prevention plans and improve economic and environmental performance,
- Identifying environmental technologies and assisting businesses to access or commercialize applications,
- Expanding the City's website to include Environmental Stewardship.

Membership

- Mayor and two Members of Council
- City Manager and Commissioners or assigned representatives from: Building & Facilities; Bylaw Enforcement; Public Works; Parks Development; Purchasing; Human Resources; Community Planning; Urban Design; Engineering; Corporate Communications and Economic / Technology Development Departments
- Vaughan Public Libraries
- Hydro Vaughan Distribution
- Environmental Coordinator

Stakeholders for Consultation

- Vaughan Chamber of Commerce
- Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
- Toronto Environmental Alliance
- Black Creek Regional Transportation Management Association
- York University Centre for Sustainable Development
- York Region Health Department
- York Region School Boards
- Transportation Sector
- Non-Government Environmental Organizations

Structure of the Task Force

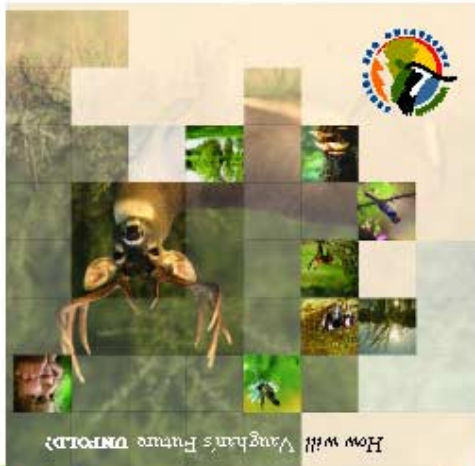
Chair: Member of Council to be appointed by Council

Vice Chair: Member of Council to be appointed by Council

Facilitator: Commissioner of Economic / Technology Development and Communications

Frequency of Meetings

Meetings of the Task Force on the Environment, facilitated by the Clerks Department, will be held on a semi-annual basis or at the call of the Chair.



How Will Vaughan's Future Unfold?

3

CURRENT INITIATIVES

WATER CONSERVATION

- Water Meter Change Out Program
- Water Meter Change Out Program

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

- Food & Product Waste
- Integrated Pest Management

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Thousand Oaks is a leader in the area of local government. Through innovative public initiatives, the city is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

NATIONAL LAMP PROMOTION / DISTRIBUTION

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

WATER CONSERVATION

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

4

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

WATER CONSERVATION

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

5

CURRENT INITIATIVES

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

WATER CONSERVATION

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

6

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

7

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Vaughan, Ontario, is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement. The City is a leader in the area of community engagement.

