

CITY OF VAUGHAN GREEN BUILDING POLICY

Councillor Shefman recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan hereby adopts the "City of Vaughan Green Building Policy." This policy reflects the City's commitment to encouraging environmentally sensitive construction practices in the City of Vaughan by adopting construction practices inspired by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) certification process.
2. That Vaughan Council hereby declares that all new and occupied city buildings, of any size, will be designed, contracted and built to achieve the LEED™ Gold certification level, and to strive for the highest level of certification (currently Platinum) whenever project resources and conditions permit.
3. That Vaughan Council hereby declares that all future renovations and non occupied city buildings will be designed, contracted and built to include as many principles of the LEED™ program as are feasible.
4. That Vaughan Council, to maintain the tight control over the cost of city building projects, qualifies the above paragraph (2) of this Green Building Policy to require a pay back period of no more than five (5) years for projects designed to the LEED™ Gold Standard. Where the payback is anticipated to be more than five (5) years, City staff is directed to recommend to City Council which level of LEED™ certification is appropriate for that particular project. If no level of LEED™ certification is feasible, then the project under consideration shall include as many principles of both the LEED™ program and the City's Green Building Program as are feasible.
5. That Vaughan Council may grant exceptions to this Policy when it deems appropriate.

Economic Impact

Initially, increased costs for construction, but, over time significant operational savings.

Communications Plan

Staff to prepare a detailed communications plan

Purpose

To reflect the City's commitment to encouraging environmentally sensitive construction practices in the City of Vaughan by adopting construction inspired by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) certification process for all city buildings.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan is gaining a reputation as an environmental leader in Green Building with the current construction of our LEED™ Gold City Hall and the recently opened LEED™ Gold fire station. Vaughan recognizes and accepts its responsibility to implement and promote building practices that protect our natural and built environment. The City of Vaughan desires to model environmentally sensitive building design, in its own facilities. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) *Green Building Rating System* and Certification is a nationally recognized standard for excellence in facility design and has multiple levels of certification. Vaughan Council finds that green design and construction decisions made by the city in the construction and remodeling of city buildings can result in significant cost savings to the city over the life of the buildings.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council to lead and promote environmental sustainability.

Regional Implications

None

Conclusion

By implementing The City of Vaughan Green Building Policy for its own buildings the city presents a leadership position on sustainability.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

Alan Shefman
Councillor, Ward 5