

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 16, 2005

SMOG SUMMIT 2005

Recommendation

The Vaughan Environmental Task Force recommends:

1. That this report be received;
2. That Council endorse the draft Toronto and Region 2005 Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air; and
3. That the Chair or their designate (Vice Chair) of the Vaughan Environmental Task Force be appointed the City's representative at the signing of the Declaration at Smog Summit VI on June 8, 2005.

Economic Impact

Participation in the GTA Clean Air Council (GTA CAC) and Smog Summit are within the approved departmental budget. There will be no additional economic impact.

Purpose

To seek Council's endorsement of the draft Toronto and Region 2005 Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air, with the understanding that the final Declaration will only be unveiled and signed at Smog Summit VI.

Background

The City of Vaughan participated in its first Smog Summit in 2004. This year's proceedings will take place on June 8, 2005 at Toronto City Hall during Canadian Environment Week. The themes of Smog Summit are "***Transportation and Health***", recognizing that emissions generated from transportation sources have an adverse impact on health and quality of life. Although these themes were chosen this year, the effects of other sources responsible for smog and poor air quality are not ignored.

The signatories of the 2005 Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air, through the GTA Clean Air Council (GTA CAC) commit to acting in concert to address smog and greenhouse gases, to share information and where possible, to share resources and undertake appropriate research, studies, workshops and actions in order to improve air quality. The attached draft declaration identifies a number of existing programs that will be continued as well as new initiatives, such as exploring opportunities to establish a regional revolving fund that will enable municipalities to access resources towards environmental initiatives.

Municipalities and regions will issue and sign a joint declaration during the proceedings. The facilitated question period will be the framework for bringing forward announcements and commitments from individual municipalities. In addition, municipal press releases will be included in the media kits. The Environmental Task Force will determine the programs to be highlighted in Vaughan's release.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

Ongoing participation in the GTA CAC and Smog Summit is consistent with Vaughan Vision 2007 as it supports the goal of serving citizens by safeguarding the environment. Budget has been allocated for this initiative.

Conclusion

Since 2004, with the formation and implementation of the Environmental Task Force, the City of Vaughan has been progressing on developing and communicating about environmental initiatives, which improve our health, quality of life and economy. However, it is only through the co-operative efforts such as the Clean Air Council and Smog Summit, that those larger, cross-boundary issues, such as air quality, smog and climate change, can be addressed.

The Chair of the Vaughan Environmental Task Force requests Council's endorsement of the draft Toronto and Region 2005 Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air and appoints the Chair or their designate as the City's representative at Smog Summit VI.

Attachments

1. Draft – Toronto and Region 2005 Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air (confidential – available to Mayor and Members of Council only)

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

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Chair, Vaughan Environmental Task Force