

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 5, 2007

PESTICIDE FREE PRIVATE PROPERTY

Recommendation

Councillor Shefman recommends:

THAT staff shall provide, by May 1, 2007, a report to the Committee of the Whole recommending appropriate policies and/or by-laws that will serve to eliminate the cosmetic use of chemical pesticides on public and private properties in the City of Vaughan;

And that an implementation plan be developed in conjunction with the policies and/or bylaws.

Economic Impact

Costs associated with City staff support and the production of educational material such as brochures, mailings and advertisements

Background – Analysis and Options

1. The protection of human health and the environment in our community is a fundamental value and a priority in Canadian society;
2. There is growing evidence that cosmetic pesticide use can either create or add to harmful health effects and detrimental environmental impacts;
3. The synergistic effects of the chemicals used for pesticide control is unknown;
4. The use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes is non-essential, protecting neither human nor animal health;
5. The House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development conducted an extensive, national review of the issue of cosmetic pesticide use and recommended that municipalities adopt a precautionary approach and seek to minimize or eliminate the cosmetic use of pesticides;
6. The Supreme Court of Canada in the Town of Hudson decision has upheld a municipality's right to enact control over pesticide application on public and private properties to protect the health and welfare of its residents;
7. On September 11, 2001 the City of Vaughan passed a resolution "that all Ward 4 and Ward 5 parks be pesticide free by December 2003". Over the past few years there has been a reduction in the amount of pesticide use throughout the City. As of 2005 all public lands city wide became pesticide free. Parks staff has implemented an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) program. Together with our Parks staff hard work and the increase in public awareness this pilot project was a great success.

Purpose

To prohibit the use of harmful pesticides used for cosmetic purposes on private property throughout the City of Vaughan.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Conclusion

The elimination of pesticides used for cosmetic purposes on private property is supportive of our goal of creating a healthy, vibrant community through the elimination of potential health risks and unnecessary exposure to pesticides

Attachments

none

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Alan Shefman