

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – DECEMBER 1, 2009**

### **LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO SUPPORT THE MOTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY GROUP RECOGNIZING THE ROLE CITIES CAN PLAY IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE - DECEMBER 7-17, 2009**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Manager recommends that:

1. This report be received for information purposes;
2. That Committee of the Whole authorize the preparation of a letter, for the signature of the Mayor and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee, to the Right Honourable Stephen Harper - Prime Minister of Canada, advising that the City of Vaughan supports the concepts set out in the submission of the Environmental Integrity Group regarding the role of cities in reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and that the Prime Minister be requested to instruct the Chief of Negotiations at the Copenhagen Conference to support the motion submitted by the Environmental Integrity Group.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

The Green Directions Vaughan Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan establishes the City's approach to achieving a more sustainable city. Greenhouse gas emissions and the resulting effects on the earth's climate are addressed in a number of action areas. Goal 1 of Green Directions is, "To significantly reduce our use of natural resources and the amount of waste we generate". Objective 1.1 provides that the City, "reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move toward carbon neutrality for the City of Vaughan's facilities and infrastructure." Supporting measures to increase the capacity of municipalities to address climate change issues at the local level is consistent with the intent of Green Directions.

#### **Economic Impact**

No economic impact is anticipated.

#### **Communications Plan**

A media release will be issued if required.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council direction on the request from Toronto Mayor David Miller for the City of Vaughan to write to Prime Minister Stephen Harper to ask that his government support the motion of the C40 Group of City's Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) at the upcoming Copenhagen Summit on climate change. The EIG motion calls for the recognition of the role, achievements and potential of cities in mitigating climate change; and that programs and resources be made available to continue and enhance the role of cities in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Background – Analysis and Options**

### **Background**

From December 7 to the 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change (15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) will be held to discuss measures to fight greenhouse gas emissions.

By letter dated November 25, 2009 to the Greater Toronto Area mayors, Toronto Mayor David Miller, in his capacity as Chair of the C40 Group of cities, advised that from December 14 to the 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the Copenhagen Summit for mayors will also be taking place. Over 100 municipalities are expected to attend to share their initiatives in the area of greenhouse gas reduction. While in Copenhagen, the C40 and other mayors will be calling on national governments to, "engage, empower and resource cities so they are able to achieve even more on behalf of all our residents."

Mayor Miller is requesting that the GTA municipalities join the C40 in supporting a resolution from the Environmental Integrity Group (EIG), which is made up of Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Monaco and Liechtenstein. It highlights the role cities play in fighting climate change and it has been submitted for formal negotiations at the Copenhagen Conference. The key recommendations include:

- a) Recognition of the role, achievements and potential of cities in addressing climate change – particularly in regard to mitigation.
- b) Recognition that strategic investments in low-carbon cities – such as providing cities access to national and international cooperation programs to combat climate change will result in reductions of greenhouse gas emissions as well as stronger national economies due to increased demand for innovation and green technologies, job creation and reduced energy costs.
- c) A suggestion that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change add a chapter on cities to its Working Group and Synthesis Reports.
- d) Encouragement for development of strategies, programs, projects and partnerships that focus on the ability of cities to respond and adapt to climate change and – wherever possible – to make major contributions to mitigation actions of national significance to meet national targets for greenhouse gas reductions.

By letter dated November 25, 2009, Mayor Miller is asking that the GTA municipalities write Prime Minister Harper to request that his government support the Environmental Integrity Group proposal in Copenhagen.

Mayor Miller's letter to the GTA mayors and to Prime Minister Harper form Attachments 1a and 1b to this report.

### **Conformity with City Policy - Green Directions**

The Environmental Integrity Group's submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Attachment 1c) provides a more detailed basis for the position being brought forward. It points out the vulnerability of cities and the potential role that urban areas have to play in climate change mitigation. A number of actions available to cities, either through direct delivery or as acting as a catalyst, are also

identified. All are addressed either in whole or in part by Green Directions or through the *Vaughan Tomorrow* program. Examples include:

- **Transport:** Greater use of public transit, use of more fuel efficient fleet vehicles;
- **Waste:** Promote waste reduction through reuse and recycling of resources;
- **Lighting:** Accelerate uptake of energy efficient LED and CFL lighting;
- **Renewable energy:** Encourage uptake of renewables, such as solar;
- **District heating:** Delivering heat and power through efficient energy networks;
- **Efficient water supply:** Boost water efficiency to reduce energy consumption from pumping;
- **Energy efficiency:** Promote efficient technologies and implement standards for energy efficiency for industrial and domestic systems and appliances;
- **Building sector:** Reduction of energy losses in heating and air conditioning, retrofitting, promotion of new development with a reduced carbon footprint.

In addition, it points out the role that cities can have in fostering behavioural change, sustainable procurement and the use of good planning practices to limit the carbon footprint of new development.

The submission concludes by inviting the parties to the convention (i.e. national governments) to support cities as actors on climate change mitigation and adaption through a number of means, including:

- Working with city leaders, who are well placed to support GHG emission reductions;
- Empowering cities with a supportive institutional framework;
- Provision of sufficient resources, including services and finance;
- Supporting the creation of GHG inventories and city-wide mitigation strategies;
- Encouraging knowledge exchange and benchmarking;
- Seeking the participation of cities when developing, formulating and implementing national climate change strategies.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

Taking action on climate change is consistent with the City's objectives to: "Lead and Support Environmental Sustainability" and "Demonstrate Leadership and Promote Effective Governance".

### **Regional Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Conclusion**

The work of the C40's Environmental Integrity Group addresses the role of cities in climate change mitigation from a broad international perspective. However, the themes it develops are applicable to the Canadian situation. They include:

- Cities are willing to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and many are actively doing so. In Vaughan, the City is implementing the Green Directions plan and completing the *Vaughan Tomorrow* program;
- The technologies and other means available to municipalities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are well known. Many of those identified in the EIG submission are being pursued by the City;

- To optimize on the potential for cities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the availability of funding, institutional and regulatory support needs to be in place; and
- Consultation, cooperation and the building of partnerships between the national, provincial and municipal governments will be key to addressing the problem of climate change.

Given the consistency of the submission with City policy, Council may respond positively to Mayor Miller's request that Vaughan ask that Prime Minister Harper support the submission of the Environmental Integrity Group at the Copenhagen Conference.

Should this be the case, it is recommended that Committee of the Whole authorize the preparation of a letter, for the signature of the Mayor and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee, to the Right Honourable Stephen Harper - Prime Minister of Canada, advising that the City of Vaughan supports the concepts set out in the submission of the Environmental Integrity Group regarding the role of cities in reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and that the Prime Minister be requested to instruct the Chief of Negotiations at the Copenhagen Conference to support the motion submitted by the Environmental Integrity Group.

#### **Attachments**

- 1 a) Letter from Mayor David Miller to GTA Mayors, November 25, 2009  
b) Letter from Mayor Miller to the Prime Minister of Canada, November 2, 2009  
c) Environmental Integrity Group Submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – October 8, 2009

#### **Report prepared by:**

Roy McQuillin, Manager of Corporate Policy

Respectfully submitted,

Clayton D. Harris  
City Manager



DAVID MILLER

November 25, 2009

Greater Toronto Area Mayors

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing you today in my capacity as the Chair of the C40 Group of cities leading the fight against climate change. World leaders will be meeting in Copenhagen from December 7 to December 18, 2009 for the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As leaders of large cities, we have an unprecedented opportunity to influence these discussions.

Across Canada, municipalities are leading the way on greenhouse gas reductions and showing how we must all fight climate change. The role of mayors will be highlighted in Denmark at the Copenhagen Summit for Mayors which will be taking place from December 14 to December 17. At this summit, more than 100 cities from around the world will showcase their major initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In Copenhagen, C40 and other mayors will be calling on national governments around the globe to engage, empower and resource cities so they we are able to achieve even more on behalf of all our residents.

I trust you can join me, as chair of the C40 Group, in supporting the text which has been submitted to the formal negotiations by the Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) – an alliance of Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Monaco and Liechtenstein. This submission highlights the valuable role cities are playing in the fight against climate change. Its key recommendations include:

- a) Recognition of the role, achievements and potential of cities in addressing climate change -- particularly in regard to mitigation.
- b) Recognition that strategic investments in low-carbon cities -- such as providing cities access with national and international cooperation programs to combat climate change -- will result in reductions in greenhouse gas emissions as well as stronger national economies due to increased demand for innovation and green technologies, job creation and reduced energy costs.
- c) A suggestion that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change add a chapter on cities to its Working Group and Synthesis Reports.



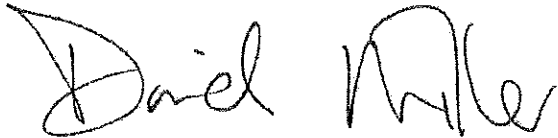
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- d) Encouragement for development of strategies, programs, projects and partnerships that focus on the ability of cities to respond and adapt to climate change and – wherever possible -- to make major contributions to mitigation actions of national significance to meet national targets for greenhouse gas reductions.

I am attaching a letter and the full EIG proposal that I sent to Prime Minister Stephen Harper. I ask you to please write the Prime Minister and request that his government support this proposal in Copenhagen.

Thank you in advance for your support on this issue.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor David Miller  
City of Toronto

Encl.

  
**DAVID MILLER**

November 2, 2009

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

As Chair of the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership group, an organization of the world's largest cities committed to tackling climate change, I want to bring your attention to a submission recently introduced into formal negotiations in advance of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change this December in Copenhagen.

An alliance of nations - Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Monaco and Liechtenstein - known collectively as the Environmental Integrity Group have proposed text that recognizes the important role that cities play in the fight against climate change.

I am attaching the proposal in full and respectfully ask that you direct your Chief of Negotiations to support the motion that has been tabled by the Environmental Integrity Group of nations.

The submission underlines that action-oriented city networks such as the C40 can provide strategic influence and deliver or act as catalyst for action in combating climate change. The proposal emphasizes the need for national governments to engage, empower and resource cities to reach the greenhouse gas reductions so necessary for the health of our planet and the long term well-being of our economy.

The key recommendations in the proposal are:

- a) To recognize the role, achievements and potential of cities in climate change, particularly regarding mitigation
- b) To recognize that strategic investments in low-carbon cities, such as providing cities access to national and international cooperation programs to combat climate change, will result in reductions in greenhouse gas emissions as well as stronger national economies due to increased demand for innovation and green technologies, the associated job creation, as well as reduced energy costs.



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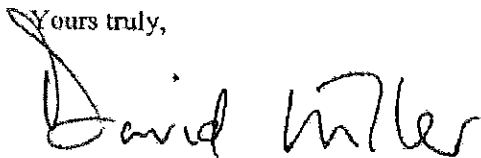
- e) To suggest that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change add a chapter on cities to its Working Group and Synthesis Reports.
- d) To encourage the development of strategies, programs, projects, and partnerships that focus on the ability of cities to respond and adapt to climate change, and to make major contributions to mitigation actions of national significance, contributing to meet -- where applicable - national targets for greenhouse gas reductions.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to share more information relating to this proposal, if your schedule permits. If your staff would like to discuss the proposal please have them contact either Jane Karwat (jkarwat@toronto.ca, 416-338-7130) or Mary MacDonald (mmacdon@toronto.ca, 416 338-7132) from my office.

Toronto City Council has directed staff to take action now to ensure we reach Toronto's target of 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions based on 1990 levels. I'm proud to say that in City of Toronto operations we have already obtained over 40 percent carbon reductions based on 1990 levels and we continue to work hard to achieve even more.

Climate Change is the issue of our time, perhaps of all time. As Mayor of Toronto, a city whose residents are deeply committed to fighting climate change, I strongly encourage you to be among the national leaders pushing for tough greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Yours truly,



Mayor David Miller  
City of Toronto



**Environmental Integrity Group (EIG): Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco and Switzerland****Submission to the UNFCCC / 8 October 2009****Cities and climate change**

Cities and urban areas - home to 50% of the world's population - are responsible for up to 75% of the global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. They cover less than one per cent of the earth's surface but 75% of all energy is consumed by the world's urban population. Several cities worldwide are already demonstrating leadership, taking responsibility for their GHG emissions and working towards their sustainability. In fact, a large number of cities have already put forward their own ambitious emission reductions targets achieving significant greenhouse gas reductions in many cases. Moreover, cities around the world have set networks and partnerships to join efforts on climate action. On this basis, we consider that cities can go even further if they have the right tools and support from their national governments, as well as from bilateral and multilateral cooperation programs under an enabling national and international framework.

Given that by 2030 it is expected that two thirds of the world population will live in urban areas, the cities' importance for combating climate change will even increase. Thereby, enhanced mitigation actions in the cities could play a pivotal role within the future framework of national appropriate mitigation actions in developed and developing countries, and in meeting national quantified emissions reduction targets for countries that have agreed such. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action under the Convention has included considerations on cities and climate change in several sections of its negotiating text. Those references reflect the acknowledgement of diverse Parties on the need of bringing the issue into focus.

Cities are also particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. The rapid pace of urbanization and the high concentration of population living in urban areas increase the overall vulnerability of cities to climate change. The location of many cities in high-risk zones contributes to enhancing their vulnerability to floods, heat waves, droughts and other potential climate and hydro-meteorological dangers. Local air pollution is affected by climate change, too. Further, in the case of cities in developing countries, the size and vulnerability of informal settlements, generally built in fragile areas, also increases the attention that cities must pay to adaptation as part of their development strategies.

Cities concentrate as well a vast quantity of resources, infrastructure and economic activity, that must be protected from climate impacts. The particular characteristics and features of urban areas demand tailored adaptation measures and strategies.

We recognize that adaptation and mitigation measures need to go hand in hand and that they mutually reinforce the opportunities and benefits of promoting climate action in urban areas.

### **The potential of cities to contribute to climate change action**

In many fields relevant for climate change action, cities are important as investors or regulators. This includes in particular the broad spectrum of municipal infrastructure where cities or pro-active city networks as C40 can provide strategic influence and deliver or act as catalysts for action:

- **Transport** - increase the use of public transport and ensure that transport is low or zero emission; establish smart traffic guidance systems which reduce congestion and ease access; establish incentives for better fuel performance and CO2 reduction in new vehicles, and for renewing the vehicular pool.
- **Waste** - pioneer energy from advanced waste management technologies such as anaerobic digestion and gasification in municipal landfills or sewage treatment plants; promote waste reduction through reuse and recycling of resources.
- **Lighting** - accelerate the uptake of energy efficient lighting in homes and on streets, such as CFLs and LED's (Light Emitting Diodes).
- **Renewable energy** - lead and encourage the uptake and use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, mini-hydro and biomass.
- **District heating** - develop modern highly efficient energy networks, delivering heat and power locally and improving energy security in places where these systems are needed and used.
- **Efficient water supply** - boost water efficiency through sharing best practices on efficient water supply systems and usage among cities, municipality and rural areas, thus reducing energy consumption for pumping.
- **Energy efficiency** - support environmentally sound technologies and promote energy-efficiency and co-generation in the industry as well as in public utilities; develop and implement standards on energy efficiency for industrial and domestic systems and appliances.
- **Building Sector** - reduce energy losses in heating or air condition across a city by retrofitting public, private and commercial buildings; foster policies that promote that new developments consider low carbon measures and technologies and in some cases even get carbon neutral.

Regarding **adaptation**, cities can develop sector and social vulnerability assessments considering the particular characteristics and features of urban areas, and favor the design and implementation of urban adaptation strategies as part of national climate change and development plans.

Moreover, cities can positively influence **behavioural change** – engaging citizens and entrepreneurs in reducing their carbon footprint. Cities can take up sustainability criteria in their procurement, thus implementing the concepts developed by the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Public Procurement.

All in all, cities have the unique opportunity to guide the **spatial development** (urban planning) and limit the carbon footprint of their economies. They can accelerate the move towards sustainable cities through strategic long term, integrated approaches, infrastructure investments and regulatory measures (enabling policy framework).

Many of the above mentioned fields do qualify for carbon finance – different CDM-methodologies exist. Nevertheless, it has proved difficult so far to develop CDM projects in many of those fields due to the barriers and constraints that the CDM currently faces. In this regard, it is necessary to improve the CDM and tailor methodologies to specific cities needs, and promote them amongst municipal authorities. So far, local authorities have been strongly under-represented as developers of CDM-projects.

This emphasizes the need for local capacity building and a better understanding between national governments and the cities on potential carbon mitigation projects that might exist. Targeted capacity building programmes like the World Bank's Carbon Finance Assist ([www.cfassist.org](http://www.cfassist.org)) help to address this issue.

#### **Motion**

The Environmental Integrity Group Invites the UNFCCC:

- a) To recognise the role, achievements and potential of cities in climate change action.
- b) To recognize that strategic investments in low-carbon cities, such as promoting cities access to national and international cooperation programmes to combat climate change, will result in reductions in greenhouse gas emissions as well as stronger national economies due to increased demand for innovation and green technologies, the associated job creation, as well as reduced energy costs.
- c) To suggest that the IPCC add a chapter on cities to its Working Group and Synthesis Reports.
- d) To encourage the development of strategies, programmes, projects, and partnerships that focus on the ability of cities to respond and adapt to climate change, and to make major contributions to mitigation actions of national significance, contributing to meet – where applicable - national targets for greenhouse gas reductions.

## **The role national governments**

Cities are already engaging in climate change action, but want to do more, as recently expressed in the "Seoul Declaration" of the 3rd C40 Large Cities Climate Summit (18-21 May 2009 in Seoul, Republic of Korea).

Now, Parties are invited to support their cities as actors of climate change mitigation and adaptation through the following means:

- 1) Engage closely with their city leaders, whose responsibility for critical services mean they are well placed to support the delivery of GHG emissions reductions. Cooperation is needed in many relevant fields such as the trade and investments framework, tariff setting (e.g. energy tariffs, feed-in tariffs) infrastructure planning (e.g. linking local and national transport systems), business regulations relevant for technology transfer.
- 2) Empower their cities through supportive framework conditions, in particular through an enabling policy framework, institutional cooperation and by lifting constraints to cities so that they can take action within cities to drive down GHG emissions.
- 3) Resource their cities so that they are equipped with the relevant tools, services and finance, including carbon finance, that will enable them to develop national appropriate mitigation actions, and to deliver on nationally agreed GHG reduction targets where such have been agreed.
- 4) Support cities in their effort to create GHG inventories and citywide mitigation and adaptation strategies with concrete climate change action plans.
- 5) Encourage knowledge exchange and benchmarking between cities on low-carbon strategies and adaptation plans, including city twinning arrangements. Establish an efficient communication and decision procedures between the DNA and the municipal administrations potentially engaged in climate change mitigation, and continuously increase efficiency and transparency of the DNA.
- 6) Seek systematic coordination and active participation of the cities – and other sub-national entities as appropriate – when developing, formulating and implementing national climate change strategies.