

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JUNE 1, 2010

**GREENING VAUGHAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2006-2010 TERM**

Recommendation

The Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee recommends:

That the following report be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

n/a

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact associated with this report.

Communications Plan

n/a

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the accomplishments of the Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee for the 2006-2010 Term.

Background – Analysis and Options

Established in 2007, the Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee has held an average of six meetings per year. The mandate of the Committee is as follows:

1. The Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee will explore strengths and weaknesses of waste management programs that have been implemented in other municipalities (i.e. Implementation plan, communications plan and operation);
2. Will receive deputations from the public relating to concerns and suggestions for improvement for the current program;
3. Will receive deputation from companies and organizations regarding innovations in the area of waste management that may be considered by the Committee for adaption or inclusion in the waste management operation of the City;
4. Work with the Region of York with respect to the interface between the roles of the City of Vaughan and the Region regarding waste management in the City of Vaughan;
5. Assist in the development and delivery of a comprehensive public education program relating to waste diversion programs, to the public, institutions, and the private sector in the City and internally with staff and Members of Council; and
6. Review necessary requirements for supplier services.

Council approved that all non-statutory committees submit to Committee of the Whole a summary of its accomplishments over the four (4) year term, prior to the expiry of the term. The attached contains a summary of the Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee's accomplishments for the term.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 20/20

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council by serving our citizens and promoting community safety, health and wellness.

Regional Implications

n/a

Conclusion

As directed by Council, the Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee's accomplishments are attached for Council's information.

Attachments

1. Greening Vaughan's Advisory Committee Accomplishments 2006 – 2010 Term

Report prepared by:

Gloria Hardychuk
Assistant City Clerk

Respectfully submitted by,

Councillor Alan Shefman, Chair
Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee

**GREENING VAUGHAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2006-2010 TERM**

ENVIRONMENT DAY EVENTS

- Supported a joint initiative between Parks and Public Works to hold four annual Environment Day events. The primary attractions at these events are the mulch give-away and waste container sales (i.e. blue box, green bin, backyard composters).

RECYCLING IN CITY PARKS

- Directed staff to enhance recycling efforts in City Parks.

GREENING VAUGHAN NEWSLETTER

- Provided input to staff for the newsletter on an ongoing basis.

WASTE REDUCTION WEEK IN CANADA

- Actively involved in recognizing the importance of promoting the Waste Reduction Week in Canada.
- Representatives to attend a future meeting of York Region Separate School Board regarding the issue.

RECYCLING PROGRAM / ACCOMMODATING LARGE FAMILIES

- Worked with staff on implementing the Greening Vaughan's education programs.
- Helped to develop a "large family" program to recognize the diversity of the families in the City and the extra support they may need to fully participate in the Greening Vaughan program. This included an on-site audit and education program for the residents. The "large family" policy was ultimately approved by Council.

PROMOTION AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES

- Directed staff to develop policies and practices to promote the collection by residents of items that qualify as standard household hazardous waste.

ELIMINATION OF SALES OF BOTTLED WATER IN ALL CITY OF VAUGHAN BUILDINGS

- Supported the initiative of eliminating the sale single-use plastic water bottles at all meetings and events sponsored by the City as of September 2008.

IMPACT DAY

- City staff participated in Impact Day annually, in cooperation with Deloitte & Touché.

RECYCLING IN CITY BUILDINGS

- Supported the new initiatives introduced by the Building and Facilities Department including disposal of all burned out fluorescent light bulbs at the hazardous waste facility, diverting them from general waste and providing organic waste from the Civic Centre and JOC cafeterias.

AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM

- Worked with Ms. Ashfa Chaudary of the Ahmadiyya community to introduce recycling and composting at their annual "Meena Bazaar", held in Vaughan. The event, and the waste diversion efforts were so well received, they trained others and implemented a similar program when the larger event was held in the City of Toronto.

"CALL2RECYCLE" PROGRAM

- Directed staff to initiate a program to provide recycling containers in selected City buildings to collect unwanted rechargeable batteries for recycling.

PARTICIPATION RATE SURVEY

- Reviewed participation rate studies performed by staff to ensure the Greening Vaughan program was working. Completed in the summer of 2007, a total of 7,200 residents were surveyed over a six week period to determine the rate of blue box and green bin usages.

EXTENSION OF GREENING VAUGHAN TO HIGH AND MEDIUM RISE BUILDINGS

- Regularly updated on the Waste Collection Design Standards Policy and the implementation process of the Waste Collection Design Standards Policy.
- Provided comments to staff regarding in-sink garbage disposal unit's pilot project, in cooperation with York Region, and the Bridgepoint Group.

REDUCE EXCESSIVE PACKAGING

- Brought forward a recommendation which was forwarded to all manufacturing companies residing in the City of Vaughan, to the Canadian Manufacturer's Association, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Premier of the Province of Ontario and to the Region of York and to Ontario Municipalities with a population over 100,000, urging them reduce packing for their products.

ELIMINATE THE USE OF PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS

- Raised awareness as to the need to prohibit the use of plastic shopping bags.
- A pilot project was launched, distributing 2500 reusable shopping bags to new residents.
- The pilot project was a success with positive feedback from the public, staff and other community members.
- October 13, 2009 Council approved to extend the reusable bag program for 2010.

LITTER AND RECYCLING IN PUBLIC AREAS

- Initiated a review of the policy regarding the placement of waste/trash/recycling receptacles in public areas, and requesting the establishment of criteria throughout the City with emphasis on encouraging residents to utilize recycling containers rather than trash bins.
- In consultation and in cooperation with York Region Transit and York Region to also provide various types of trash/recycling bins in the City of Vaughan.

"TRASH BUSTER" PILOT PROJECT

- Received information on the "Trash Busters" Pilot Project, facilitated and supported by the Solid Waste Management Division.