

**CANCELLED FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

**Recommendation**

The Chair of the Environmental Task Force recommends:

1. That the Council of the Corporation of the City of Vaughan express its great concern over the cancellation a vast range of programs, as identified below, supporting environmental protection;
2. That Council requests that the Federal Government fulfill its commitment to environmental protection by re-investing in effective environmental programs immediately;
3. THAT this report BE FORWARDED on to Federal Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Rona Ambrose; the Ontario Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Laurel C. Broten; the Honourable Maurizio Bevilacqua, MP, Vaughan; the Honourable Greg Sorbara, MPP, Vaughan-King-Aurora;
4. That this motion be circulated to Ontario municipalities requesting their support and action; and,
5. That this motion be sent to the FCM for their action.

**Economic Impact**

There are no requirements for new funding associated with this report.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Federal Government on the City of Vaughan's position of the cancellation of Federal environmental programs.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

Since the current Federal Government was elected, a number of key environmental programs aimed at increasing energy efficiency and mitigating the impacts of climate change, have been cancelled, and not replaced.

The EnerGuide for Houses Retrofit Incentive Program provided performance based grants to homeowners who made energy efficiency upgrades to their homes. This program has been in place since 1998 and has been providing the incentive for homeowners to make energy efficient upgrades to their homes. A newer program, the EnerGuide for Low Income Households paid for the full costs of energy efficiency upgrades to qualifying low income households. These two programs have been cancelled without replacement.

With no alternatives to these programs being provided by the Federal Government, the successes and potential environmental benefits of such programs are lost. These benefits include a reduction of energy consumption which reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, impacting on climate change. The Environmental Task Force of the City of Vaughan urges the Federal Government to re-instate the EnerGuide incentive programs, or similar programs immediately.

Fifteen (15) Federal programs related to mitigating the impacts of climate change have also been cancelled including the One-Tonne Challenge and are listed below:

1. Urban Transportation Showcase Program, Transport Canada  
The program showcased projects that demonstrated, evaluated and promoted cost-effective strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from passenger transportation in urban areas.
2. Concrete Roads Program, Natural Resources Canada  
This program was designed to raise awareness of the benefits of concrete roads for emissions reductions in the transportation sector.
3. Electricity Reduced Trade Barriers Part II, Natural Resources Canada  
This program assessed regulatory and economic issues related to inter-provincial electricity trade.
4. Electricity Reduced Trade Barriers Part III Consumer Information, Natural Resources Canada. This program provided an analysis and reporting of environmental information associated with electricity generation.
5. Environmental Supply Chain Management Pilot Project, Industry Canada  
This project was one of the industry cross-cutting measures to encourage Canadian industry to become more energy-efficient.
6. Feasibility of Afforestation for Carbon Sequestration Initiative, Natural Resources Canada. This initiative was designed to explore the feasibility of afforestation for carbon sequestration to help offset greenhouse gas emissions.
7. Federal House in Order Leadership Measures Built Environment, Natural Resources Canada. This program provided one-time demonstration funding for energy-efficient practices and renewable energy technologies in Government of Canada facilities.
8. Forest 2020 Plantation Demonstration Assessment, Natural Resources Canada  
This initiative was designed to explore options to attract investment in fast-growing tree plantations for carbon sequestration to help Canada offset its greenhouse gas emissions.
9. Off-road Vehicle and Equipment Initiative/ Off-road CO<sub>2</sub> Initiative, Environment Canada  
This initiative examined a series of tools to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from off-road vehicles and equipment such as lawnmowers, power boats, mining trucks, bulldozers, snowmobiles and farm tractors.
10. On-Site Generation at Federal Facilities, Natural Resources Canada  
This program promoted the adoption of renewable energy technologies for on-site electricity generation in federal operations.
11. Pilot Emission Removals, Reductions and Learnings Initiative, Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada  
This initiative provided Canadian companies and organizations with an economic incentive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through projects in areas such as methane emissions from landfills, renewable energy and carbon sinks. Through this initiative, the Government of Canada purchased greenhouse gas emissions reductions and removals from qualified projects on a lowest-cost-per-tonne basis.
12. Market Incentive Program, Natural Resources Canada  
The program was intended to encourage electricity marketers in competitive markets to offer customers the choice of purchasing green power.

13. One-Tonne Challenge, Natural Resources Canada and Environment Canada  
This program encouraged individual Canadians to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent or one tonne.
14. Studies and Monitoring for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program, Natural Resources Canada. This program was designed to increase knowledge of emissions-reduction opportunities.
15. Opportunities Envelope, Natural Resources Canada and Environment Canada  
This program provided funding for cost-shared emissions-reducing projects with the provinces and territories.

The Environmental Task Force of the City of Vaughan is concerned about the cumulative effects of the cancellation of Federal programs related to mitigating the impacts of climate change, and the lack of commitment to new programs as promised by the Federal Government. The Federal Government is urged to fulfill its commitment to a "Made-in-Canada" approach to the Kyoto Protocol and re-invest in related programs immediately.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities set forth in Vaughan Vision 2007, particularly 'A-3', "Safeguard Our Environment".

#### **Conclusion**

The Federal Government has cancelled a number of key environmental programs, without replacement. The Environmental Task Force is concerned about the cumulative effects of the cancellation of these programs, and urges the Federal Government to fulfill its commitment to environmental protection by re-investing in effective environmental programs immediately.

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

Joyce Frustaglio, Chair of Environmental Task Force

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Frustaglio  
Regional Councillor  
Chair of Environmental Task Force

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