

Appendix B: Showcase Vaughan: Some of Vaughan's Current Environmental Initiatives

LAND

WHAT'S GOING ON IN VAUGHAN?

A partial list of current initiatives at the City of Vaughan, current as of April 2009

New Official Plan - The City's new Official Plan is underway; it will be compliant with Provincial policy statements, *Places to Grow*, the Green Belt Plan, and will have an emphasis on transit supportive development.



Energy Star for all new residential construction - Council has adopted the Energy Star Program for use in all new residential construction through the application of conditions of draft plan of subdivision approval and through site plan approval for low rise residential development.

Block 39 - In September 2006, Council approved eight subdivision plans for 1000+ Energy Star homes.

Woodlot Protection/ Acquisition Strategy - A proactive strategy for woodlot protection and acquisition of almost 300 acres of major woodlot resources within the City of Vaughan.

Four Tree Protection By-laws to protect trees on public and private property - By-law 95-2005 & By-law TR-004-2005-036; 185-2007 & 205-200.

Asian Long-Horned Beetle Strategy - Removal and re-planting of non-host trees to protect urban forests.



Master Landscape Plan for the Valleyland Open Space - The overall Master Plan includes an accessible asphalt /granular trail system, a prefabricated metal pedestrian bridge over the Humber River, woodland, riparian and wetland restoration areas, including appropriate species recommended planting.

Heritage Conservation Districts - Conservation, protection and promotion of Vaughan's built heritage, natural environment and cultural history, including current and past archival, architectural and archaeological artifacts.



Other initiatives include: Communities in Bloom, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, and Green Streets.

WASTE

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Greening Vaughan - Greening Vaughan is a multi-phased (3) waste management plan aimed at diverting waste from landfill. The objective of this initiative is to achieve a minimum of 60% diversion from landfill by 2008 through reductions in bag limits, blue box and green bin programs, comprehensive communications plan.



Comprehensive Green Purchasing Policy - Finance department reviewing opportunities to incorporate environmental strategies into the City's procurement policy.

Reusable shopping bag pilot - City has partnered with Powerstream to print 2500 reusable bags to deliver environmental, energy, library, etc. information to residents.

20-Minute Makeover - A highly successful annual community clean up event.

Reusable Bottles for Fitness Centre users - A pilot program to provide reusable bottles to Fitness Centre members at the Al Paladini Community Centre to reduce use of PET bottles.

GreenTalk\$ - City hosted an environmental business breakfast as a part of the excess packaging strategy.

Vaughan Manufacturers Sustainability Program - City of Vaughan works with Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement on the Vaughan Manufacturers Sustainability Program - pollution prevention.

Elimination of single-use plastic water bottles in municipal buildings - Currently, single-use plastic bottles are no longer used in municipal meetings and staff are investigating eliminating sale and use of bottled water more broadly across the corporation.

Other initiatives include: leaf and yard waste pick-up, backyard composting, mulch give away and enhanced recycling at recreational facilities.



WATER

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Stormwater management pond at Vaughan's Joint Operations Centre, 2800 Rutherford Road.

Comprehensive Stormwater and Drainage Plan for erosion control, sediment removal, aesthetics, odour prevention, channel repair.

Stormwater Management Retrofit Study - A long term strategy to implement storm water quality/quantity and erosion controls within the existing urbanized areas of the City.

Lead-free Water Meters - To comply with Health Canada recommendations and replace old, inefficient meters.

Clean Water Collection System- Protects surface and groundwater sources, increase infiltration of groundwater.

Oakbank Pond Restoration - To restore health and function to pond, diversify habitat.

Municipal Tap Water - In spring 2009 the City received a 100.0% rating of its municipal drinking water systems during an inspection by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The City promotes the consumption of municipal tap water.

Other initiatives include the Outdoor Water Use By-law and Standing Water By-law.

ENERGY AND AIR

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Vaughan's new Civic Centre is slated for Gold LEED certification

New Civic Centre - Slated for Gold LEED certification. Will be approximately 30% more energy efficient and can serve as demonstration project for green technology.

Joint Fire/ EMS Station (Scott Somerville Station) - Achieved LEED Gold certification.

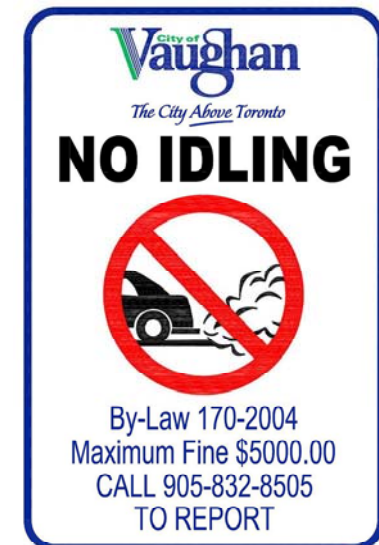
Many fleet initiatives to save fuel - Currently fleet uses 10% ethanol enhanced fuel; there is one hybrid car the city's fleet; two Smart Cars were purchased June 2007, etc.

Employee Trip Reduction Program (ETR) - City of Vaughan has undertaken an ETR program for employees.

Demand Response Program - Short term reduction of energy use during peak periods to improve efficiency, ensure adequate energy and will result in savings.

Anti-Idling By-law - Fines for idling, with a focus on education and awareness. In 2009, the City of Vaughan began new education program geared towards the community, schools and staff including a series of events, a poster contest for students and a partnering with local environmental groups to raise awareness of air quality issues.

Smart Commute - North Toronto Vaughan - The City of Vaughan works with Smart Commute to promote transportation demand management (improve air quality, reduce traffic congestion) to businesses.



Powerstream Residential Programs - A variety of programs to promote conservation and energy-efficiency to residential users.

Watt Meters - Vaughan Public Library (in partnership with Powerstream) has 105 Watt Meters available for loan free of charge for measuring energy consumption and promoting community awareness of energy. Other initiatives at the VPL include: Access Kyoto Collection, canvas bags, power saving options on computers, recycling paper products and the planting of perennial gardens.

GTA Clean Air Council/Smog Summit - Vaughan is signatory and has committed to exploring air quality improvement initiatives.

Alliance for Resilient Cities - The City of Vaughan has joined the Alliance for Resilient Cities (ARC), a network of various government, research and non-governmental organizations that work directly on climate change impacts, adaptation and resilience and share information, resources and best practises through the ARC webinar series.

Other initiatives include the installation of programmable thermostats in city buildings and LED traffic signal replacement.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

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Active Together - Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, Culture and Libraries: Identifies current facilities and examines the need for future faculties and programs. It is being prepared concurrently with the Vaughan Tomorrow Growth Management Strategy.

The City has a number of socially- and culturally-related Advisory Committees including:

- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- City of Vaughan Non-Profit Housing Corporation
- Heritage Vaughan
- Accountability and Transparency Committee
- Community Equity and Diversity Committee
- Safe City Committee
- Vaughan Public Library Board
- Arts Advisory Committee
- Vaughan Youth Cabinet



The **Recreation and Culture Department** is committed to providing individuals, families and communities with quality leisure, culture and recreational experiences and opportunities in a fair and equitable way. The City of Vaughan operates many community centres, fitness centres, swimming pools, splash pads, parks and trails, sports fields, and a number of heritage buildings located across the city.

Schools In Bloom Program - The Schools In Bloom Program is an extension of the Communities in Bloom Program fostering civic pride, encouraging environmental responsibility, and beautification through community participation and friendly competition.

The **City of Vaughan Art Exhibition + Studio Space Rental Program** “is a 3-year pilot initiative that has been developed to provide artists, cultural and heritage groups with access to a number of City-owned heritage buildings and their surrounding grounds for self-generated cultural programs and activities.” Includes J.E.H. MacDonald House, Armstrong House and Vellore Cultural Interpretive Centre. (Source: http://www.city.vaughan.on.ca/culture_recreation/art_exhibition_space.cfm)

The **City Watch Program** is “in place to enhance community safety and put more ‘eyes’ on the roads, all City Fleet vehicles will now carry Road Watch forms. Staff will fill out these forms whenever they observe unsafe, dangerous or aggressive driving practices on our roads.” (Source: http://www.city.vaughan.on.ca/vaughan/events_calendar.cfm)

ECONOMIC

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Economic Sectors Strategy Study supports the Vaughan Tomorrow program by identifying the employment sectors that the City should be pursuing over the next 25 years to ensure a strong employment base and balanced assessment.

The **Economic & Technology Development Department** focuses on “the retention and expansion of existing businesses in Vaughan. Efforts such as our Business Expansion Program, Business Seminars, and Strategic Alliances are geared at helping local companies to “grow” their business.” (Source: <http://www.city.vaughan.on.ca/business/services/index.cfm>)

Vaughan Manufacturers Sustainability Program: The city is a partial funder and supporter of this program whereby “[m]anufacturers with fewer than 500 employees at any one facility are eligible to have a multi-media pollution prevention assessment undertaken by a pre-qualified pollution prevention consultant from

OCETA's roster. The consultant will identify the root causes of priority pollutants and wastes, and recommend improvements in technology, processes and the operating practices for the facility.”

Vaughan Business Enterprise Centre (VBEC) is a one-stop source of assistance for new and existing business owners. (Source: <http://www.centrebusiness.com>)

International Partnership Program creates an opportunity for local businesses and residents to tap into the international market. Vaughan has partnerships with the Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance and communities around the world to foster both cultural and economic relations.