

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2014

Item 8, Report No. 14, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 8, 2014, as follows:

By approving the recommendation set out in Communication C4 from the Commissioner of Finance & City Treasurer and the Commissioner of Strategic and Corporate Services, dated April 4, 2014, as follows:

THAT the funding requests associated with the Greenhouse Gas Emission Community Action Plan (CAP) be considered as part of future budget processes and in consideration with all citywide funding requests.

8

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Strategic and Corporate Services, dated March 25, 2014:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the Manager of Environmental Sustainability recommend:

1. That the City of Vaughan adopt the Greenhouse Gas Emission Community Action Plan (CAP); and
2. That the actions stages of implementing the CAP be initiated and the opportunities identified within the CAP be further evaluated for financial and operational commitments; and
3. That the CAP be revisited for continual improvement opportunities and reported on annually as per the FCM Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program requirements; and
4. That the City of Vaughan leverage the CAP to initiate the development of a Municipal Energy Plan.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in *Green Directions Vaughan*, the Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan:

- Goal 1, Objective 1.2: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through actions such as working with the community to develop a local action plan.

The City of Vaughan is committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to climate change and which adversely affect local air quality. To this end, the City of Vaughan has joined the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program - a voluntary five-milestone framework used to guide municipalities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Demonstrating leadership in climate change mitigation at the municipal level is vital as it raises the importance of this global environmental issue within the community and works to encourage local climate action.

The purpose of a Greenhouse Gas Emission Community Action Plan (CAP) is to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from community sources in the City of Vaughan. The CAP identifies clear goals, short, medium and long term actions, high level cost estimates, emission reduction targets, and implementation recommendations - all designed to mitigate climate change impacts at the local level.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2014

Item 8, CW Report No. 14 – Page 2

Economic Impact

Through the RFP process (RFP13-266), the City of Vaughan secured the consulting services of Lura Consulting in July of 2013 to assist with the development of the CAP. The fee \$43,934.40 was partially supported through FCM's Green Municipal Fund.

The CAP outlines a numbers of actions and additional opportunities to reduce GHG from community sources. The nine actions proposed have been initiated or are currently underway. The City of Vaughan has provided in-kind support and approximately \$ 200,000 to support the nine actions proposed under the CAP. Should there be additional costs associated with the City's participation in any of the nine identified actions or additional opportunities, staff will prepare a report to Council outlining the associated costs, and seek approval, prior to implementing one or more of the initiatives; however, there is no immediate requirement for additional funds for either the actions or opportunities.

It is anticipated that GHG reductions in the Vaughan community will produce multiple quantifiable and qualitative economic, social and environmental benefits. As many GHG emission reductions can be achieved through actions supporting energy efficiency and conservation, efforts in this area will provide energy cost savings to the public as well as to the commercial, institutional and industrial sectors as energy efficient technologies are applied and overall energy usage is reduced. Efforts for energy efficiency and conservation will also positively impact local businesses.

Communications Plan

The Environmental Sustainability Office will work directly with Corporate Communications staff on a news release announcing the Greenhouse Gas Emission Community Action Plan and its key aspects, and the timing and content of any broader messaging for the community. The Environmental Sustainability area of the City of Vaughan's website will highlight the Community Action Plan and any and all community engagement opportunities.

Additionally, progress achieved will be shared with the FCM PCP program administrators and will be communicated to the network of all PCP participating members and associated stakeholders.

This is consistent with Goal 5 of *Green Directions Vaughan* "To be leaders in advocacy and education on sustainability issues" where "Vaughan is committed to sharing its successes with the community".

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval of the Greenhouse Gas Emission Community Action Plan and to seek continued approval to move forward with implementing recommended actions.

Background - Analysis and Options

Municipal governments are taking action on climate change, and rightly so: communities are the places we live, work, and play; and the effects of climate change will be most acutely felt at the local level. In addition, it is estimated that up to half of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions are under the direct or indirect control of municipal governments.

In May 2011, Council passed a resolution to commit to achieve the milestones set in the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) five-milestone framework. The benefits of participating in the PCP program include improving energy tracking and management, identifying where environmental

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2014

Item 8, CW Report No. 14 – Page 3

impact is originating and highlighting which areas of reduction will have the largest impact with minimal associated cost and work effort.

PCP is the Canadian component of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability Cities for Climate Protection network, which involves more than 900 communities worldwide. Since the program's inception in 1998, 254 Canadian municipalities have joined PCP, making a public commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These members cover all provinces and territories, and account for more than 80% of the Canadian population. As part of the PCP National Measures Report, the progress of over 800 local emissions reductions efforts between 2008 and 2012 has been monitored. These projects have accounted for more than \$2.3 billion in investments by local governments and have resulted in over 1.8 million tonnes of GHG reductions.

In May 2013, the Environmental Sustainability Office presented the corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions, the initial milestone or requirement of the PCP program. The 2008 corporate GHG inventory was 13,995 tonnes/year and the 2006 community inventory was 1,695,612 tonnes/year. The community GHG inventory consists of residential, institutional, commercial, industrial, transportation, and solid waste sectors.

Target Setting and Action Planning

The two subsequent milestones of the PCP program have been initiated: working to set an emissions reduction target; and developing a local action plan to reduce GHG emissions (Attachment 1).

An emissions reduction target is expressed as a percentage reduction below the quantity of emissions released in the baseline year. In the case of the City of Vaughan's community greenhouse gas inventory, the baseline year is 2006 – the year for which the most comprehensive data set was available.

The emissions reduction target provides a goal against which to monitor progress. PCP has established a recommended reduction target of 6% below the baseline year for community emissions. PCP has recommended that this reduction target be reached within 10 years of a municipal government joining the program. However, each jurisdiction has the flexibility to develop targets which are appropriate for the community's particular circumstances. Through discussions held with the 40 + member community steering committee, a targeted reduction of 20% per capita below the 2006 baseline year by 2026 has been proposed.

The local action plan is a strategic document that outlines how the municipality will achieve its community GHG emissions reduction target. Key components include seeking public input, and documenting expected results, actions and implementation strategies. From September 2013 to January 2014 the Environmental Sustainability Office worked towards developing this comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from community sources. Seeking valuable input and expertise, proposed actions and implementation concepts, the Environmental Sustainability Office engaged a wide variety of local stakeholders - from businesses to community groups to engaged citizens – to help craft a strategic "made-in-Vaughan" approach to tackling climate change.

Community engagement efforts included the following:

- **Stakeholder Steering Committee.** A Stakeholder Steering Committee of approximately 40 individuals representing over 30 different businesses, institutions, and non-profit organizations operating in the Vaughan area were engaged. Meeting approximately once a month between September 2013 and January 2014, the Steering Committee helped to: guide and refine the vision and goals of this GHG emission reduction effort; draft 85+ sector-specific GHG reduction targets, and; outline a community implementation plan.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2014

Item 8, CW Report No. 14 – Page 4

- **Community Forum and Online IdeaScale.** In November 2013 an open Community Forum was held at Vaughan City Hall to engage members of the general public in community action planning to reduce GHG emissions. The Forum was co-hosted with the Natural Heritage Network Study. Members of the public were invited to get involved, share opinions and ideas, learn more about the two projects and how they both relate to the larger Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan, and to ask the project teams questions in smaller breakout sessions. Following the open Community Forum, the public was encouraged to continue to offer their thoughts, opinions and ideas on the 85+ proposed sector-specific GHG reduction actions online via IdeaScale – an online idea-sharing platform designed to capture community expertise and innovations.
- **Community Face-to-Face.** In early January 2014, representatives from Lura Consulting and the Environmental Sustainability Office conducted face-to-face and online surveys with members of the general public at the Al Palladini Community Centre and at the Pierre Berton Resource Library. These surveys were designed to enhance the awareness and understanding of the Greenhouse Gas Emission Community Action Plan and to initiate dialogue and solicit feedback on actions that the community could take to reduce climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions.

Community engagement efforts also involved social media through Twitter and Facebook postings as well as a community wide Twitter conversation on November 16, 2013. The input gathered from these community engagement and feedback initiatives contributed to the content, goals and action items outlined in the Greenhouse Gas Emission Community Action Plan (Attachment 1).

In late August 2013, the Ministry of Energy announced funding to support the development of Municipal Energy Plans. A Municipal Energy Plan (MEP) is a comprehensive long term plan to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption and GHG developed within the context of the built environment, land use planning, growth planning and generation and transmission infrastructure. Given that several components of the MEP process overlapped those of the CAP process, from an efficiency perspective, it made sense to determine if our CAP could be leveraged. The MEP results in a comprehensive energy plan that fosters a culture of conservation, considers the impact of future growth and options for local clean energy generation and supports economic development by better meeting local energy needs. The MEP will allow the City of Vaughan to integrate energy planning into the secondary plan process and help develop longer term energy strategies. On Feb 21, the Ministry of Energy confirmed funding support to fully complete the Municipal Energy Plan. The City of Vaughan will be one of the first municipalities to leverage its CAP into a MEP and provide an example to other jurisdictions looking to accomplish this in the future.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the City's strategic objective to lead and promote environmental sustainability.

Green Directions Vaughan is a component of Vaughan Tomorrow - the City's comprehensive growth management program which is mandated by the City's strategic plan, *Vaughan Vision 2020*. It consists of four linked elements which identify and address the ongoing challenges and opportunities that will shape the future of the City of Vaughan.

Regional Implications

By identifying impactful and cost effective actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the community, Vaughan will demonstrate regional leadership in working to combat

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2014

Item 8, CW Report No. 14 – Page 5

climate change. Resulting activities could include transportation demand management, energy demand management, waste diversion, and ecosystem and water conservation activities. These initiatives have potential to positively impact the economic, social and environment sustainability of the region.

Conclusion

Through a wide range of initiatives, the City of Vaughan has already demonstrated its commitment to sustainability. As recommended in *Green Directions Vaughan*, Objective 1.2, the City of Vaughan aims to *promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the City of Vaughan* through actions such as working with the community to develop a Greenhouse Gas Emission Community Action Plan (CAP) and an associated emission reduction target. The Plan sets a target for reducing community GHG emissions by 20% per capita below the 2006 baseline year by 2026. The CAP outlines a number of actions and additional opportunities to reduce GHG emissions at home, at work and as we move. The nine actions under the CAP will result in approximately 482,000 tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide measures (eCO₂) by 2026 which is the equivalent of taking over 100,000 cars off of the road each year. The CAP was developed through a collaborative and stakeholder driven process which was highlighted by a 40 member steering committee stakeholder group, a community forum, an on-line idea sharing platform, a community tweet-up and face-face community outreach at a community centre. The CAP is being leveraged to generate a Municipal Energy Plan through funding support from the Ontario Ministry of Energy. By committing to working with the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the City of Vaughan will be able to demonstrate leadership as a strong environmental steward, working to combat climate change. In this, it is important for the City of Vaughan to continue to make progress towards addressing the issue of climate change through the completion of milestones two and three of the five-milestone framework of the PCP program.

Attachments

1. Greenhouse Gas Emission Community Action Plan

Report prepared by:

Chris Wolnik, Manager of Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8633
Tracy Wright, Sustainability Coordinator, ext. 8426

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)