

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2013

Item 18, Report No. 23, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 4, 2013.

18 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION – PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Strategic and Corporate Services, dated May 21, 2013:

Recommendation

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

1. That the City of Vaughan corporate and community greenhouse gas inventory be received for informational purposes; and
2. That the stages of emission reduction target setting and local action planning be initiated as per the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program which Council committed to in May 2011.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the *Green Directions Vaughan*, 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 emissions that contribute to climate change and which adversely affect the local air quality. The PCP program is a five-milestone framework used to guide municipalities to reduce GHG emissions. Demonstrating leadership in climate change mitigation at a municipal level is vital as it raises the importance of this global environmental issue within the community.

Economic Impact

Work to date compiling the corporate and community greenhouse gas inventory has been completed using internal staff time. Existing staff within the Environmental Sustainability business unit utilized past experience compiling GHG inventories to complete this effort. Financial support has been secured through the 2013 budget cycle for consultant support to develop an action plan for reducing GHG emissions at the community and corporate level. It is anticipated that support from FCM's Green Municipal Fund will be in place to assist with the completion of milestones two and three involving target setting and action planning.

Communications Plan

A separate communications plan is not required at this time. Greenhouse gas reduction activities are currently tracked as part of the annual implementation updates for actions 1.2.3-1.2.5 of *Green Directions Vaughan*. As with previous implementation updates, Environmental Sustainability works with Corporate Communications to issue a News Release highlighting key updates including those related to GHG emission reductions. As we move forward with developing a local action plan for GHG emissions, Corporate Communications will be consulted as community outreach will be a key component. 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".

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2013

Item 18, CW Report No. 23 – Page 2

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of addressing the early milestones of the FCM Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program and seek approval to move forward with the next phases, target setting and local action planning.

Background - Analysis and Options

Canadian municipalities can greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are harmful to the environment. Up to half of Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are under the direct or indirect control or influence 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 impact is originating and highlighting which areas of reduction will have the largest impact with the least effort.

PCP is the Canadian component of ICLEI-Local Government for Sustainability Cities for Climate Protection network, which involves more than 900 communities worldwide. Since the program's inception in 1998, 223 Canadian municipalities have joined PCP, making a public commitment to reduce emissions. These members cover all provinces and territories, and account for more than 80% of the Canadian population.

Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory

The first milestone of the PCP program involves developing a baseline of emissions, which is required to accurately set targets, identify milestones and measure improvements. A greenhouse gas inventory brings together data on community and municipal energy use and solid waste generation in order to estimate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in a given year. The inventory consists of a community inventory including residential, institutional, commercial, industrial, transportation, and solid waste sectors as well as a corporate inventory including municipal facilities and operations, including buildings, street lighting, water and wastewater treatment, municipal fleet, and corporate and/or community solid waste. As PCP member, the City of Vaughan was able to use the methodology and emissions calculations support provided by the PCP Secretariat. Attachment 1 presents the City of Vaughan's community and corporate greenhouse gas emissions baseline inventory for 2006 and 2008, respectively.

When selecting the data used to prepare the inventories, a number of guiding principles were followed including compiling the inventories as accurately as possible to help inform subsequent PCP milestone phases, applying consistency throughout the inventorying process to enable comparability between inventory years, compiling inventories as cost effectively as possible and ensuring the inventories are verifiable.

The accuracy of an emissions inventory is heavily dependent on the data inputs to calculate the emissions. In both the City of Vaughan community and corporate GHG inventories, real consumption data was utilized wherever possible. Census data helped to develop some of the community numbers. Only in a very limited number of occasions were activity estimates used to generate a component of the inventory.

Discussions with Building and Facilities occurred to make them aware of the importance of facility level energy data in establishing baseline emission levels. Work to execute initiatives within the PCP program will be linked to existing initiatives. For example, action planning on corporate GHG emissions will be strongly linked to requirements under O. Regulation 397/11 to develop facility level energy management plans. Facility energy audits which are expected to be completed at 28 Vaughan facilities in Q3/2013 will also be incorporated into action planning for corporate GHG emission reductions.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2013

Item 18, CW Report No. 23 – Page 3

Target Setting and Action Planning

Two subsequent phases of the PCP program are ready to be initiated aimed at setting an emissions reduction target and developing a local action plan.

An emissions reduction target is expressed as a percentage reduction below the quantity of emissions released in the baseline year. The emissions reduction target provides a goal against which to monitor progress. PCP has established typical reduction targets however it entirely up to the municipality to develop targets which are appropriate for their particular circumstances.

The local action plan is a strategic document that outlines how the municipality will achieve its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target. It covers City operations and the community. Key components include seeking public input, and documenting expected results, actions and implementation strategies. Again, an effort should be made to link the local action plan to existing GHG reduction actions outlined in other documents such as the Official Plan or the Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the 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 greenhouse gas emissions sources throughout the community, Vaughan will be able to cost effectively undertake initiatives to reduce GHG emissions from corporate and community sources. Resulting activities could include transportation demand management, energy demand management, reforestation initiatives 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 by Green Directions, Objective 1.1, the City of Vaughan aims *to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move towards carbon neutrality for the City of Vaughan's facilities and infrastructure*. By committing to measure, reduce and report on emissions from corporate and community activities, the City of Vaughan will be able to demonstrate leadership in the community as a strong environmental steward. It is important for the City of Vaughan to continue to make progress addressing the issue of climate change emissions by completing the milestones defined by the PCP program.

Attachments

1. Greenhouse Gas Community and Corporate Inventory

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(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.)