

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2015

Item 31, Report No. 35, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on October 20, 2015.

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CLEAN AIR COUNCIL 2015 - 2018 INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DECLARATION ON CLEAN AIR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager Planning & Growth Management and the Director of Policy Planning & Environmental Sustainability, dated October 7, 2015:

Recommendation

The Deputy City Manager Planning & Growth Management and the Director of Policy Planning & Environmental Sustainability recommend:

1. That the City of Vaughan continue to be a signatory to the Clean Air Council 2015 - 2018 Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change.

Contribution to Sustainability

The City of Vaughan is committed to reducing emissions that contribute to climate change and that adversely affect the local air quality. This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in *Green Directions Vaughan*, the Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan:

- Objective 1.1 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move towards carbon neutrality for the City of Vaughan's facilities and infrastructure; and
- Objective 5.1 to share sustainable best practices and ideas between and among municipal staff and the community.

Economic Impact

There is no immediate economic impact. All of the actions and targets are consistent with the current scope and approved funding for the implementation of *Green Directions Vaughan* approved by Council in 2009 and the Greenhouse Gas Emission Community Action Plan approved by Council in 2014.

Communications Plan

The Clean Air Partnership, the organization that administers the Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council (GTA-CAC), will be posting the 2015 - 2018 Intergovernmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change on their website. The Declaration will be referenced on the partnerships page under Environmental Sustainability on the City of Vaughan website.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to continue to commit the City of Vaughan's support for undertaking meaningful actions to address air quality and climate change.

Background - Analysis and Options

The GTA-CAC is made up of 26 local and regional governments in the Greater Toronto Area and more recently in Southwestern Ontario, along with representatives from the provincial and federal

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governments. The City of Vaughan is a member municipality. The GTA-CAC promotes the reduction of air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions and increased awareness of regional air quality and climate change issues through the collective efforts of all levels of government. The GTA-CAC regularly reports back on the progress being made to address these issues. The Clean Air Partnership, an environmental non-governmental organization based in Toronto, provides secretariat and administrative support to the GTA-CAC.

2015 - 2018 Clean Air Council Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change

The GTA-CAC has been working collaboratively since 2001 to deliver GTA-CAC Inter-governmental Declarations. The Declaration outlines a statement of common understanding in the form of actions and targets as well as a progress update for ongoing work on commitments made in previous declarations as well as any new commitments.

The actions in the Declarations are identified and prioritized by member jurisdictions. Internal staff from the City of Vaughan collaborated to help determine these priorities. The GTA-CAC takes the individual jurisdiction prioritizations to develop the final Declaration. The 10 priority actions in the 2015 – 2018 Declaration will be signed off by all 26 members of the GTA-CAC in an effort to develop healthy, lower carbon, and sustainable communities.

By showing support for the 2015 - 2018 Declaration in the form of a recognition letter (Attachment 1), the City of Vaughan demonstrates its commitment to continued collaboration across the region to undertake action on clean air and climate change issues.

The 2015 - 2018 Clean Air Council Inter-governmental Declaration is found in Attachment 2.

City of Vaughan Clean Air and Climate Change Actions

The City of Vaughan continues to meet the targets and actions outlined in previous Declarations through various initiatives including the implementation of *Green Directions Vaughan*, the Greenhouse Gas Emission Community Action Plan, the Transportation Master Plan, the Green Fleet Strategy, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, transportation demand management activities, green building commitments, energy efficiency projects and various other clean air and climate change initiatives. Other commitments already confirmed by Council such as participation in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection and Energy Management Planning mandated by the Province of Ontario will also assist the City in addressing targets and actions.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the Vaughan Vision 20/20 strategic goal of providing service excellence to citizens and the strategic objective to lead and promote environmental sustainability. This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

The Regional Municipality of York is also a member municipality of the GTA-CAC and is actively pursuing actions and targets addressed in the Declaration.

Conclusion

The GTA-CAC is made up of 26 local and regional governments as well as provincial and federal government representatives. The 2015 - 2018 Clean Air Council Inter-governmental Declaration

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on Clean Air and Climate Change outlines a common understanding of actions and targets, a progress update on the commitments made in previous years as well as new commitments as agreed to by members of the of the GTA-CAC. By signing the Declaration, the City of Vaughan shows its commitment to continued collaboration across the region to undertake action on clean air and climate change issues.

Attachments

1. City of Vaughan Clean Air Council 2015 Recognition Letter
2. Clean Air Council 2015 – 2018 Inter-governmental Declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change

Report prepared by

Kailyn Smith, Sustainability Coordinator, ext 8941

(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.)