

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MARCH 22, 2011**

### **PARTICIPATION IN PARTNERS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION**

#### **Recommendation**

The City Manager and the Manager of Environmental Sustainability, in consultation with the Commissioner of Community Services and Director of Building and Facilities, recommend that:

1. The resolution set out as Attachment 1 to this report be adopted, and that Council commit to achieve the milestones set in the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) five-milestone framework;,
2. The Manager of Environmental Sustainability register as a member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) program.
3. The City Clerk be requested to advise the Partners for Climate Protection Program accordingly .

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

The City has indicated its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute as outlined in Green Directions Vaughan, the community sustainability and environmental master plan. Action 1.2.3 states that City promotes reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by identifying and working with partners to evaluate the community's greenhouse gas emissions (PCP Milestone 1).

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. The five-milestone process, which outlines emissions from Corporate and Community sources, and provides an outline for reducing emissions. It is a performance-based model allowing flexibility regarding goals, timelines and targets.

#### **Economic Impact**

No immediate economic impact as there is no application fee to participate in the PCP program. Existing staff time within the Environmental Sustainability business unit will be used to coordinate the PCP program activities. The individual assigned to coordinate this effort has previous experience working with another municipality to implement the PCP program which will help minimize time and effort related to capacity building. Discussions with Building and Facilities have 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, tracking progress on PCP program implementation will be tied to the development of sustainability/environmental indicators which monitor the outcomes and outputs of *Green Directions Vaughan*.

A small number of activities required within subsequent stages of the PCP program, such as the community emissions assessment, may require specialized expertise. The regular budgeting process of submitting additional resource requests will be used should specialized expertise be required. In addition, applications will be made to FCM's Green Municipal Fund to assist with the completion of milestones two and three. It should be noted that as implementation of PCP phases 3, 4. & 5 occurs additional support may be required from the Environmental Sustainability business unit to coordinate efforts and Community Services to initiate implementation of the corporate level action items.

Participation also provides credentials in acquiring government grants and additional funding.

### **Communications Plan**

A communications plan is not required at this time. The PCP program provides an excellent opportunity for promotion and awareness of the City of Vaughan's commitment to sustainability, both internally and through out the community. The development, implementation and continuous monitoring of the five milestones will require support from City of Vaughan staff as well as a community outreach component. It will effectively demonstrate that the City of Vaughan is taking action to address and mitigate its corporate and community emissions.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this resolution is to demonstrate Council and the City's support for taking meaningful actions to reduce climate change emissions. Participating in the PCP program will result in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities providing the required guidance and support the City of Vaughan to effectively reduce emissions from corporate and community sources.

Through a wide range of initiatives, the City of Vaughan has already demonstrated its commitment to environmental sustainability. 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.

### **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.

By participating in the PCP program, the City of Vaughan will be able to save money by improving energy tracking and management. The PCP program will aid the City of Vaughan in identifying where its environmental impact is originating and highlight which areas of reduction will have the largest impact with the least effort. The program also provides a valuable baseline of emissions, which is required to accurately set targets, identify milestones and measure improvements. The PCP program is based on five milestones, which are described in further detail below:

- ***Creating a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast.*** 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 government facilities and operations, including buildings, street lighting, water and wastewater treatment, municipal fleet, and corporate and/or community solid waste. In order to be recognized as achieving this milestone, the City's corporate and community emissions must be summarized in a table form, the emission coefficient's, must be listed in table format the corporate (municipal operations) and community emissions forecast for 10 years past the year in which the municipal government committed to PCP.
- ***Setting an emissions reductions target.*** An emissions reduction target is expressed as a percentage reduction below the quantity of emissions released in the baseline year. To develop a reduction target, a municipal government usually seeks the input of residents, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. In order to achieve this milestone, a statement of the GHG emission reduction targets and the timeline for achieving it must be adopted by the municipal council.

- ***Developing a local action plan.*** 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.
- ***Implementing the local action plan or a set of activities.*** City staff will be responsible for putting the plan into motion and maintaining momentum. In-house personnel, non-governmental organizations and private-sector contractors can complete the implementation of specific projects. The approval and support of council, City staff and the community are essential to the plan's success. Key components include documenting input from internal and external stakeholders, communicating objectives particularly to council, budgeting, and establishing an implementation schedule
- ***Monitoring progress and reporting results.*** Monitoring the actions planned and implemented as well as determining whether emissions targets are being met. The steps involved include tracking the results of specific emissions measures, updating the emissions inventory, engaging internal and external stakeholders in the development

The PCP program addresses emissions that result from corporate and community activities. Corporate emissions result from action taken by the City to provide services to its citizens. Emissions from buildings, vehicle fleet, streetlights, water/sewage and waste are quantified by the PCP program. Community emissions result from the activities of citizens throughout the community. Residential, Institutional, commercial, industrial, transportation, and solid waste sectors.

The Partners for Climate Protection program is used throughout Canada and provides a credible framework for auditing GHG emissions, reducing GHG emissions and achieving measurable results in GHG emission reductions.

The PCP Program is a partnership between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability. Currently 205 Canadian municipalities participate in the program, of which 51 are in Ontario.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

This report is consistent with the Green Directions Vaughan 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. The four linked elements are: The originating Vaughan Vision 2020 (the strategic plan); Green Directions, the City's first Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan; the City's Official Plan Review and resulting new Official Plan; and a series of Master Plans.

### **Regional Implications**

By identifying greenhouse gas emissions sources throughout the community, Vaughan will be able to cost effectively undertake initiative 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*. It is important for the City of Vaughan to formally join in the PCP program in order to take steps to address the issue of climate change emissions. It is recommended that Council pass a Resolution to join the PCP program and commit to the required staff time and resources to successfully complete each milestone.

## **Attachments**

1. Council Resolution to Join the FCM-ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) Partners for Climate Protection Program

## **Report prepared by:**

Elizabeth Koster, Sustainability Coordinator, ext. 8426  
Chris Wolnik, Manager of Environmental Sustainability, ext. 8633

Respectfully submitted,

Clayton D. Harris  
City Manager

Chris Wolnik  
Manager, Environmental Sustainability

## ATTACHMENT 1

### **Council Resolution to Join the FCM–ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) Partners for Climate Protection Program**

**WHEREAS** the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes in its 2007 *Fourth Assessment Report* that “there is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities”;

**WHEREAS** the IPCC concludes that human influences on the climate have likely contributed to a rise in the sea level during the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, changed wind and temperature patterns, and likely increased the risk of heat waves, the area of land affected by drought since the 1970s, and the frequency of heavy precipitation;

**WHEREAS** the *IPCC Special Report on Emission Scenarios* (SRES, 2000) projects an increase in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 25 to 90 per cent between 2000 and 2030;

**WHEREAS** the IPCC observes that warming resulting from human influences could lead to some abrupt or irreversible impacts, depending on the rate and magnitude of climate change;

**WHEREAS** the IPCC anticipates the following impacts from climate change over the next century for North America:

- Decreased snow pack, more winter flooding, and reduced summer flows resulting from warming in western mountains, exacerbating competition for over-allocated water resources;
- Increased aggregate yields of rain-fed agriculture by five to 20 per cent, but with important variability among regions; and major challenges for crops that are grown close to their highest suitable temperature or that depend on highly used water resources;
- Increased number, intensity and duration of heat waves for cities that currently experience them, creating potential for adverse health impacts; and
- Increased stress on coastal communities and habitats as a result of the interaction of climate change impacts and development and pollution;

**WHEREAS** GHGs (e.g. carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide), released from burning coal, oil and natural gas and from cutting trees and clearing land for agriculture and development, are the primary cause of climate change

;

**WHEREAS** the *World Mayors and Municipal Leaders Declaration on Climate Change 2005* asserts the need for joint authority and global action on climate change;

**WHEREAS** municipal investments in building retrofits, community energy systems, water conservation, renewable energy technologies, waste reduction, landfill gas capture, fleet management, public transit and other sustainable measures reduce operating costs, help maintain community services, protect public health and contribute to sustainable community development while cutting GHG emissions contributing to climate change;

**WHEREAS** the **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)** and **ICLEI–Local Governments for**

**Sustainability** have established the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program to provide a forum for municipal governments to share their knowledge and experience with other municipal governments on how to reduce GHG emissions;

**WHEREAS** over 155 municipal governments across Canada representing more than 65 per cent of the population have already committed to reducing corporate and community GHG emissions through the PCP program;

**WHEREAS** PCP participants commit to working toward reducing GHG emissions in municipal operations by a suggested target of 20 per cent below 2000 levels, and a suggested target of six per cent below 2000 levels in the community within 10 years of joining the PCP program;

**WHEREAS** the PCP program is based on a five-milestone framework that involves completing a GHG inventory and forecast, setting a GHG reduction target and vision, developing a local action plan, implementing the plan, and monitoring progress and reporting results;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Vaughan communicate to FCM its participation in the PCP program and its commitment to achieve the milestones set in the PCP five-milestone framework;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Vaughan appoint the following:

a) Corporate staff person: Chris Wolnik, Manager of Environmental Sustainability  
905-832-8585 x8633

b) Elected official (Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Contact number) \_\_\_\_\_

to oversee implementation of the PCP milestones and be the points of contact for the PCP program within the City.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date