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## 2007 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

### Updating the Water Efficiency Rate

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#### Issue/Background:

- Resource requirements to review and update the City's Water Efficiency Plan (WEP) with a view to identify reductions in energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

#### Key Point(s):

- The City's Water Efficiency Plan, and implementation schedule through to 2011 was approved by Council in 2003 with a principal objective of deferring the expansion of water and wastewater infrastructure necessary to support the anticipated population and employment growth within the City.
- Implementation of the WEP will cost approximately \$74 million, which compares favourably to the cost of providing an equivalent capacity through the expansion of infrastructure, at an estimated cost of \$220 million.
- It has been estimated that through the implementation period, 90,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will have been avoided and, once fully implemented, annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 14,000 tonnes will be avoided.
- The WEP seeks to achieve reductions in wastewater flows by 123 million litres per day and peak day demands (associated largely with summer lawn watering) of 266 million litres per day.
- The WEP is based on providing financial incentives to support the implementation of water conservation measures within the following sectors: Municipal, Single-Family Residential, Multi-Unit Residential, and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI).
- All measures are based on voluntary participation and include aggressive targets.
- The Toilet Replacement Program is the measure with the greatest potential water savings in the WEP, requiring the replacement of over 700,000 toilets to achieve a savings of approximately 100 ML/d, and is a priority within the WEP representing approximately \$42.5 million in incentives (57% of the implementation budget) and continues to be a focus of the WEP's public education campaign.
- The success of the WEP implementation is being tracked (by numbers of measures implemented and through water consumption data) and reported annually through Committee and Council.

- Based on the 2006 annual report, where uptake rates of some measures were identified as being lower than projected, a survey is planned for 2007 to identify motivation for participation, the effects of increased incentives on participation and to identify the public's perceived barriers to participation in some of the key program areas to assist in future program development.
- The new City of Toronto Act may provide additional opportunities for regulatory controls, e.g. mandating use of high efficiency water fixtures in all new construction; and banning the sale of high water consumption toilets. These measures will be explored in next year's annual report.
- The next annual report will review the success of the WEP implementation and recommend, where necessary, changes to incentive program amounts and/or implementation strategies and, therefore, a complete review of the WEP is not recommended at this time.
- A complete update of the WEP to incorporate a review of the existing programs, re-evaluate benefits, complete market research, conduct public consultation and recommend new targets and incentives would require approximately one year to complete.
- Estimated resources required: one dedicated project manager and an independent consultant team.
- Costs: \$90,000 for staff resources and \$100,000 for consultants (market research, public consultation, environmental economist, water efficiency expert).

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