

Friday, June 09, 2006

To: Policy and Finance Committee

From: Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone, Chair, Roundtable on the Environment

Subject: 2006 Draft Clean Air Action Plan – Proposed Actions

Members of the Policy and Finance Committee,

As Chair of the Roundtable on the Environment, I have been requested by the Roundtable to forward the following to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration.

Recommendations:

- (1) That Deputy City Manager Fareed Amin implement the following actions:**
 - (a) immediate creation of a centralized office in Environmental Services to co-ordinate air quality and climate change issues including improved data collection and management to better understand local air quality and health impacts, and increase ability to monitor, evaluate and report on improvement measures;**
 - (b) create a “Clean Air” web page as soon as possible where residents can learn how to improve air quality and the City can promote its air quality activities in a co-ordinated way;**
 - (c) develop an Integrated Transportation Plan working with City Divisions and City of Toronto Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs);**
 - (d) identify and explore ways to reduce City staff vehicle use; and**
 - (e) identify innovative funding mechanisms to fund future air quality initiatives; and**

- (2) request the Executive Director of Policy, Planning, Finance & Administration be requested to report back to the September 6, 2006 meeting of the Roundtable on the Environment on:**
- (a) a further update on the status of the 2006 Draft Clean Air Action Plan; and**
 - (b) the creation of the centralized office in Environmental Services to coordinate air quality and climate change issues for the City of Toronto.**
- (3) That the City make resources available to Toronto Public Health to add a staff person to their complement to work on air quality measures;**
- (4) Consider the possibility of conducting consultation and providing information on clean air and climate change issues in other languages in addition to English.**

Background:

At the Roundtable on the Environment on June 6, 2006, Christopher Morgan, Environmental Planning and Support, Environmental Services, Technical Services Division, made a presentation on the draft actions for the City of Toronto Clean Air Action Plan; and

The Roundtable on the Environment had before it a memorandum (May 26, 2006) from Deputy Mayor Pantalone, Chair, Roundtable on the Environment, forwarding a copy of the Briefing Note (May 25, 2006) from the Executive Director, Technical Services Division, on the status of the City of Toronto's 2006 Draft Clean Air Action Plan; advising that the Draft Plan was developed based on a review of current air quality programming; consultation with City staff, Agencies, Boards and Commissions, and the community; input from Roundtable members; a market research study; and research into what other cities around the world are doing; that the Briefing Note contains some proposed actions and identifies areas of activity that are still under development; and recommending:

- (1) that Roundtable members endorse the staff briefing note from the Executive Director, Policy, Planning, Finance & Administration including the following proposed actions:**
 - (a) create a centralized office in Environmental Services as soon as possible to coordinate air quality & climate change issues;**

- (b) the centralized office improve data collection and management to better understand local air quality and health impacts, and increase ability to monitor, evaluate and report on improvement measures;
 - (c) create a “Clean Air” web page as soon as possible where residents can learn how to improve air quality and the City can promote its air quality activities in a co-ordinated way;
 - (d) develop an Integrated Transportation Plan working with City Divisions and Agencies, Boards and Commissions;
 - (e) identify and explore ways to reduce City staff vehicle use; and
 - (f) identify innovative funding mechanisms to fund future air quality initiatives; and
- (2) that the Policy and Finance Committee request the Executive Director of Policy, Planning, Finance and Administration to report back to the September 6, 2006 meeting of the Roundtable on the Environment on:
- (a) a further update on the status of the 2006 Draft Clean Air Action Plan; and
 - (b) the creation of the centralized office in Environmental Services to coordinate air quality and climate change issues for the City of Toronto.

Sincerely,

Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone
Chair, Roundtable on the Environment

BRIEFING NOTE

Status Report - City of Toronto 2006 Draft Clean Air Action Plan

Issue/Background:

The City of Toronto's Environmental Plan contains recommendations (#21-24) to improve air quality including the development a Comprehensive Air Quality Strategy. In March 2005, a Project Manager was put in place to work with City Divisions, Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs), and the community to develop the strategy. The first draft of a Clean Air Action Plan is currently being reviewed by the Executive Environment Team/City Divisions to further define staff leads, timelines, scope and resource implications of the proposed draft actions. Consultation with City ABCs and the public will take place once the internal review has taken place. A final Clean Air Action Plan is targeted for completion in early 2007. The Plan will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

Key Points:

- The 2006 *Draft* Clean Air Action Plan is built on:
 - A review of current City of Toronto activities that are improving air quality/reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs);
 - Consultation with City staff, ABCs, community and business leaders and the public;
 - Input from the Executive Environment Team and the Roundtable on the Environment;
 - Data collection and analysis on sources of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
 - Research into best air quality practices of other municipalities around the globe; and
 - Areas of activity where the City has the power and resources to act.
- A telephone survey of 800 members of the public revealed the general public is not aware of the City's current actions on air quality improvement. Citizens are also generally unaware of what they can do to have a positive impact on air quality.
- Preliminary findings from the data collection and analysis work are as follows:
 - The largest GHG emissions from City operations are from waste (landfill operations) and city buildings (natural gas/electricity use).
 - The largest sources of community GHG emissions are vehicle exhaust and the burning of natural gas.
 - Local air quality is most affected by Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x - burning natural gas/vehicle emissions) and Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ - road dust).

- Proposed actions should build on existing initiatives, where possible.
- Consideration should be given to developing actions that further enhance existing initiatives to divert waste, and reduce energy and vehicle use in City operations and the community.
- Cities around the world with the most extensive air quality programming have one or all three of the following main components in place: strong leadership (Chicago, Illinois); a clear legislative mandate (London, England); a central office dedicated to air quality/climate change issues (Greater Vancouver Regional District).

Conclusions:

Based on the research, data analysis and consultations to date, the following preliminary *Draft* Actions have been identified:

- Create a centralized office in Environmental Services as soon as possible to co-ordinate air quality & climate change issues.
- The centralized office improve data collection and management to better understand local air quality and health impacts, and increase ability to monitor, evaluate and report on improvement measures.
- Create a central “Clean Air” web page as soon as possible where residents can learn how to improve air quality and the City can promote its air quality activities in a co-ordinated way.
- Develop an Integrated Transportation Plan working with City Divisions and ABCs.
- Identify and explore ways to reduce City staff vehicle use.
- Identify innovative funding mechanisms to fund future air quality initiatives.

In addition to the above, a review of City operations is currently underway to identify opportunities to further reduce emissions and any additional actions will be included in future consultation activities. Other actions around building partnerships, working with other jurisdictions, increasing the use of renewable energy, improving the enforcement of the anti-idling by-law and engaging the business community are also under development. Once in place, the centralized office will have a role in coordinating the above work, as appropriate.

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Circulated to: Members of the Roundtable on the Environment

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Date: May 25, 2006