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## **Parks and Environment Committee**

<b>Meeting No.</b>	16 (Special)	<b>Contact</b>	Dela Ting, Acting Administrator
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Wednesday, May 21, 2008	<b>Phone</b>	416-397-7769
<b>Start Time</b>	3:00 PM	<b>E-mail</b>	pec@toronto.ca
<b>Location</b>	Council Chamber, City Hall		

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PE16.1	ACTION	Referred		Ward: All
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### **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy**

(May 13, 2008) Report from Director, Toronto Environment Office, addressed to the Executive Committee

#### **Decision Advice and Other Information**

The Parks and Environment Committee:

1. Endorsed the recommendations in the report (May 13, 2008) from the Director, Toronto Environment Office, addressed to the Executive Committee, on Climate Change Adaptation Strategy; and
2. Requested that the report, copies of the presentations and submissions received, at its special meeting on May 21, 2008, be forwarded to the Executive Committee for consideration.

#### **Financial Impact**

There are financial impacts associated with the adoption of the recommendations in this report. Potential Short-term Climate Adaptation Actions recommended by City Divisions, outlined in Appendix C, represent significant costs to the City. A methodology will be required to prioritize the list of Potential Short-term Climate Adaptation Actions recommended by City Divisions. City Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions will report out through the 2009 Budget cycle process on financial impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer will report out on the establishment of an Extreme Weather Reserve through the 2009 budget process.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## Summary

In July 2007 Toronto City Council unanimously adopted the Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan (the “Climate Change Action Plan”). The central focus of the plan is the reduction of greenhouse gases released to the atmosphere by curbing the burning of fossil fuels to help fight global warming.

The Climate Change Action Plan includes many commitments including: energy conservation and efficiency measures; increased use of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar; sustainable transportation practices, such as increased public transit through new streetcar lines; doubling the tree canopy; and promoting the purchase of food grown locally to reduce the distance that our food travels from the field to our kitchen tables. Activities like these, whose primary goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, are referred to as climate change “mitigation”.

In adopting the Climate Change Action Plan, City Council also directed that a plan be established to reduce the negative impacts of unavoidable changes to climate that are already underway, including: extreme heat; more intense storms; floods and droughts; damaging insects; and newly introduced diseases. Activities intended to reduce the effects of unavoidable climate change are referred to as climate change “adaptation”.

Climate change involves a long-lasting shift in weather patterns. Our infrastructure and buildings will need to withstand weather that is different from the past. In addition, climate change has the potential to significantly affect many civic programs and services such as public health, water supply, storm water management and urban parks, forests and ecosystems. Special attention will be required for isolated seniors, the homeless and others who are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather. This staff report responds to Council’s direction that a climate change adaptation strategy be developed. It is intended to lay the foundation for a comprehensive climate change adaptation strategy, which will strive to prevent or minimize the negative effects of unavoidable climate change and take advantage of potential opportunities.

In keeping with the direction of the Climate Change Action Plan, the adaptation strategy is aimed at both City services and the larger Toronto community. It is designed to help protect the health of Torontonians, introduce measures to strengthen our infrastructure and building stock, help protect the natural environment from the negative effects of climate change, and support a resilient economy.

## Background Information

Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-12950.pdf>

Ahead of the Storm: Preparing Toronto for Climate Change - Highlights

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-12951.pdf>

Announcement from Chair, Parks and Environment Committee

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-12954.pdf>

### Communications

(May 20, 2008) e-mail from Dr. Quentin Chiotti, Climate Change Programme Director and Senior Scientist, Pollution Probe (PE.Main.PE16-1-1)

(May 20, 2008) e-mail from Shan Dhingra, Don Watershed Regeneration Council (PE.Main.PE16-1-2)

(May 21, 2008) submission from Rita Bijons (PE.New.PE16-1-3)

(May 21, 2008) submission from Hamish Wilson (PE.New.PE16-1-4)

(May 21, 2008) submission from Karey Shinn, Co-Chair, The Safe Sewage Committee (PE.New.PE16-1-5)

(May 21, 2008) submission from Jennifer Penny (PE.New.PE16-1-6)

(May 21, 2008) submission from Roy Bristow (PE.New.PE16-1-7)

(May 21, 2008) submission from Violetta Balayo (also submitted a petition) (PE.New.PE16-1-8)

(May 21, 2008) submission from Anne Christie (PE.New.PE16-1-9)

(May 21, 2008) submission from Mark Baker, Disaster Recovery Information Exchange and the Greater Toronto Incident Management Exchange (PE.New.PE16-1-10)

### Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2008-05-21	Afternoon	3:10 PM	5:15 PM	Public