



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Proposed Toronto Environmental Protection Plan: Toward Integrated Action on Climate Change and Air Quality – Staff Response

Date:	June 21, 2007
To:	Executive Committee
From:	Deputy City Manager, Richard Butts
Wards:	all
Reference Number:	P:\2007\Cluster B\PPFA\TEO\EX07007

SUMMARY

This report provides a response to a motion made by Councillor Michael Walker and seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson, recommending the establishment of the “Toronto Environmental Protection Plan (TEPP): Toward Integrated Action on Climate Change and Air Quality”, which contains thirteen specific recommendations.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of March 5 to 8, 2007, City Council discussed Notice of Motion M#25 submitted by Councillor Walker and seconded by Councillor Thompson. City Council referred the motion to the Executive Committee, which considered this item at its meeting of March 25, 2007.

The Executive Committee at that time was also considering the ‘Change is in the Air: Framework for Public Review and Engagement’ document. The Executive Committee

referred the motion to the Deputy City Manager, Cluster B, and requested that it be considered as part of the report on Climate Change and to report back to Executive Committee.

COMMENTS

Councillor Walker's proposed TEPP is supported by a comprehensive review of climate change issues and potential solutions, and includes thirteen specific recommendations. Presented below are staff's responses to the thirteen recommendations.

Recommendation #1

Council adopt a carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emission reduction goal of 20% relative to 1990 levels by the year 2012 as a city-wide target for the City of Toronto.

Response:

The report Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan: Moving from Framework to Action (dated June 13, 2007), which is on the June 25, 2007 Executive Committee agenda, recommends the following targets:

- 6% reduction in greenhouse gas emission from 1990 levels (the Kyoto target) by 2012;
- 30% reduction by 2020; and
- 80% reduction by 2050.

These targets are consistent with the Kyoto agreement and with the 2006-07 policy statement on environmental issues and sustainable development by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The target for 2012 is a minimum target and implementation of the actions proposed in the Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan will hopefully lead to reductions beyond the six percent target for 2012.

Recommendation #2

Council urge the Federal Government to expeditiously implement measures to reduce Canada's pollution emissions to meet our commitments to the Kyoto Protocol.

Response:

The Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan identifies that the City can not achieve the reduction targets alone and that supporting action is required by the Federal, Provincial and neighbouring Municipal Governments in addition to

businesses and residents. Proposals are made for continued advocacy and development of partnerships.

This recommendation is also consistent with the 2006-07 policy statement on environmental issues and sustainable development by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), which identifies that FCM will encourage the Federal government to recognize its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and to demonstrate best efforts in working towards emission reduction targets.

Recommendation #3

Council direct the City Manager to identify all areas (i.e. by-law amendments and purchasing parameters) of City business that could be changed in order to help the City of Toronto to achieve its pollution emission reduction program, reporting no later than to the July meeting of the Executive Committee.

Response:

The report Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan: Moving from Framework to Action has numerous recommendations linked to changes in City business to help the City achieve the proposed greenhouse gas reduction and air quality targets. A Phase II report will be presented in early 2008, which will more fully address City business, operations and policy.

Recommendation #4

Council direct the City Manager to produce a Status Report to the Executive Committee on all City green initiatives (ongoing and completed since Amalgamation) to support the City's "Clean, Green and Healthy: A Plan for an Environmentally Sustainable Toronto (February 2000)" and to produce updated Appendices A and B adopted with that Plan.

Response:

The Toronto Environment Office, with the assistance of an inter-divisional working group, is currently in the process of preparing an update to the Environmental Plan and should have a report including a status report on all City led green initiatives, ready before the end of 2007.

Recommendation #5

Council direct the City Manager to report to the Executive Committee on the City of Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions in 1998 compared to the most recent data.

Response:

The Toronto Environment Office in partnership with the Toronto Atmospheric Fund has just completed a comprehensive inventory of greenhouse gases and air pollutants in the City of Toronto. That report is on the June 25 Executive Committee agenda and provides data for 2004, the most recent year complete data is available. While there is some data from 1998, it is incomplete and would require significant effort to comply and prepare an estimate of what the level of greenhouse gas emissions were in 1998.

Comparing the data from 1990 and 2004 shows that city-wide greenhouse gas emissions have increased and were probably in 1998 greater than they were in 1990. Given that the goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the 2004 inventory provides the information necessary to help identify where the City should direct its efforts.

Recommendation #6

Council authorize the Mayor, to develop a Resolution on climate change action to be supported by other Mayors in Canada (similar to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, January 25, 2007) with the aim of receiving specific funding (Block grant proportionate to population) from the Federal Government for environmental initiatives to reduce pollution emissions and aid Canadian cities' transition to sustainability.

Response:

This proposal will be investigated and addressed in the report to be submitted by the Chief Financial Officer and Deputy City Manager and the Deputy City Manager, Cluster B, regarding the financial resources for the Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan (see Recommendation No. 2 of the June 13, 2007 report).

Recommendation #7

Council direct the City Manager to report to the Executive Committee on the powers of the new City of Toronto Act and the new opportunities for the City to use to reach the goals of our climate action plan (i.e. providing incentives for retrofit modifications or renewable energy production by individuals, homeowners, and owners of multi-residential dwellings).

Response:

In the development of the Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan a process has been initiated for exploring what incentives and regulatory changes the City can take under the City of Toronto Act. These include a ban on two stroke engines, eco-labelling of residential housing, a more aggressive timetable for implementing the

Ontario Building Code and creating revolving funds that residents, businesses and community groups will be able to access for energy and other environmental retrofits. Additional work will be done as part of the development of the Phase II report due in early 2008.

Recommendation #8

Council urge the Provincial government to assist the City of Toronto to meet its environmental protection goals by providing programs and sustained funding (i.e. for annual transit system construction).

Response:

The need for sustained Provincial funding is identified in the Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan and will be further emphasized in the Phase II report due in early 2008.

Recommendation #9

Council urge the Federal government to direct the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to conduct projects in developing countries using the Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism (CDM) to help Canada meet its Kyoto Protocol emission reduction target by 2012.

Response:

Staff will investigate this with CIDA officials and report back.

Recommendation #10

Council direct the City Manager to report to the Executive Committee on the Resolutions passed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors for action against global warming, including the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and the \$4 billion energy and environment block grant proposal.

Response

Staff will investigate this and report back (see response to Recommendation # 6 above).

Recommendation #11

Council adopt the policy of annually reporting pollution emissions to the public, such report to be completed by the City Auditor.

Response:

For its water and wastewater facilities the City provides an annual report on emissions as part of the National Pollutant Reporting Inventory (NPRI).

Toronto Public Health is currently leading the Access to Environmental Information initiative, which may lead to changes in how the City reports on its emissions and potentially by local businesses and industries. A report is being prepared by the Medical Officer of Health for the July 2007 Board of Health meeting.

Recommendation #12

Council urge the Provincial Government to permanently close the remaining four (4) coal- fired power plants in Ontario (Nanticoke, near Lake Erie; Lambton, near Sarnia; Atikokan and Thunder Bay, both in the north west) as soon as possible.

Response:

At its meeting of September 2003, City Council adopted a recommendation that it phase out the purchase of electricity produced from coal fired power plants and in 2000 City Council adopted a motion advocating for the conversion of Ontario's coal fired power plants to natural gas. Work will continue to advocate for permanently closing Ontario's coal fired power plants.

The Provincial government has recently announced a timetable for the closure of the Province's coal fired power plants by 2014.

Recommendation #13

Council urge the Federal government to work with Canadian cities, especially Toronto as its largest, to help the country achieve and surpass its Kyoto Protocol commitments.

Response:

The Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan identifies that the City can not do it alone and that action is required by the Federal, Provincial and neighbouring Municipal Governments and businesses and residents. Proposals are made for continued advocacy and development of partnerships.

This recommendation is also consistent with the 2006-07 policy statement on environmental issues and sustainable development by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), which identifies that municipalities request that federal, provincial and territorial governments recognize the fundamental role of municipal government in mitigating and adapting to climate change; partner with them to enhance their technical, human and financial capacity and legislative authority; and fully engage them when making decisions on climate change policies.

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