

Parks and Environment Committee - My comments for 2014.PE26.3 on March 3, 2014 Parks and Environment Committee

From: Ted Kesik [REDACTED]
To: "pec@toronto.ca" <pec@toronto.ca>
Date: 2014-02-27 11:28 AM
Subject: My comments for 2014.PE26.3 on March 3, 2014 Parks and Environment Committee

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the March 3, 2014 Parks and Environment Committee meeting on item 2014.PE26.3, Energy Reporting Requirement for Large Commercial and Multi-Residential Buildings

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Mandatory reporting of energy use in large commercial and multi-residential buildings is among the most important means of improving energy efficiency in our building stock and promoting greenhouse gas reductions. The air that we breathe and the climate change we are all experiencing is impacted by the combustion of fossil fuels for heating and electricity generation in buildings. Citizens have a right to know who is impacting their environment and to what extent.

Many major cities across North America have adopted this approach and the benchmarking of energy use in these types of buildings has already paid significant dividends. Building owners have voluntarily retrofit their buildings and initiated energy conservation measures that create jobs in the local economy. New buildings have had to live up to the energy efficiency ratings that were promised at the design stage in certification programs such as LEED. And the general public awareness about energy use in buildings has been raised such that commercial and residential tenants have started to demand higher levels of energy efficiency, causing the marketplace to respond with cost effective solutions. Every stakeholder has won by enhancing the sustainability of our buildings.

The City of Toronto has already taken a leadership role in energy and greenhouse gas reporting for its municipal buildings and facilities.

See: City of Toronto Annual Energy Consumption & Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report from 2011.
http://www1.toronto.ca/staticfiles/City%20Of%20Toronto/Environment%20and%20Energy/Action%20Plans,%20Policies%20&%20Research/Files/2011%20Annual%20energy%20consumption%20and%20GHG%20emissions%20report%20-%20Ci_2.pdf

It is time for the private sector to join in the transparent reporting of how environmentally responsible their building business operations are performing and to openly recognize those who have steadily improved their performance by making their buildings better for people and the planet. Toronto cannot be seen as some environmental backwater that buries its head in the sand when it comes to building energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

We owe it to our citizens and future generations to demonstrate a firm resolve to manage environmental impacts associated with our economic activities. If you can't measure it, you can't manage it. Energy use and greenhouse gas emissions reporting is fundamental to responsible democracy.

Respectfully,

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