

February 27, 2014

Parks and Environment Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attention: Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, Chair
Ms. Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator

Councillor Mammoliti, Ms. Davidovits,

The Greater Toronto Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council strongly supports the motion by Councillors Doucette, McMahon, Layton and Lee for a staff report on a new bylaw and implementation plan to establish a mandatory 'Annual Energy & Water Utilization Reporting Requirement' for large buildings in Toronto.

Better building performance will be key to economic and environmental success in the 21st century. However, there is currently little hard information available on real estate energy or water costs or greenhouse gas emissions to inform real estate purchase or leasing decisions, or to help utilities and governments craft effective conservation policies and programs. Currently Canada has no wide building "nutrition label" to benchmark building energy and GHG performance; the result is that there is little awareness of building emissions and waste, and weak economic and policy drivers to improve performance.

There is now broad experience from Europe, Australia, China and the United States that building benchmarking, labeling and transparency can benefit many stakeholders in the following ways:

- Informs market purchase, lease, investment and management decisions with energy & GHG performance,
- Provides accurate data to measure, track and manage building energy use and cost,
- Identifies and spurs investment in buildings with the most cost-effective savings opportunities,
- Bolsters market competition, highlighting industry leaders and laggards,
- Informs policy, capital and asset management decision-making, and
- Increases demand for and fosters clean technology jobs and skills at low cost.

The Chapter and its members are ready to support the City's efforts with research, information and outreach to ensure any new bylaw and implementation program reduces emissions and operating costs, while minimizing costs and burdens on stakeholders and the City. We sincerely hope that the Parks and Environment Committee see fit to pass this motion.

Sincerely,



Andy Schonberger
Chair



Hazel Farley
Executive Director