



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Parks and Environment Subcommittee on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation – Terms of Reference and Work Plan

Date:	March 30, 2015
To:	Parks and Environment Committee
From:	Chief Corporate Officer
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Internal Services\E&E\Pe15003e&e (AFS #20959)

SUMMARY

This report recommends a Terms of Reference and work plan for the Parks and Environment Subcommittee on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. The Subcommittee will provide advice and input, through the Parks and Environment Committee, on Transformation Toronto 2050 and the development of City of Toronto environmental policies and programs. The Terms of Reference incorporates public feedback provided at the Subcommittee's first meeting on March 2, 2015.

Parks and Environment Committee is also being provided with the Terms of Reference and work plan for the Transformation Toronto 2050 initiative at the April 15, 2015 meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Corporate Officer recommends that:

1. Parks and Environment Committee approve the Terms of Reference for the Parks and Environment Subcommittee on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation set out in Appendix A and the Subcommittee work plan outlined in this report.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from the adoption of 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 2, 2015 the Parks and Environment Subcommittee on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation heard input from 54 deputants and received 99 written communications on its draft Terms of Reference for the Subcommittee (PY1.1 Review of Terms of Reference for the Parks and Environment Subcommittee on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation).

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.PY1.1>

At its meeting of January 12, 2015 Parks and Environment Committee adopted Item PE1.3 Establishing a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Subcommittee that recommended the creation of a Subcommittee to review City policies, expert advice and international best practices to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.PE1.3>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Climate change is a global challenge that effects the natural environment, human health, social wellbeing, and economic sustainability. Toronto has already taken leadership to move towards targets established by City Council for greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and climate change adaptation activities in the Climate Change and Clean Air Action Plan, The Power to Live Green Sustainable Energy Strategy, and the Resilient City Report. The Subcommittee will continue to advance this work.

COMMENTS

The Subcommittee held its first meeting on March 2, 2015 to hear public input on its draft Terms of Reference. Over 150 comments were received from individuals and stakeholder organizations on the Subcommittee's draft Terms of Reference.

The Subcommittee will provide advice to the Parks and Environment Committee on the advancement of City of Toronto environmental programs and policies as they relate to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including Transformation Toronto 2050. Terms of Reference for the Subcommittee are attached in Appendix A outlining the purpose, membership and term, and governance structure.

Subcommittee Work Plan

The Subcommittee will meet up to a maximum six (6) times until the end of its term to provide advice at key milestones of the Transformation Toronto 2050 initiative. Staff have already begun work on the Transformation Toronto 2050 initiative and are presenting Terms of Reference and a work plan for approval to the April 15, 2015 Parks and Environment Committee.

Separate from the Subcommittee meetings, staff will host five (5) thematic roundtables to hear expert advice on current research on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Members of the Subcommittee will be invited to attend. Each roundtable will include a series of expert presentations from academics, industry leaders, and community organizations. Members of the public will have the opportunity to ask questions. Roundtable themes will be established in consultation with the members of the Subcommittee and will reflect the priorities expressed by the public at the March 2, 2015 Subcommittee meeting.

Potential topics include:

1. **Preparing Toronto for an Extreme Weather Future:** Community and infrastructure resilience
2. **Getting Around in a Low-Carbon Future:** Mobility strategies to reduce and adapt to climate change
3. **Green Spaces that Respond to our Changing Climate:** Urban agriculture and Toronto's green spaces.
4. **Powering a Climate Change Ready Toronto:** Renewable energy systems, energy efficiency, and zero-carbon buildings
5. **Embodied Energy:** Exploring the carbon-footprint of Toronto's economy.

Summaries of advice received at each roundtable will be prepared and considered by the Subcommittee as a whole to inform their advice on the Transformation Toronto 2050 initiative.

The Subcommittee will meet twice to receive and discuss two summary reports on the outcomes of the five (5) thematic roundtables. The remaining Subcommittee meetings will be scheduled to align with key milestones of the Transformation Toronto 2050 initiative, enabling the Subcommittee to review the progress of the initiative and provide guidance.

At the end of its term, December 31, 2016, the Subcommittee will have provided guidance and recommendations towards the development of the climate change strategy documents being prepared as part of the Transformation 2050 initiative.

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SIGNATURE

Josie Scioli
Chief Corporate Officer

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A: Parks and Environment Subcommittee on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Terms of Reference.