



Regional Program Development

Date: December 5, 2017
To: Toronto Atmospheric Fund Board of Directors
From: Vice President, Programs and Partnerships

SUMMARY

During 2017, TAF has been strengthening internal capacity, assessing regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions sources, and seeking community advice to support effective deployment of the proceeds of Provincial endowment funds to projects and initiatives throughout the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). Efforts have been made on three fronts: a third-party examination of TAF's internal systems was completed and actions are underway to implement the resulting recommendations to ensure TAF can support its expanded role with excellence; independent research has mapped region-wide stakeholder activity and capacity needs to inform TAF's Regional Outreach Strategy, with initial focus on 2018-2019; and a region-wide GHG emissions inventory has been developed, in collaboration with the GTHA municipalities and regions, to identify and evaluate emissions trends and reduction opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The VP of Programs and Partnerships recommends that TAF's Board of Directors:

1. Receive the Regional Stakeholder Outreach Report and the Regional Inventory Report, appended to this staff report, for information.
2. Receive the summary presentations of the TAF Systems Assessment Report and the TAF Regional Cultivation Strategy (presentations to be delivered at the TAF Board meeting) for information, and direct staff to reflect the findings of these reports in TAF's 2018 Business Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of July 6, 2017, the TAF Board of Directors approved spending of up to \$300K, to be drawn from the Ontario endowment fund, to prepare TAF to operate with excellence across the GTHA, specifically:

1. Reviewing and strengthening TAF's existing administrative structures (up to \$75K);
2. Building familiarity with regional GHG reduction actions and approaches (up to \$75K);
3. Establishing regional GHG impact evaluation tools (up to \$150K).

The actual cost for this initiative is approximately \$200,000, pending final accounting at year-end. The underspending is largely due to TAF's decision to incorporate the development of the Regional GHG Inventory in-house, drawing on new permanent GHG quantification capacity established this year with support from Provincial endowment fund.

COMMENTS

TAF has benefited from this investment through the creation of specific advice to guide our work in 2018 and beyond, both to strengthen TAF's understanding of the needs and opportunities of its new service area, and by creating a plan to support TAF's overall organizational effectiveness. In particular, TAF has:

1. Received the **Regional Stakeholder Outreach Report** (attached in Appendix One), developed by Dunsky Energy Consulting in collaboration with the Clean Air Partnership. The report provides insights gained from:
 - a. Global best practice research concerning regional GHG emission reduction strategy;
 - b. 30 in-depth interviews with key stakeholders from the GTHA; and
 - c. Focus groups undertaken with 50 low-carbon practitioners.
2. Created a **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area** (attached in Appendix 2) in consultation with municipal and regional governments, utilities, and other stakeholders, using best available data and creating a methodology that is replicable with TAF's in-house capacity.
3. These two reports have informed the development of **TAF's Regional Cultivation Strategy** which will be used to guide TAF's grant and program investments for 2018-2019. This strategy, which will be presented to the TAF Board at its meeting of December 19, 2017, outlines target audiences, communications methods, grant program adjustments, and priority opportunity areas based on the current assessment of client needs and capacities.
4. A **Systems Assessment Report** was undertaken by McNally-Brown Consulting, involving in-depth review and analysis of existing systems, interviews with staff, and comparison to best practice for non-profit companies of TAF's size/scope. A summary of report findings and recommendations will be presented to the TAF Board at its meeting of December 19, 2017.

CONTACT

Mary Pickering, Vice President Programs and Partnerships, 416.392.0271,
mpickering@taf.ca

SIGNATURE

Mary Pickering
Vice President, Programs and Partnerships

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix One: *Greenhouse Gas Reduction – Action and Opportunity in the GTHA
(Executive Summary, December 2017)*

Appendix Two: *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for the Greater Toronto and
Hamilton Area (Draft, December 2017)*