

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM23.17	ACTION			Ward: All
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Passive House Standard - Municipal Code Chapter review - by Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Planning and Housing Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to review Chapter 813, Trees, of the Toronto Municipal Code and report back by the end of the third quarter of 2020 on recommended policy changes that could support and expedite development applications seeking to meet the Passive House high performance building standards, which are also tied to tree removal, injury and replacement requirements.

Summary

Climate change is a real global issue which the City of Toronto continues to combat every year. Through the TransformTO and ResilientTO strategies, the BetterHomesTO program, and the implementation of climate sensitive policies, our City aims to drastically reduce the impact of development and day-to-day operations on the environment. Toronto then recognizes that to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, preserve our finite natural resources and improve everyone's health, change and climate friendly practices must be promoted by every Torontonian.

As our City continues to grow, Toronto's public officials and staff must always be on the lookout for innovative, efficient and climate-aware techniques, especially within the land development industry.

Founded in 2013, Passive House Canada is a national non-profit professional association advocating for the Passive House high-performance building standard. The standard is recognized internationally as the proven best way to build for comfort, affordability and energy efficiency of residential, institutional and commercial buildings, through all stages of design, construction, and liveability. While conventional buildings consume up to 40 percent of global energy use and contribute up to 30 percent of annual global Green House Gases emissions, buildings that adhere to the Passive House standard can consume up to 90 percent less heating and cooling energy than conventional structures. The Passive House high performance building standard can be then applied to almost any type of building design or type.

New development that adheres to these progressive and green standards, should be celebrated and replicated. However, sometimes municipal policies can become an impediment to getting these important projects materialized.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM23.17