

3.0 BACKGROUND AND RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

In 1998 the BSDC produced the first State of the Environment Report (SOER) for the City of Burlington to much public acclaim. The state of the environment is estimated using measurable indicators such as: air quality, water quantity & quality, land use, waste management, transportation, and native plant & animal species. Indicator values should provide a snapshot of our environment, reflecting positive changes or possibly deteriorating or unsustainable environmental conditions. Using this information, the BSDC committee members have included recommendations in the SOER that may reverse trends and prevent further environmental deterioration.

In 2004, the committee updated the information and published their second SOER. The report was presented to the Community Development Committee and the following staff direction was adopted by Council in July 2004:

THAT staff be directed to work with the Burlington Sustainable Development Committee to review the recommendations and report back to the Community Development Committee.

The Environment Staff have been working with BSDC members and meeting with representatives of various city departments and the region to address the recommendations. This information is summarized in Section 4.0.

Staff and the BSDC members have also been increasing community awareness of the report, with: presentations to the Halton Region Planning and Public Works Committee; the Halton Environmental and Ecological Advisory Committee; the City of Burlington public library board of directors and staff; articles in Conservation Halton's *Focus* newsletter and the City of Burlington's staff *Focus* newsletter; and attending an environmental fair for Halton Region schools sponsored by both school boards.

The SOER is related to the following goals and strategies in the city's strategic plan, *Future Focus VI*:

Long Term Goal:

- The city will be a leader in making a high level of environmental performance one of the primary goals of its policies, programs and operations, and in the actions of its citizens, to provide the highest quality of life for all.

Three-year Goals:

- Burlington will maintain a corporate awareness of environmental improvement in all its daily operations.
- The city will increase citizen and business awareness and participation in improving the environment.

Strategies:

- Seek environmentally friendly opportunities in city operations and services that are planned and implemented in a responsible manner.
- Support environmental awareness-raising and education programs for staff and the community on matters such as reduction of litter, use of pesticides on private property and air quality improvement.

4.0 DISCUSSION:

The 20 SOER II recommendations are provided below by topic, with the staff response. It is noted that some of the recommendations are beyond the jurisdiction of the City of Burlington. In January 2005, a report was prepared by Halton Region staff (PPW04-05) in response to the SOER recommendations that affect regional services and operations. Some of that information has been reflected in this report.

Biota

1. That the City of Burlington, in partnership with naturalist groups and conservation agencies, contribute to an inventory of natural biota, with emphasis on native trees and other vegetation within the urban Burlington area.
2. Upon completion of the Halton Natural Areas Inventory and the work of the Provincial Greenbelt Taskforce, the City develop a natural heritage framework.

Response:

- The city has a naturalization sub-committee under the Healthy Green Spaces Committee that is working to implement the naturalization objectives of the *Healthy Green Spaces Strategy for Public Spaces*. One of the objectives is to complete an inventory of city owned naturalized areas in the urban area. The first phase is to update the mapping and then develop a plan to complete the inventory.
- A community forest plan is also in the development stage by forestry staff.
- The Halton Natural Areas Inventory has recently been completed. The Sr. Environmental Planner will build on this information through the Official Plan review process to develop a natural heritage framework for the city.

Land Use

3. That the City of Burlington utilize all available strategies to preserve its current urban/rural boundary and actively seek the support of all residents in this process.
4. That the City of Burlington take all possible steps to maintain current zoning on the lands currently designated for employment.

Response:

- The city and regional Official Plan policies support the current urban/rural boundary. The recent provincial *Greenbelt Plan* also supports this boundary.
- The Bronte Meadows OMB hearing is an excellent example of the city defending its work/live strategies, as supported by the strategic plan, *Future Focus VI*. A BSDC member assisted staff by participating in the OMB hearing as a witness to support the city's position.

Pg 4 of Report – CORPSERV-11/05

- Preserving employment lands will continue to be a challenge for the city, however, the new Provincial Policy Statement requires municipalities to protect and preserve these lands to meet long-term employment needs. These policies should help to strengthen Burlington's ability to control the conversion of industrial lands.

Agriculture

5. The City of Burlington, in co-operation with the Region of Halton and area municipalities, should pursue policies that promote Halton's agricultural community and products so as to improve the economic viability of farming in rural Burlington.
6. The preservation of agricultural land for the present and future production of food is an essential part of sustainable development. To this end, we recommend that the City investigate the feasibility of establishing an "Agricultural Land Trust" to which lands may be added through purchase or donation and held for present or future use in food production as economic conditions warrant.

Response:

- The Region of Halton's 'Simply Local' brochure is a good example of promoting the local agricultural community.
- The GTA Agricultural Action Plan, recently adopted by the Region, also supports these recommendations.
- The city's strategic plan includes the following strategy: *Advocate to other orders of government, to respond to growth management and planning initiatives, including (among others) prime agricultural land protection.*
- A farm trust may be more appropriate being developed as a provincial initiative. The city could advocate for this objective.

Waste Management

7. That the City, in concert with the Region, initiate a kitchen organics collection program as well as a collection of Number 5 Plastics, in order to increase the amount of waste diverted from the landfill site towards the 50% level.

Response:

- The Region of Halton is responsible for waste management.
- A demonstration project for an organics collection program will begin in September 2005 with a view to going Region-wide by 2010.
- The Region continues to look at expanding the Blue Box Program, such as adding Number 5 Plastics, based on factors of volume diversion, viable markets, contract obligations and cost.

Transportation

8. That the City support those aspects of the proposed Regional Transportation Master Plan which encourage the establishment of HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lanes and increased use of public transit.
9. That the City continue the development of Live-Work communities to facilitate two way use of public transit (into and out of the community) at both ends of the working day.
10. That the City investigate with selected local businesses and/or industries the feasibility of providing transit passes to employees in order to a) decrease the number of parking

spaces required; b) decrease traffic congestion and c) perhaps allow families to decrease the number of vehicles they own.

11. That the City work with other GTA municipalities to encourage expanded commuter transit services by the provincial government.

Response:

- The City's Official Plan and Regional Official Plan Amendment 25 policies regarding nodes and corridors, and the linkages between land use and transit, encourage the type of live-work arrangements in these recommendations.
- The City's and Region's participation in the Smart Commute Travel Demand Management initiative encourages the reduction of auto travel and the promotion of transit and cycling initiatives.
- The Transit Service Review approved in the 2005 Capital Budget will include employer surveys and focus groups to explore opportunities to encourage work-related transit trips.
- Staff through its support of the City's Strategic Plan, *Future Focus VI*, and in particular the Long Term Goal Statements – Vibrant #5 and #6, supports a number of transportation strategies that align with the SOER recommendations, namely:
 1. Explore the feasibility of implementing a transit priority system - Study to be completed in 2005;
 2. Identify opportunities to implement Transportations Demand Management initiatives - Study to be completed in 2005;
 3. Support and actively participate in the development of inter-regional transit services, an inter-regional transportation master plan and a GTA transportation coordinating body - Staff are participating on the implementation team for the GTA Fare Integration System.
 4. Continue to pursue opportunities to provide a highly integrated multi-model transportation system;
 5. Provide a network of cost effective transit services to meet the needs of the community;
 6. Identify potential growth areas for transit related to new initiatives in the community;
 7. Continue to expand and improve local transit services that integrate with the inter-regional network.
- The 2005 Transit Service Review will identify service improvements to 2010 that will facilitate the advancement of the goals, objectives and policies of Future Focus VI, specifically strategies four to seven (listed above) and the City and Region's Official Plan Updates and Master Transportation Plans. The service review will include employer and public surveys and focus groups.

Energy

12. That the City investigate ways to supply at least 5% of its energy needs through alternative, renewable resources. This has already been started with a proposal to use below ground temperature differentials to provide heat for the proposed waterfront building, and with interactions with Positive Power regarding the development of wind generators and/or the purchase of wind generated energy.

13. That the City undertake an energy audit of its facilities and vehicles and set a target to be achieved through the implementation of the ICLEI recommendations, of a reduction of energy consumption of 20% over the next five years.
14. That the City make homeowners aware of the opportunities to have a "home energy audit" and to work to reduce their energy consumption as well.

Response:

- City staff continue to monitor the energy market for the viability of using renewable energy resources. Halton Region is undertaking a landfill gas utilization project (PPW79-04 & CA28-04).
- City staff will be working in partnership with Burlington Hydro to implement their *Community Conservation Plan*, which may include a pilot project using renewable energy in a city facility.
- City of Burlington facilities staff have been active in the area of energy conservation. The following are some examples of measures that have been implemented recently:
 - Energy efficient lighting upgrades at City Hall in the council chambers, cafeteria, and engineering and ITS departments;
 - Photo cells in the parking garage which ensure that lights are only on when necessary; and,
 - Energy efficient window replacements at Paletta Mansion.
- It is estimated that the council chamber lighting improvements will result in approximately a 40% energy savings for that area and 20% savings for ITS, as the level of lighting service was also increased in this area. Lighting improvements usually result in a very quick payback period. Other measures that have been implemented in previous years include heat recovery systems at indoor pools and light motion detectors in some arena change rooms, rinks, and city hall offices.
- Another successful example of implementing energy conservation measures in a city facility is the Central Library expansion. The new 20,000 square foot addition was designed to be energy efficient and will use 42% less energy than if constructed to the Model National Energy Code for Buildings. Under the federal Commercial Building Improvement Program, the library received \$44,494 in funding for improving the energy efficiency of the building.
- Staff have recently formed an Energy Management Team to develop an energy management program for city facilities, which will include building audits, ongoing implementation of energy conservation measures, such as lighting upgrades in city hall, including the council chamber, and efficiently tracking energy costs. Funding of \$100,000 for the energy management program has recently been approved through the capital budget process.
- The Environmental Management Team will also be working to develop a corporate action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the city's commitment under Partners for Climate Protection, which will involve setting targets.
- City council approved a subsidy in 2004 to support homeowners obtain energy audits through the Halton Residential Energy Efficiency Project. Homeowners were subsidized by \$25 for an energy audit. The total amount of the subsidy was \$6,375 based on a target of 255 homes with an additional \$2,550 provided for marketing. It is proposed in the 2005 current operating budget to continue the subsidy with a target of 300 homes, at a

total cost of \$7,000. In kind support for marketing will be provided to promote the REEP.

Air

15. That the City pass and implement the anti-idling by-law currently in preparation, and support the by-law with a public information and awareness campaign.
16. That an information display on air quality and air quality monitoring, coupled with a display screen linked to www.airqualityontario.com be included in the waterfront centre development.
17. That the information and awareness campaign suggested in Recommendation 15 be coupled with an increased awareness program on the increasing connection between transportation and air quality.

Response:

- City council adopted an idling-control by-law in June 2004. Staff have delivered an extensive community awareness raising program for anti-idling in partnership with the BSDC, the Aldershot Community Council, Halton Partners for Clean Air, the GTA-Clean Air Council and Go Transit.
- The Waterfront Centre is scheduled to be open by December 2005 and will include an indoor exploratorium based on discovery, navigation and play. An air quality monitoring display may fit into the theme but funding would be required. The BSDC is to be represented for the planning of the exploratorium.
- Both regional and city strategic plans include actions to improve air quality. The region's plan includes actions specific to air monitoring in Halton and address the relationship between and land use and transportation planning.

Water

18. There is little information regarding quantities of groundwater in aquifers below Burlington. Further, there is little data to address concerns that these groundwater resources are being depleted. It is therefore recommended that the City, along with Regional, Provincial and National partners, initiate studies measuring the current content of Burlington's groundwater aquifers.
19. The quality of surface water can be greatly affected by contaminants entering from storm water runoff of urban areas. To reduce this contamination, it is recommended that the City initiate a public education program, informing residents of the linkage between storm water and surface water, and discouraging practices of disposal of household and vehicular contaminants into storm sewer drains. The reinstatement of the "yellow fish program" in partnership with local elementary schools, should be considered.

Response:

- The Region's Official Plan and the Aquifer Management Plan both recognize the need to monitor water quantity and quality in the aquifers within Burlington. The Region's Aquifer Management Plan goes a long way to identifying existing conditions within the Burlington area as it defines the geology, significant aquifers, sensitive areas, and water table. With this information, the Region has developed a region-wide groundwater model. The Aquifer Management Plan further recommends the ongoing implementation of a program to better define the systems across Halton, monitor the available resources,

and to monitor the impact of development on these resources. Some work has already been undertaken in this area through the installation of long-term monitoring wells within developments in Burlington. Further work is required at the local municipality, regional, and provincial level to expand this network.

- The Yellow Fish Road Program is sponsored by Trout Unlimited and educates the public about the dangers of dumping unwanted household chemicals, such as used motor oil and paint, down urban storm drains. City staff and BSDC members are working with Conservation Halton to partner on the delivery of the program in Burlington with local groups, such as schools, guides and scouts in 2005.

Wastewater

No recommendations. The BSDC commended the Region for its excellence in its wastewater collection and treatment services.

Noise

20. Noise complaints received by all agencies should be logged into a single searchable database maintained by the chief by-law control officer.

Response:

- The frequency and type of noise complaints may be an indicator of increased urbanization or may also reflect increased enforcement activities. It is difficult to make assumptions without a breakdown of the type of complaint. Different noise complaints are received by the Ministry of the Environment, the City (Building Department and Animal Control), the Region (Police and Health Department).
- One database may not be possible due to resources and agencies at different levels of government. However, Building Department staff may be able to provide the total number of complaints they receive with a breakdown of type of complaints for the next SOER.

5.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The financial implications of the actions identified above will be reported on when projects are closer to the implementation stage.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

The State of the Environment Report is an important tool for staff and the greater community to monitor the health of the local environment and identify areas for improvement.

7.0 COMMUNICATION MATTERS:

Staff have worked closely with Corporate Communications and the BSDC members to raise community awareness of the State of the Environment Report and local environmental issues.

8.0 CONCLUSION:

Staff commends the volunteer efforts of the BSDC to produce the State of the Environment Report II and their work to raise community awareness of local environmental issues. Staff will continue to monitor the progress of the actions related to the recommendations and will provide updates to the BSDC for the third edition of the SOER.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Robichaud
Sr. Environmental Co-ordinator

Copy filed: s:\inet\CCS

Appendices:

--

Staff / Others Consulted:

Name	Telephone
Leo DeLoyde	x7883
Bruce Krushelnicki	x7630
Donna Clegg	x7763
Paul Smithson	x7477
Robin van de Lande	x7457
Ken Charles	x7660
Dave Currie	x7791
Fleur Storace-Hogan	x7580
Marg McVinnie	x7419
Philip Kelly	x7576
Teresa Giangregorio	x7891
Tracey Burrows	x7476
Rick Lipsitt	x6145
Paul Attack	905-825-6000 x7214
Environmental Management Team Healthy Green Spaces Ctte. Naturalization Sub-Ctte. Air Quality Initiatives Energy Management Team Sustainable Development Committee Management Committee	

Pg 10 of Report – CORPSERV-11/05

Notifications:

Name	Mailing or E-mail Address
Paul Attack Sr. Environmental Planner Halton Region	1151 Bronte Road Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1

Special Instructions:

Consent Agenda
