



SUBJECT: Sustainable Development Committee Annual Report

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Capital Works

Report Number: CW-09-17

Wards Affected: N/A

File Numbers: 130-02

Date to Committee: April 3, 2017

Date to Council: April 18, 2017

Recommendation:

Receive and File

Purpose:

This report is written on behalf of the Burlington Sustainable Development Committee to present the 2016 Year End Report and 2017 Objectives. The committee's work relates to a number of strategic plan initiatives, including:

A City that Grows

- Intensification
- Focused Population Growth

A City that Moves

- Increased Transportation Flows and Connectivity

A Healthy and Greener City

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Environmental and Energy Leadership

An Engaging City

- Good Governance
-

Background and Discussion:

In 1990 the City of Burlington declared itself a Sustainable Development Community and established the Sustainable Development Committee as an advisory body to city council. This committee fosters dialogue on sustainability initiatives by participating on stakeholder committees, attending public meetings, hosting special events such as their library events, supporting community environmental events such as Car Free Days, and by providing comments and guidance to staff and council.

Appendix A to this report consists of the 2016 Year End Reports for the Committee of the Whole and the two sub-committees (Awareness, and Policy and Development). Appendix B includes to the 2017 Objectives for the Committee of the Whole and the two sub-committees.

The committee's work for the year included commenting on policies and development applications, hosting guest speakers and presentations, attending and participating in special events, and planning and hosting their own events – the Jane's Walk along the beachway and the Alternative Sources of Energy for the Home. They spent significant time reviewing and updating the Principles and Objectives for Sustainable Development, which will be presented to this Committee in the near future.

The work plan for the coming year consists of plans for a larger than usual special event at Tansley Woods Community Centre on May 27th, Take Action Burlington – Let's Live Green, to be followed in the fall with another event in partnership with the Burlington Public Library. They will finalize the Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development, and review and comment on draft Official Plan policies, as well as development applications, and host special guests to present new information related to sustainability initiatives.

The committee would also like to recognize the efforts of two city staff who provide significant support to their two sub-committees and the work that they do; Fleur Storage-Hogan who works closely with the Awareness sub-committee on community engagement initiatives and Leah Smith who provides ongoing support to the Policy and Development sub-committee, helping to coordinate the reviews of planning and development reports.

Strategy/process

All committee members were involved in the review, development and finalization of the attached reports, as well as the three staff advisors to the committee (Fleur Storage-Hogan, Leah Smith and Lynn Robichaud).

Financial Matters:

N/A

Connections:

As noted above, much of the committee's work contributes to a sustainable future for this community, by participating in opportunities to review, comment on, and support the Strategic Plan, the new Official Plan, transportation planning, the Community Energy Plan, and community engagement. The committee is particularly keen to support efforts that relate to the following statement in the Strategic Plan under Environmental and Energy Leadership:

The city recognizes that climate change is a significant issue and is working with the community and all levels of government towards the goal of the Burlington community being net carbon neutral.

Public Engagement Matters:

The Sustainable Development Committee will continue to work with city staff to engage the community on sustainable development issues, particularly through their special events and by using social media outlets.

Conclusion:

The Sustainable Development Committee is pleased to present their 2016 Year End Report and 2017 Objectives for Council's information. They look forward to continue working with and advising city staff and council on a variety of sustainable development initiatives in 2017, particularly as the city transitions to a vibrant, livable and efficient urban city.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Robichaud

Sr. Sustainability Coordinator

(and Clerk/Staff Advisor for the Sustainable Development Committee)

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Appendices:

- a. Sustainable Development Committee's 2016 Year End Report
- b. Sustainable Development Committee's 2017 Objectives

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.