

## Sustainable Development Committee 2016 Year End Report

### 2016 Committee of the Whole Year End Report

In 2016 the Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) continued its long history of success by contributing to city initiatives, organizing their own, and participating in other community events. The committee continued its active involvement in the Official Plan review process, attending key workshops and reviewing sustainability policy elements. The committee provided feedback during the development of the City's Draft Strategic Plan 2015 – 2040 and was on hand for its successful approval by Council. The Policy and Development Sub-committee commented on a number of development applications, and the Awareness Sub-committee participated in a number of events and hosted a fall library session focused on sustainable energy options for the home. In addition a number of members contributed to a refresh of the City's Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development which is used as a key tool for the committee.



The following section describes our progress on key objectives for 2016:

#### **1. Participate in the public engagement process of the new Official Plan and submit comments on issues of sustainability.**

**Result** - The Policy and Development Sub-committee continues to maintain active involvement in the Official Plan review. This sub-committee continues to promote a more clearly articulated vision for the City's Official Plan that promotes sustainable community intensification compatible with efficient, low carbon transportation infrastructure such as transit and cycle lanes, in a manner that assures equitable access to services by all of Burlington's residents.

The committee has actively participated in Burlington's Community Energy Plan (CEP) stakeholder advisory group and has maintained its active involvement as the CEP works through the implementation phase.

As it does each year, SDC hosted a successful event in conjunction with the Burlington Public Library which directly related to the Community Energy Plan by focusing on sustainable energy options for home owners.

#### **2. Develop a network of contacts such as Alumni, City Staff and other organizations to:**

- Communicate events we undertake.
- Provide expertise and experience to the committee on subjects where we have limited knowledge.
- Develop support in initiatives we undertake or ideas we are pursuing such as Zero Waste, Community Energy and Community Gardens.

**Result** – The committee worked closely with staff to promote our Fall Library Event resulting in high attendance levels. The event was well promoted through the City's Social Media channels which we believe had a positive impact.

The Policy and Development Sub-committee also received several presentations from staff on Official Plan review topics, including the Director of Planning to discuss the future of planning in the City of Burlington.

### **3. Actively participate and provide comments on various external committees and plans**

**Result** - We have participated or attended meetings/conferences or have representation on the following:

- Upwind/ Downwind Air Quality Conference – Hamilton
- Halton Environmental Network Annual General Meeting
- McMaster Low Carbon Resilient Communities Forum
- Halton Region Agriculture Forum

### **4. Invite representatives from various external organizations, (eg. other municipal sustainability committees), to speak about the goals and objectives of their groups. Follow up on recommendations and proposals presented.**

**Result** – The committee studied a recommendation from the group Our Horizon regarding affixing climate change warning labels to fuel pumps. The Committee continues to investigate this issue.

The committee met with Michelle Bennett from the city's Community Gardens Program to discuss the future of Community Gardens. The committee exchanged ideas on how to ensure long term success of the program and provided feedback to staff.

Representatives from the Cycling Committee presented to SDC regarding Supporting Cycling Infrastructure in Burlington. An intense discussion ensued resulting in no clear consensus on how Burlington should proceed to best ensure safe cycling alternatives.

The committee received a presentation from Burlington Parks and Recreation staff regarding initiatives to improve fitness among youth, and consideration of changes to the restriction on bottled water in city facilities, an initiative the SDC supported in the past. The SDC provided feedback suggesting the policy be maintained with some changes to improve access to healthy refreshment options.

### **5. Encourage members of the BSDC to write short articles about a topic, issue, book or organization for the purpose of educating other members and**

**possibly articles in local newspapers or websites.**

**Result** – The committee took part in a broad range of community outreach and educational initiatives in 2016, with the intention of engaging members of the community on topics of sustainability through their own activities and interests:

- Civic Rose Awards - The committee took part in judging for the Green Garden Award for gardens incorporating a selection of native and/or drought tolerant trees, shrubs or perennials.
  - Committee members took part in the Burlington Downtown Car Show which showcased Electric Vehicles.
  - Jane's Walk – SDC members led a Jane's Walk event in May 2016.
  - Members attended Car Free Street Festival events across the City.
  - Committee members provided analysis and a recommendation for an award winner for the Burlington Chamber of Commerce's Sustainable Green Business Award.
  - Members attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual BFAST (Burlington For Accessible and Sustainable Transit) Transit Users forum.
  - SDC members formed a crew which took part in the annual BurlingtonGreen Clean Up event, including the Eco Fair.
- 6. Promote the State of the Environment Report (SOER) V in the community and continue to encourage Council and Staff to implement its recommendations.**
- The SDC provided comments to staff and council on a number of city initiatives making reference to SOER recommendations. Copies of the executive summary were distributed at a number of public events.

## **Policy and Development Sub-committee 2016 Year End Results**

The Policy and Development Sub-committee remained active in 2016, reviewing a number of development applications, as well as many policies and studies. We greatly appreciated the help and support provided by Leah Smith, the city's Senior Environmental Planner as our staff liaison, who has been extremely helpful throughout the year.

1. **Provide input on proposed changes to the City's revised Official Plan throughout the Official Plan Review process.** This includes commenting on Official Plan Directions when they become available.

**Results:** Members of the sub-committee remained involved in the Official Plan Review process, attending meetings held throughout the year, including those related to the Mount Nemo Study Update – May 2, 2016, and Downtown Streetscape Guidelines – June 25, 2016.

Staff presentations were made to the sub-committee on:

- Transportation Master Plan (Kaylan Edgecumbe)
- Employment Lands Policy Directions (Alison Enns)
- Urban Structure and Intensification Policy Directions (Phil Caldwell and Leah Smith)
- Rural, Natural Heritage, and Sustainability Policy Directions (Don Campbell and Leah Smith)
- Employment Land Conversion Preliminary Recommendations and Policy Directions (Alison Enns)

The sub-committee reviewed and/or provided written comments to staff on the following Official Plan items:

- a. Burlington's Mobility Hubs: Work Plan for Area Specific Planning (PB-48-16)
- b. Urban Residential Policy Brief
- c. Urban Structure and Intensification Policy Directions Report (PB-29-16)
- d. Employment Lands Policy Directions (PB-17-13 & PB-02-15)
- e. Rural, Natural Heritage and Sustainability Policy Directions (PB-83-16)
- f. Official Plan Vision Language
- g. Principles and Objectives

2. **Provide input on planning and development items sent to the Sub-committee for comment per the P&D protocol.** Monitor comments from staff on our reviews and dialogue with them when appropriate.

**Results:** The sub-committee review and/or commented on the following planning and development applications and Environment Assessments:

- 1200 King Road (Penta Properties Inc.)
- 4853 Thomas Alton Boulevard (ADI Development Group Inc.)\*
- 5421 to 5463 Dundas and 3232 Tremaine – Evergreen Secondary Plan (Evergreen Community Burlington Limited)

- 2025 Guelph Line – Fortino’s Plaza (CP REIT Ontario Properties Ltd.)\*
- 35 Plains Road E (Aldershot Properties Inc.)\*
- 92 Plains Road E (Chelten Developments Inc.)\*
- 143 Blue Water Place and 105 Avondale Court (First Urban Inc.)\*
- 374+380 Martha Street (ADI Development Group Inc.)\*

\*= Comments submitted to staff/council

- Promote our principles, objectives and guidelines at the pre-consultation stage with a clear message that Burlington is a Sustainable Development community.** Work with city staff on applying the principles of sustainable neighborhood and site design (such as those found in LEED Neighborhood Development, LEED standards for new construction and similar standards) to urban design guidelines, secondary plans, and major development applications.

**Results:** Worked on the Sustainable Building and Development Guidelines and P&D Commenting Template.

Developed a LEED Neighbourhood Checklist which was used in the review of:

- 1200 King Road (Penta Properties Inc.)
- 5421 to 5463 Dundas and 3232 Tremaine – Evergreen Secondary Plan (Evergreen Community Burlington Limited)

- Support the Community Energy Plan and the principle of environmental protection through the objectives of energy conservation and a balanced transportation system.** We will encourage the use of electric/hybrid vehicles in City fleets and district heating, and by the general public through active involvement in events and social media.

**Results:** We served on the Stakeholders Advisory Committee for the CEP, the Advising Efficiency and Generation Task Force, Community Engagement Task Force and participated in:

- The Critical Role for Electric Mobility Challenges
- Burlington Downtown Car Show with GHEVA and Electric Cars
- SDC Home Energy Event

- Promote our principles, objectives and guidelines by providing input and participating in municipal, regional and provincial planning and policy groups regarding transit and transportation such as:**

- Niagara to GTA Corridor Study
- Metrolinx
- Regional Transportation Plan

- Travel Demand Management Policy
- Transportation Master Plan
- Cycling Master Plan, and
- Transit Master Plan

**Results:** Had a presentation on the Master Transportation Plan, provided input to the TS-10-16 New Street Cycling, served on the Integrated Transportation Advisory Committee, and participated in:

- Go Rail Network Electrification
- Inspire Burlington – New Directions in Transportation
- BFAST Event for Transit Users

**6. Promote our principles, objectives and guideline by participating in public meetings and stakeholder committees that relate to the principles and objectives of the Burlington Sustainable Development Committee and the City of Burlington.**

**Results:** The committee participated in:

- Creating Strong Neighbourhoods – Terry Cooke, Hamilton Foundation
- Inspire Burlington – Brent Toderian – Density Done Well in a City Growing Up (Not Out)
- Hamilton Upwind Downwind Air Quality Conference
- Halton Regional Agriculture Forum
- Low Carbon Resistant Communities – Glen Murray
- Town Hall Meeting on Climate Change with MP's (Oakville North – Burlington and Burlington)
- Inspire Burlington – New Directions in Transportation

**7. Provide education and training for SDC members:**

- Invite guest speakers to provide education and information on topics of interest. Speakers could include people who work in sustainable development in nearby municipalities of similar size.
- Organize a trip or visit that may relate to an application of focus or generally to the concept of sustainability, in connection with the Burlington Sustainable Development Committee Principles and Objectives.
- Review P&D material with the sub-committee, and
- Investigate new technologies.

**Results**

The following individuals made presentations to the sub-committee:

- Official Plan presentations – see item 1 for details
- Planning Process – Rosalind Minaji, City of Burlington Planning Staff
- Marantha presentation on new facilities with George Burton and Steve van der Woerd

The SDC also visited Mountain Equipment Co-op to gain a better understanding of sustainable building features.

P&D materials were reviewed with new members of the sub-committee to provide the background needed to work on this committee. This included SDC Principles and Objectives, previous comments, and LEED Building and Neighbourhood priorities.

**8. Set expectations and effectively utilize and recognize the unique talents of the sub-committee members.**

**Results:** Worked in diverse teams both in experience and skill sets to draw on the capabilities of all the team members and to allow new members to learn from the more experienced ones. More sub-committee members were engaged in providing comments.

**9. Maintain, update and grow the P&D resource library.** Incorporate more comments and documents from prior years.

**Results:** Online shared virtual drive kept up to date with sub-committee resources including agendas, minutes, and comments, etc.

**10. Update SDC Principles and Objectives working with the Awareness Sub-committee.**

**Results:** Work commenced in October 2015 with the Awareness sub-committee on updating the Principles and Objectives. The initial draft was completed in spring of 2016 and approved by SDC. The initial draft was reviewed with city staff and the ChAT group with modifications made based on these discussions. The updated Principles and Objectives were approved by SDC in November 2016. These will be posted on the city's website early in 2017 for community feedback. Comments will be reviewed by the SDC and a final version will be presented to the Committee of the Whole.

## **Awareness Sub-committee 2016 Year End Report**

For 2016, the Sub-committee selected the theme of climate change and what individuals can do to reduce their GHG emissions footprint. Public events and communications were focused around that theme.

**1. Support the City's sustainability initiatives, such as the Community Energy Plan and community engagement.**

**Result** – The Community Energy Plan (CEP) was advertised at all events in which SDC members participated, including the annual Clean Up Green Up Day, the Appleby Line Street Festival, the SDC's fall library event and the Inspire Burlington events (Feb. and Nov.). Information on the Community Energy Plan was available at the Community Display Table in the lobby of Central Library (March and Oct.). The SDC is represented on the CEP's Stakeholder Advisory Committee as well as the Community Engagement Task Group.

**2. Work with Communications staff to develop a Communications Plan for 2016, including social media strategies e.g.:**

- Update SDC webpage
- Create monthly Tweets (for City's Twitter account)
- Create articles for "Take Action Burlington" blog

**Result** – The SDC Jane's Walk and the fall library event (on home energy options) were advertised on the City's website (SDC and Sustainability webpages) and community calendar, through members of council via e-newsletters or social media, through a media release for the Jane's Walk, ads in the Burlington Post newspaper, as well as on Facebook and Twitter. The fall library event was also advertised by the library. The Awareness Sub-committee did not create tweets or articles for the blog during 2016. Regular blog entries were created by City staff (the Sustainability Project Co-ordinator).

**3. Co-host, with the Burlington Public Library, one event (fall) pertaining to a sustainability issue (with a focus on the "theme" for the year).**

**Result** – The SDC held a well-attended (approx. 80 people) event on home energy titled: "Alternative Sources of Energy for the Home" at the Central Library on Nov. 16, 2016. There were presentations on solar energy, air source heat pumps and geothermal energy. There were also exhibitors including Union Gas, the City's Building Dept., BurlingtonGreen and Mitsubishi.

**4. Propose an update to the City's Sustainable Development Principles and Objectives.**

**Result** – The SDC completed an update of the Principles & Objectives (P&O) to reflect current sustainability issues. The last major revision of the P&O was in 1994. The updated version was presented and discussed with some of the City's planning staff, with the Building Complete Communities staff team and with the



ChAT group. The draft P&O will be posted for public comment. The SDC will report back to the Committee of the Whole Committee and Council in 2017 with the final version.

**5. Participate in relevant community events such as BurlingtonGreen's Clean Up Green Up event, Appleby Line Street Festival etc.** The SDC is planning to organize a Jane's Walk focusing on the waterfront (Spencer Smith Park and the Burlington Beach).

**Result –** The SDC participated in a number of community events such as:

- Mayor's Inspire Burlington Event "Density Done Well in a City Growing Up (Not Out)" – Feb. 11 at the RBG
  - The SDC was there with a table with printed information on ways for individuals to reduce their carbon footprint
- Clean Up Green Up – April 23
  - The SDC did a clean-up of Indian Creek in Aldershot and also participated in the Eco Fair at the Central Library
- SDC Jane's Walk: "Discover our Beach" - May 8
  - The SDC hosted a Jane's Walk discussing the maintenance of Spencer Smith Park, the sustainable features of the new Joseph Brant Hospital tower, Lakeshore Road reconstruction, the Burlington Beach Regional Waterfront Park Master Plan and upgrades at the Skyway Water Treatment Plant. Approx. 30 people attended.
- Appleby Line Street Festival – June 5
  - The SDC was there with a table with printed materials related to public and active transportation and climate change
- Civic Rose Awards – July 17
  - The Committee continued its judging of the Green Garden Award for gardens incorporating a selection of native and/or drought tolerant trees, shrubs or perennials
- SDC committee members provided a recommendation for the Burlington Chamber of Commerce's Sustainable Green Business Award – Oct. 3.
- Mayor's Inspire Burlington Event "New Directions in Transportation" – Nov. 14 at the Performing Arts Centre
  - The SDC was there with a table with printed materials related to public and active transportation and climate change

## **6. Plan an educational field trip for membership.**

**Result –** The SDC Committee toured Mountain Equipment Co-op's Burlington store which is LEED Gold certified. The Committee learned about the sustainable features of the building and the site, and also about MEC's work with suppliers to reduce the environmental footprint of its products.

## **7. Plan for a green living event in 2017 entitled "Take Action Burlington – Let's Live Green".** The SDC has applied for funding from the Canada 150 (federal) program. This would enable the SDC to expand the scope of the event and retain a high profile keynote speaker. The event will be held at a City facility such as Tansley Woods. In 2016, the Awareness group will do research by attending the Burlington Home Show and the Green Living Show in Toronto. The sub-committee will reach out to other groups/communities that have organized similar events.

**Result –** The SDC Committee is moving forward with the 2017 "Let's Live Green" event. It is booked for Tansley Woods on Saturday, May 27, 2017 from 1 to 5 pm. The event will be funded from the SDC's budget as funding was not obtained from Canada 150. It will be staffed by SDC members, the City's sustainability staff, and volunteers. The program will be focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation and will be promoted to the general public. There will be up to 30 exhibitors representing government, ENGO's and local for-profit suppliers of "green" products and services. Some of the confirmed exhibitors are City of Burlington, Union Gas, Burlington Hydro, Conservation Halton, Community Carshare, BurlingtonGreen, Burlington Cycling Committee, Halton Region, SolarShare Cooperative, Sustainable Hamilton Burlington and Plug'n Drive. There will be educational speakers over the four hours. Test drives of electric vehicles will be available to the public and a Community Car Share vehicle will be on display.