



SUBJECT: Sustainable Development Committee Annual Report

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Capital Works

Report Number: CW-07-18

Wards Affected: N/A

File Numbers: 130-02

Date to Committee: April 3, 2017

Date to Council: April 23, 2017

Recommendation:

Receive and file capital works report CW-07-18 providing the Sustainable Development Committee's annual report.

Purpose:

This report is written on behalf of the Burlington Sustainable Development Committee to present the 2017 Year End Report and 2018 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, participating in community environmental events, and by providing comments and guidance to staff and council.

Appendix A to this report consists of the 2017 Year End Reports for the Committee of the Whole and the two sub-committees (Awareness, and Policy and Development). Appendix B includes the 2018 Objectives for the Committee of the Whole and the two sub-committees.

In 2017 the committee hosted a larger than usual special event at Tansley Woods Community Centre on May 27th, Take Action Burlington – Let's Live Green with a number of local environmental groups. The fall event was focused on sustainable home renovations. They spent considerable time and effort on reviewing and updating the Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development, as well as reviewing and commenting on the draft Official Plan policies. They also continued to review development applications and host special guests to present new information related to sustainability initiatives.

They are currently planning their spring event for May 3rd where a panel of speakers will share information about urban agriculture and growing your own food. The Awareness sub-committee is also taking an innovative approach to encourage members of the public to take note of their carbon footprint by creating an App. The Policy and Development sub-committee will continue to review policy documents and development applications to provide advice and guidance on sustainable development.

In addition to the Sr. Sustainability Coordinator who clerks and acts an advisor to the committee, two additional city staff provide significant support to the two sub-committees and the work that they do: Fleur Storace-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 Storace-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 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 2017 Year End Report and 2018 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 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Robichaud

Sr. Sustainability Coordinator

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

905-335-7600 x7931

Appendices:

- a. Sustainable Development Committee's 2017 Year End Report
- b. Sustainable Development Committee's 2018 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.