



**SUBJECT: Burlington Sustainable Development Committee 2019
Annual Report**

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Capital Works

Report Number: CW-06-19

Wards Affected: all

File Numbers: 130-02

Date to Committee: May 13, 2019

Date to Council: May 27, 2019

Recommendation:

Receive and file capital works department report CW-06-19 providing the Burlington Sustainable Development Committee 2019 annual report.

Purpose:

This report is written on behalf of the Burlington Sustainable Development Committee (SDC) to present the 2018 Year End Report and 2019 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
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Background and Discussion:

In 1990 the City of Burlington declared itself a Sustainable Development Community and Council established the Sustainable Development Committee as an advisory body to City Council. The inspiration came from Burlington Aldermen Walter Mulkewich and Jim Ryan who attended the 1989 Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference and heard Maurice Strong speak about the Brundtland report 'Our Common Future'. The report was prepared by the 1983 World Commission on Environment and Development, which was chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland. The report defined sustainable development as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

In 1994, Council adopted Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development. In 2017, the committee reviewed and updated the principles and objectives¹, which were presented to and endorsed by City Council. Their stated goal for sustainable development is 'to create the built form and systems that support the kinds of communities and connections that provide social, economic and environmental well-being now and in the future.

The second principle of sustainable development states: Recognize the urgency of climate change and take measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt. The United Nations also recognizes the urgency of addressing climate change as their 13th Sustainable Development Goal states 'Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts'.

Climate change is one of the more significant issues that the city is dealing with as was highlighted at the recent climate change summit at the Royal Botanical Gardens, the Council climate change workshop and through the climate emergency declaration being considered by City Council (at the time of writing this report). The Sustainable Development Committee can play an important part supporting the city and community to take action.

The SDC can assist in fostering dialogue on the links between sustainable development and taking action on climate change, whether its reducing the community carbon footprint and working towards the goal of becoming a net carbon zero community or

¹ A copy of the Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development are found here: www.burlington.ca/sdc

promoting measures to improve resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The committee is active in participating on stakeholder committees, attending public meetings, engaging the community by hosting special events, and by providing comments and guidance to staff and council.

Appendix A to this report consists of the 2018 Year End Reports for the Committee of the Whole and the two sub-committees (Awareness, and Policy and Development). Appendix B includes the 2019 Objectives for the Committee of the Whole and the two sub-committees.

In 2018 the committee hosted two library events; one on Urban Agriculture and the other on Fall Tree and Garden Care. The committee was involved in the Official Plan review process and commented on a number of development applications throughout the year.

This year the Awareness sub-committee has decided to participate in the 1 in 100 Day event in Burlington and are hosting a Yellow Fish Road painting event to educate people about the impact of pouring household hazardous waste down the city's storm drains and where the waste can be properly disposed of.

The committee has supported staff in a new approach to prepare the Take Action Burlington: An Update of Our Local Environment (formerly the State of the Environment Report), where staff has taken the lead to research and write the document while engaging committee members in the process. The committee will provide a series of recommendations for the city to consider in conjunction with the environmental update.

In addition to the Sr. Sustainability Coordinator who clerks and acts as an advisor to the committee, two additional city staff provide significant support to the two sub-committees and the work that they do: Fleur Storaice-Hogan who works closely with the Awareness sub-committee on community engagement initiatives and Lauren Vraets who is currently providing support to the Policy and Development sub-committee, helping to coordinate the reviews of planning and development reports.

Strategy/process

All SDC committee members were involved in preparing their annual report. Staff reviewed and provided comments back to the committee for consideration.

Financial Matters:

In 2018 the committee remained within their allocated operating budget for their activities.

Connections:

Citizen volunteers on the SDC contribute to a sustainable future for this community by participating in opportunities to review, comment on, and support planning policies and development applications, transportation planning, the Community Energy Plan, and delivering community engagement activities.

Public Engagement Matters:

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

Conclusion:

The SDC is pleased to present their 2018 Year End Report and 2019 Objectives for Council's information. They look forward to working with and advising city staff and council on a variety of sustainable development initiatives including climate change in 2019.

Lynn Robichaud
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Appendices:

- A. Sustainable Development Committee 2018 Year End Report
- B. Sustainable Development Committee 2019 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.