

May 13, 2019

**BURLINGTON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Delegation Written Comments from the Chair for the 2019 Annual Report**  
**Report Number CW-06-19**

The fifteen members of the Burlington Sustainable Development Advisory Committee (or SDC) are volunteer citizens who have been appointed by Council to advise on issues that relate to sustainable development. During the day, we are, or have been, biologists, business people, engineers, musicians, planners, university students and more. Our common ground is our passion for sustainability and the belief that the City of Burlington is a great place to live, work and play.

Our role in the community is to promote the Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development (or P&O) and to advise and assist City staff and Council members on these issues. We do this by holding public events and by submitting position papers to Council. The P&O were developed when the committee was first formed back in 1990 (almost 30 years ago). In 2008 the P&O were appended to the City's Official Plan and in 2017 they were updated to reflect more recent thinking on sustainability. They are used as the criteria with which to consider every planning application and every policy document that is reviewed by the SDC. They are promoted by the committee at all community engagement activities.

The 2019 Annual Report summarizes the activities of the committee in 2018 and lays out our objectives for 2019. The SDC has two sub-committees: Awareness and Policy & Development, both of which report to the SDC's Committee of the Whole on a monthly basis.

The Awareness sub-committee held two well attended events at Central Library in 2018. One was titled Urban Agriculture and covered local food production and community gardens. The second event focused on tree and garden cleanup care, including tips on how to create an aquaponic garden. In 2019, the sub-committee supported the City in creating the new *Take Action Burlington – Update on Our Local Environment* report, which replaces the *State of the Environment* reports that were produced by the SDC in the past. The sub-committee will again host two events in 2019 and will endeavour to assist the City in engaging the community to take action on climate change.

In 2018, the Policy & Development Sub-committee (or P&D) commented on the Official Plan, the Downtown Urban Centre proposal, the three GO mobility hub plans as well as a number of development proposals such as Lakeside Plaza. In addition, the committee met with Georgian Court developers to discuss sustainability aspects of the proposal. The committee contributed to the creation of the City's Sustainable Building

and Development Guidelines and would like to see them implemented as quickly and as broadly as possible.

The SDC is represented on the Stakeholders Advisory Committee for the Community Energy Plan and on the newly formed Bay Area Climate Change Council. Energy efficiency and GHG emission reduction have been, and will continue to be, a major focus of the committee's comments and recommendations. In 2019 the committee will be exploring opportunities to encourage net zero development in Burlington. The SDC commends Council for recognizing the urgency of climate change, declaring a Climate Emergency, and committing to the creation of a Burlington Climate Action Plan.