

Consent
CSC Meeting
MAY 26 2004
ITEM # 1

REPORT
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING DATE: MAY 26, 2004

FROM: Sherri Rendek-Young, Environmental Co-ordinator and
Narelle Martin, Environmental Advisor

DATE: May 14, 2004

SUBJECT: Oakville's participation in Partners for Climate Protection

LOCATION: Town wide

WARD: Town wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the proposed resolution prepared by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), attached as Appendix A, be endorsed; and

That the Town of Oakville communicate to FCM its support for and interest in participating in the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the Terms of Settlement relating to Official Plan Amendment No.198, the Town of Oakville Council agreed to join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiative's (ICLEI) and participate in its Cities for Climate Protection Program. In Canada, this program is administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) under the name of Partners for Climate Protection (PCP). The program is intended to guide municipal governments in taking stock and developing a plan for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

On February 2, 2004, Council received a staff report confirming the Town has formally joined ICLEI. Council is now being requested to adopt a formal resolution (Appendix A), indicating its intent to support and participate in the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program.

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COMMENT/OPTIONS:

To date, the Town has implemented a number of operational measures and improvements to achieve the benefits of reducing air pollution and greenhouse gases. These include, but are not limited to:

- Adoption of the Anti-idling Bylaw, with complementary education campaign
- Adoption and expansion of the Halton Smog Response Plan
- Purchasing of low sulphur fuel
- Upgrades to street lighting
- Replacement of T12 fluorescent lighting with the T8 technology and electronic ballasts
- Equipment upgrades to minimize harmful emissions on a regularized schedule
- Installation of occupancy sensors in Town buildings to reduce lighting requirements when rooms are not occupied
- Installation of computerized BAS (Building Automation Systems) in most large Town owned facilities
- Installation of Pool dehumidification / heat recovery systems
- Replacement of electric humidifiers with the more energy efficient gas humidifiers

Staff continues to research ways the Town can reduce its impact on air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, through working closely with Halton Partners for Clean Air, in developing the Environmental Strategic Plan, and in reviewing operations within the Town.

Partners for Climate Protection Program

Participation in the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program provides a means for municipalities to measure achievements and success rate by first developing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions using a base year, and then monitoring changes using PCP software. The PCP program suggests using a base year of 1994 but acknowledges the flexibility for municipalities to determine an appropriate base year given the availability of records (i.e., energy bills, etc).

The PCP program incorporates a series of five milestones, briefly described as follows:

1. Milestone One: Taking Stock

Proposed timing: 2004 (3rd and 4th quarters) and 2005 (1st quarter)

The Town must complete a greenhouse gas inventory (profile of energy use and emissions) for both municipal operations and the community for the base year 1994

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(or year with best available data), and forecast energy use and emissions for the next 10 to 20 years for municipal operations and the community. A free software package is available for the Town for this work.

2. Milestone Two: Setting the Reduction Target
Proposed timing: 2005 (1st and 2nd quarters)

A reduction target is established. The PCP program recommends a GHG emissions reduction target of 20 per cent from municipal operations, and a minimum six per cent reduction for the community, both within 10 years of joining the program. The Town will be working towards this target pending Council establishing to final target under milestone two.

3. Milestone Three: Developing the Local Action Plan
Proposed timing: 2005 (3rd and 4th quarters)

A local action plan is developed outlining the targets and measures to reduce emissions and energy use in municipal operations and the community. This local action plan will incorporate public awareness and education programs.

4. Milestone Four: Implementing the Plan
Proposed timing: 2006 – 2013

Implementation of the local action plan

5. Milestone Five: Measuring Progress
Proposed timing: 2007 – 2013

Monitor, verify and report on GHG reductions.

Although implementation of the local action plan is not proposed to occur until 2006, this does not mean the Town needs to delay adopting greenhouse gas emission reduction initiatives in the interim. The Town will receive credit for any initiatives implemented since the base year (to be identified) resulting in a reduction in GHG emissions. The challenge will be to reduce emissions despite a growing population. The Town will benefit from lessons learned by other municipalities experiencing similar situations in attempting to meet their PCP milestones, such as the Cities of Burlington and Mississauga.

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Relationship to Environmental Strategic Plan

The Environmental Strategic Plan (ESP) Task Force, with community input, has identified a vision, goals and guiding principles. One of the goals is:

"To sustain and enhance our natural resources – airsheds, watersheds, shoreline, landscapes, flora, and fauna."

Currently the targets, actions and responsibilities for achieving the vision and goals are being identified. These will all be subject to the approval of Council at a future date.

The PCP program provides a mechanism that can assist the Town and community to achieve its identified goals.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

Through development of the Environmental Strategic Plan, opportunities to promote community participation to enhance Oakville's environment will be created. These partnerships will assist the Town in both development and implementation of the local action plan to reduce GHG emissions.

(B) FINANCIAL

The estimated cost for Year One of the PCP program is \$20,000. This amount has already been included in the 2004 operating budget, and includes the Town's membership in the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) in the amount of \$2,300.

Staff will work toward obtaining supplementary funding from available sources to assist in offsetting the cost of this initiative. One potential funding source under investigation is through the Federation of Canadian Municipality's Green Municipal Fund.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

All Town departments will be affected during all phases of this multi-year endeavor.

(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

This initiative supports the following corporate goals:

- Quality of life
- Environmental stewardship

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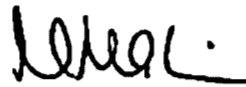
APPENDICES:

Appendix A Town of Oakville Council Resolution to participate in Partners
for Climate Protection program

Respectfully submitted by:



Sherri Rendek-Young
Environmental Coordinator



Narelle Martin
Environmental Adviser

APPENDIX A: Town of Oakville Council Resolution

WHEREAS the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has observed that global average surface temperature has increased over the 20th Century by about 0.6 degrees Celsius, that snow cover and ice extent have decreased, that global average sea level has risen and ocean heat content has increased;

WHEREAS the IPCC concludes in its 2001 Third Scientific Assessment that “there is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities”;

WHEREAS the IPCC projects that global average temperature will increase between 1.4 to 5.8 degrees Celsius by 2100 if current trends in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue;

WHEREAS federal and provincial costs related to extreme weather events in Canada increased from \$500 million in 1980-1984 to \$5.3 billion in 1995 – 1999, exclusive of municipal costs not yet measured on a national basis;

WHEREAS greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide), released from burning coal, oil and natural gas and from cutting trees and clearing land for agriculture and development, are the primary cause of climate change;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada ratified the Kyoto Protocol in December 2002;

WHEREAS Canada committed under the Kyoto Protocol to reducing GHG emissions six per cent below 1990 levels by 2012;

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) have established Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) to provide a forum for municipal governments to share their knowledge and experience with other municipal governments on how to reduce GHG emissions;

WHEREAS over 110 municipal governments across Canada representing more than 50 per cent of the population have already committed to reducing corporate and community GHG emissions through PCP;

WHEREAS PCP is based on a five-milestone framework that includes completing GHG and energy use inventories and forecasts for community and corporate sectors, setting a GHG reduction target, developing and implementing a local action plan and monitoring the plan; and

WHEREAS municipal investments in building retrofits, community energy systems, water conservation, renewable energy technologies, waste reduction, landfill gas capture, fleet management and public transit reduce operating costs, help maintain community services, protect public health and contribute to sustainable community development while cutting GHG emissions contributing to climate change;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Oakville communicates to FCM its support for PCP and its interest in participating in PCP.