

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, November 22, 2022

WARDS: ALL

TITLE: FIVE QUICK WINS TO ADDRESS MEMBER'S RESOLUTION –
THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY IN VAUGHAN

FROM:

Haiqing Xu, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To receive endorsement of the five (5) quick wins recommended in the June 23, 2022 Staff Communication in response to June 7, 2022 Member Resolution Thinking Globally, Acting Locally in Vaughan.

Report Highlights

- The 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration reaffirmed the City's commitment to climate action.
- Staff identified five (5) quick wins to address the Members Resolution to combat global warming through climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Implementation of the five quick wins would allow the City of Vaughan to continue to be leaders in sustainability initiatives.

Recommendations

1. That Council endorse the five (5) quick wins identified in the June 23, 2022, Staff Communication (C30) entitled "Member's Resolution Thinking Globally, Acting Locally in Vaughan";
2. That Staff be directed to implement the five (5) quick wins and, report back to Council during the next Sustainability Metrics and/or Climate Emergency Declaration updates; and
3. That Council continue to support green development standards and transportation demand management initiatives.

Background

On June 4, 2019, Mayor and Members of Council unanimously passed a Climate Emergency Declaration to reaffirm the City's commitment to climate action. The Declaration contains eight sustainability actions and initiatives that are geared towards climate mitigation and adaptation.

On June 7, 2022, the Member's Resolution entitled - 'Thinking Globally, Acting Locally in Vaughan' was submitted by Councillor Carella. The Member's Resolution indicated that every sector of society must contribute in the effort to address climate change. The City of Vaughan must continue to proactively address climate change, and Policy Planning and Special Programs staff was directed to bring forward five (5) quick wins for implementation.

On June 23, 2022, staff brought forward a communication outlining five (5) quick wins to address global warming that are implementable at a municipal level. The communication was received by Council; however, since no recommendations were included, none were approved.

Previous Reports/Authority

April 14, 2008, Staff Report (page 6) entitled "[City of Vaughan Green Building Policy](#)"

February 8, 2022, Staff Communication entitled "[Climate Emergency Declaration Update](#)"

May 3, 2022, Staff Report entitled "[Sustainability Metrics Program Update File 22.23.3](#)"

May 17, 2022 Council Extracts, Item 1, Report No.21 of the Committee of the Whole entitled "[Extracts from Council meeting minutes of May 17, 2022](#)"

June 7, 2022, Councillor Carella Member's Resolution entitled "[Thinking Globally, Acting Locally in Vaughan](#)"

June 23, 2022, Staff Communication (C30) entitled "[Member's Resolution Thinking Globally, Acting Locally in Vaughan](#)"

Analysis and Options

Quick Win 1: Set a building performance minimum requirement for all new development applications through making metric IB-12 Energy Efficiency "good" level in the Sustainability Metrics Program mandatory

As per the City's Municipal Energy Plan, 2016, under review, residential, commercial, and municipal sectors are sources of carbon emissions, totaling 20%, 15%, and 2% respectively of all community emissions in Vaughan. Through the 2019 Climate Change Emergency Declaration, Council approved Vaughan's carbon reduction target to reduce per capita Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to 2 - 3 metric tonne carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) by 2030. This also supports achieving the Canada's target of net-zero emissions by 2050 as per the *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act, 2021*.

Currently, all new development applications are required to meet the Council approved minimum threshold scores of the Sustainability Metrics Program, 2014. By Q1 2023, the minimum threshold scores will transition to the update Sustainability Metric Program, 2022. The Sustainability scores are calculated based on a variety of options available within the suite of metrics. Energy efficiency, GHG emissions reduction, and climate resilience are main themes within the suite, however they are met on a voluntary basis. To demonstrate achieving a minimum building performance, applicants would have to submit energy modeling and reports as part of a complete development application.

Quick Win 2: Set a minimum requirement of five (5) percent on-site energy generation for all Industrial, Commercial, Institutional and Multi-Unit Residential Building developments through making metric IB-10 Solar Readiness in the Sustainability Metrics Program mandatory.

On May 3, 2022 at the Committee of the Whole meeting, staff was directed to provide information to introduce a protocol in the site plan approval process to request applicants to consider the use of solar panels in all future developments. As staff is working on this protocol, there is an opportunity to request applicants to install renewable energy technologies such as solar panels, but to also consider on-site energy generation of five (5) percent. Currently, on-site energy generation is a voluntary option in the Sustainability Metrics Program metric IB-10 Solar Readiness.

Quick Win 3: Proactively continue partnering with Climate Wise Business Network to encourage energy benchmarking and reporting beyond Provincial energy reporting requirements for buildings over 50,000 sq.ft.

Ontario's Energy and Water Reporting and Benchmarking (O Reg. 506/18) annual reporting requirements apply to owners of institutional, commercial, industrial, and multi-unit residential buildings that are 50,000 sq.ft. and larger. This mandatory reporting through Energy Star® Portfolio Manager helps the Province track carbon emissions exerted at a building performance level and helps an owner track overall water and energy usage of the building. Benchmarking energy and water consumption is important

for cities with prospects for greater development growth. Historically, the City of Vaughan has partnered with Climate Wise Business Network, which is one of seven nationwide green economy hubs who supports and connects businesses together to utilize a carbon accounting platform. To support this quick win, City of Vaughan will reinstate its partnership.

Quick Win 4: Lead by example by updating Vaughan's Green Building policy to adhere to net zero building specifications or LEED® Gold building standards for new and retrofits of public buildings

The Green Building Standards approved by Council on April 14, 2008, require municipal buildings to achieve the LEED® Gold certification level. The quick win will direct Facilities Management staff to update Vaughan's Green Building Policy (Policy), listed in the Previous Reports/Authority Section of this report, to incorporate current best practices and lessons. The Policy update will include net zero emissions specifications and standards, and LEED® Gold building standards for municipal buildings. The following are examples of current net zero emissions or LEED® Gold municipal building projects:

- Carville Community Centre, Library and District Park is designed to be a net zero emissions building featuring geothermal, renewable, and heat reclaiming systems.
- Fire Hall 7-12, and Fire Hall 7-1 are being designed to be net zero emissions buildings featuring mass timber, renewable energy systems, and heat reclaim systems.
- Facility Management's Capital Expenditure Plan outlines an annual upgrading of building automation systems in municipal buildings. This will allow for more direct control to optimize energy use.

Quick Win 5: Advance and expedite, where possible, actions relating to implementation of active transportation stated in the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, 2020

As per the Municipal Energy Plan, 2016, the largest source of emissions in Vaughan in 2016 is the transportation sector at 44% of total community emissions.

Recommendations 4, 5, 6, 8, and 12 from the Transportation and Infrastructure Task Force, as referenced in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, 2020, are actions that directly reflect transformative change to support active transportation.

To expedite achieving the goals of the plan, direction be given to Infrastructure Planning and Corporate Asset Management (IPCAM) Department to develop a plan to be brought forward to Council as a part of the 2023 budget cycle. The plan would outline

accelerated routine accommodation and implementation of active transportation infrastructure throughout Vaughan.

Implementation of the five (5) quick wins will be fulfilled through collaboration and coordination among City partner departments

Various City partner departments include, but not limited to Policy Planning and Special Programs, IPCAM, Infrastructure Delivery, Development Engineering, Facilities Management, Corporate and Strategic Communications, Risk Management, and Legal Services.

City staff will update Council through regular updates on such initiatives as the Sustainability Metrics Program, Climate Emergency Declaration, or other departmental project reporting.

Financial Impact

The subscription costs of partnering with Climate Wise Business Network will be approximately \$5,000 a year which will come from Policy Planning and Special Programs Department's annual operating budget. Staff will review the costs and ensure there are sufficient funds to support additional sustainability organizational memberships, such as Local Governments for Sustainability known as ICLEI and resuming our membership with QUEST Canada. At this time, there are no other financial impacts to the City as a result of the noted recommendations.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The City needs to align with the Region's Climate Change Action Plan by supporting priority action areas such as Resilient Communities and Infrastructure, Low Carbon Living, and Supporting and Equitable Transition. By implementing these recommendations, the City of Vaughan will continue to be leaders moving forward green development standards and transportation demand management initiatives.

Conclusion

Overall, the endorsement of the five (5) quick wins from the June 23, 2022, Staff Communication will positively contribute to climate action in Vaughan and help support efforts to combat global warming through climate change mitigation and adaptation.

For more information, please contact Ruth Rendon, Senior Environmental Planner at extension 8104.

Attachments

N/a

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