

CITY OF VAUGHAN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mandate I Objectives

The City of Vaughan is committed to environmental stewardship – a key priority in the 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan. Vaughan is a green city and there are many examples of the City's achievements on this front:

- Green Directions Vaughan is the City's strategy and plan to make the community even more sustainable. Created in 2009 and updated in 2019, this long-term plan leads the City to a more sustainable future by addressing environmental, cultural, social and economic values. Guided by a definition of sustainability, environmental ethics and a set of principles, Green Directions Vaughan outlines the City's approach to maintaining a healthy natural environment, vibrant communities and a strong economy through goals and more than 70 actions. These sustainability actions enable Vaughan to remain a complete community where the needs for daily living are accessible to people of all ages and abilities.
- In 2018, Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Members of Council opened Phase One of the 900-acre North Maple Regional Park – surrounded by community partners championing an even brighter future for Vaughan. Once fully complete, Vaughan's North Maple Regional Park will be larger than New York City's very own Central Park. Construction on Phase Two is planned to begin in late 2021.
- Vaughan's Thornhill community is host to the City's first Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP), an initiative created by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The SNAP mission is simple – create sustainable, livable communities. The program aligns municipal objectives with the best interests of Vaughan's residents to make an array of improvements, such as renovating infrastructure, upgrading paths and parks and helping homeowners improve their energy efficiency.
- Since 2018, Vaughan Council has remained committed to creating pollinator-friendly habitats through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge. Under this pledge, the City has planted pollinator-friendly gardens at Vaughan City Hall, Vellore Heritage Square, Veteran's Park and Doctors McLean District Park, in addition to undertaking many other pollination-related initiatives. The City also recognizes Pollinator Week in June to educate residents on why it is important to protect birds, bees, butterflies, bats and beetles.
- Edgeley Pond and Park is the largest open space City-owned piece of land in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. It's the heart of the community and a signature amenity for Vaughan's new downtown.
- More than 21,000 trees have been planted as part of the City's tree replacement plan. In addition, Vaughan has more than 230 kilometres of cycling and pedestrian routes, including 60

kilometres of multi-use recreational pathways and 4.5 kilometres of cycle tracks along Clark Avenue from Yonge Street to Jason Street.

- As part of the City of Vaughan’s commitment to protecting the environment and fostering a sustainable community, approximately 22,000 new streetlights have been installed through the city-wide LED Streetlight Retrofit Program. LED lights use approximately 50 per cent less energy compared to the previous bulbs and have a longer lifespan – about four times longer. This translates into ongoing savings in operating and maintenance costs, and as a result of the reduction in energy consumption, the City will save approximately \$1 million annually.
- The City participates in Earth Hour each year, which is the world’s largest grassroots movement to protect the environment. Thousands of citizens turn their lights out to help reduce energy consumption.
- In 2021, the City expanded its weekly green bin collection to multi-residential buildings in Vaughan that receive municipal waste collection. The new green bin program – to be completed in phases over two years – is part of an ongoing effort to reduce waste in condos and apartment buildings.

Vaughan strives to create a healthy, sustainable and resilient city while furthering the City’s long history of environmental leadership, policy and stewardship, both as a community and as municipal government. The Environmental Leadership Task Force will discuss and propose innovative, yet achievable, environmental initiatives which the City could adopt to further green the City.

The task force will:

1. Serve as a forum for the discussion of improving environmental stewardship strategies among residents, businesses and stakeholders.
2. Improve neighbourhoods through environmental enhancement in both public and private spaces.
3. Provide more opportunities for environmental community groups to network and co-ordinate efforts with each other and with the City of Vaughan.
4. Align the work of the task force members with the Council-approved priorities identified in the 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan.
5. Share updates and presentations with advice and recommendations related to the Task Force, culminating with a final report of recommendations no later than June 2022.

Term

The term of this task force shall be from November 2021 to June 2022.

Membership

Members shall include Members of Council, citizens and stakeholders, as follows:

- a) Two (2) Members of Council, selected by Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua, will represent Council as Chair and Vice-Chair of the task force.
- b) The Mayor will serve as an ex-officio member of the task force
- c) The task force will be made up of no more than five (5) citizen members, plus one representative from TRCA, BILD, Alectra, Chamber of Commerce, Heritage Vaughan for a total of 10 citizen members

Meeting Procedures

Task force meetings are intended to be informal and structured to encourage maximum flexibility and open, honest debate.

The proceedings of the task force are to be governed by the City's Procedure By-law.

Agendas and Reporting

Agendas shall be prepared by the Office of the City Clerk in consultation with the task force Chair.

Agendas shall be posted on the City's website one week prior to the scheduled date of the meeting or as soon as practicable.

After each meeting of the task force, the City Clerk shall submit a report in the City's committee report format to the Committee of the Whole.

Following the conclusion of the eight-month mandate of the task force, a report of recommendations will be brought to Council for further discussion.

Meetings

Meeting dates will be determined at the first meeting of the task force. The task force may meet on the schedule determined or at the call of the Chair.

Meetings will be held every other month or as needed throughout the Task Force term, except for July and August, where no meetings will be scheduled.

The Chair of the task force may call special meetings.

Meetings are to be open to the public in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Notice of Meetings

Meetings will be noted on the Schedule of Meetings calendar posted on the City's website at vaughan.ca/CouncilMeetings.

Quorum

Quorum shall be calculated as a majority of the total number of persons appointed to the task force. Ex-officio members will not be counted for the purpose of calculating the total number of persons appointed to the task force but will be counted as a member present when in attendance.

Staff Resources

The role of staff is to act as a resource to the task force, but not to be members of the task force or to deliberate or draft the findings of the task force. The following staff will provide advisory and technical support specific to the mandate and objectives of the task force:

- The Office of the City Clerk will assign one staff person responsible for agenda and report production and distribution, the giving of procedural advice, the recording of proceedings of the task force and distribution of reports.
- The Corporate and Strategic Communications department will assign one staff person to provide communications advisory services, prepare information, communications and assist in the development of the task force report.
- An additional two (2) City staff with subject matter expertise will be assigned to support the work of the task force.
- The task force can be provided with additional administrative and/or technical support at the discretion of the appropriate Corporate Management Team portfolio(s).

Authority

The task force may not exercise decision-making powers or commit expenditures save for those specifically delegated by Council.

The task force may not direct staff to undertake activities without authority from Council.

Amendment I Expansion of Terms of Reference

Only Council can initiate any amendment and/or expansion of the Terms of Reference.