



REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report Number: CO 01-06

Date: June 19, 2006

From: Regional Councillor Maurice Brenner
Chair, Benchmarking Sustainability Standards Committee

Subject: Sustainable Pickering
A Framework for Benchmarking Sustainability

Recommendations:

1. That Council receive report CO 01-06 regarding Benchmarking Sustainability Standards, including the June 2006 report prepared by the RDC Group entitled Sustainable Pickering: *A Framework for Benchmarking Sustainability*, as set out in Attachment 1.
2. That Council endorse the Phase Two Work Program for the Benchmarking initiative, as set out in the RDC report, and authorize the Benchmarking Committee to continue to work on this initiative with the continued assistance of staff, the RDC Group, the community and others, using the remaining available funds approved by Council in the 2006 budget for this benchmarking project.
3. That Council request the CAO to report back on the feasibility of establishing a "Sustainability Coordinator" or similar position for the City, funded with the assistance of outside sources including project partners and any available grant programs.
4. That Council agrees to the City's participation in the "Walk 21" conference to be held in Toronto in 2007, provided that the City's contribution to work leading up to the conference does not exceed \$1500 in 2006.
5. That a copy of this report be forwarded to Durham Region, Enbridge, Veridian, Ontario Power Generation, UOIT, Toronto & Region Conservation Authority and others interested in this initiative.

Executive Summary:

This report is in response to Resolution #161/05 passed at Council on September 19, 2005 to establish benchmarking standards for sustainability in Pickering. This report is a follow up to the Report to Council CO 04-05 presented to Council on November 7, 2005.

RDC Group has prepared a progress report (attached) for Council's consideration. That report summarizes work done to date on the benchmarking program, including our

community consultation program. It also outlines a “Sustainability Framework” for the City and sets out a Phase Two work program for the benchmarking exercise. The Phase Two work program will allow the City to begin establishing appropriate Sustainable Pickering indicators and targets. Work will be done in consultation with the community, various groups and agencies (including the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology) and others.

Financial Implications:

Sufficient funds are available in account 2192-2392 to cover the consulting and other related costs associated with the Phase Two work program, as set out in Attachment 1 to this Report.

Background:

On September 19, 2005, to further reinforce and signify the City’s commitment to sustainability, Council passed Resolution #161/05. That resolution provided for the establishment of a Committee made up of Councillor Brenner (who chaired the Committee), Councillor Dickerson, Councillor Johnson and Mayor Ryan as an ex-officio member. The Committee was asked to establish benchmarking standards for sustainability in Pickering through a consultation process with wide cross representation from all sectors of the community. The September resolution directed the Committee to report on the proposed consultation process no later than November 7, 2005.

In November the Benchmarking Committee submitted a report to Council that made a number of pertinent observations and conclusions, including:

- The benchmarking exercise should be considered within the context of a City-wide sustainability program (now called “Sustainable Pickering”)
- The term sustainability is not well understood, and should be defined for Pickering
- Consultation on the program should be broad and multi-faceted, using the City’s website, town hall meetings, workshops and special events
- Sustainability is a journey, not a one-time effort

Council endorsed the Benchmarking Committee’s November report and asked that work continue, on what was described as “Phase One” of the program. In Phase One, the Committee, with the assistance of staff and the RDC Group, completed a number of tasks, including:

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- Established a local perspective on the term “sustainability” based on the three lenses (Environmental, Social and Economic)
 - Established and delivered an effective community consultation program including town hall meetings, roundtable discussions and a Sustainable Pickering Day event held in May at the Pickering Town Centre and City Hall
 - Launched a “Sustainable Pickering” website
 - Developed a conceptual framework for the Sustainable Pickering journey, which identifies a number of areas of interest to the community, under five sustainability objectives. The five objectives are:
 - Healthy Environment
 - Healthy Society
 - Healthy Economy
 - Responsible Development
 - Responsible Consumption

Phase One of the Sustainable Pickering journey is now complete. The attached report prepared by the RDC Group summarizes work done during this Phase, and recommends a work program for continuing the journey in Phase Two. The Phase Two work program includes the following:

- Continue to build Sustainable Pickering as the umbrella for all benchmarking, PCP, SNP, and related sustainability work in the City
- Develop specific targets and indicators for each of the areas of interest
- Pursue partnership opportunities, such as the UOIT Observatory
- Continue to engage the public and the business community, including consideration of another public event (e.g., in September 2006), building on the success of Sustainable Pickering Day
- Proceed with staff orientation and education
- Continue development and expansion of sustainablepickering.com for the public, and as support for internal staff education
- Prepare a status update in the fall, along with next steps for continuing the journey in 2007

It is recommended that Council approve the work program outlined in the RDC Report and authorize the Benchmarking Committee to continue this initiative, with the assistance of staff and the RDC Group.

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Attachment:

1. **Sustainable Pickering: *A Framework for Benchmarking Sustainability***
Dated June 2006 and prepared by the RDC Group.
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Prepared By:



Maurice S. Brenner
Regional Councillor

Attachment

Copy: Chief Administrative Officer