



REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report Number: CO 04-05

Date: November 1, 2005

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

Subject: Establishment of Benchmarking Standards for Sustainability

Recommendation:

1. That Council receive Report CO 04-05 regarding Benchmarking Standards for Sustainability.
 2. That Council approve the process outlined in the attached report submitted by the Benchmarking Sustainability Standards Committee (see Attachment 1), and that the Benchmarking Sustainability Standards Committee be authorized to continue to work on this project.
 3. That the Benchmarking Sustainability Standards Committee be authorized to retain Jack McGinnis of the RDC Group to act as the City's consultant and facilitator with respect to the attached process at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 in 2005 and \$25,000 in 2006.
 4. That Council authorize a 2006 pre-budget approval of \$50,000 for this process.
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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.

The Benchmarking Sustainability Standards Committee has prepared a process report (attached) for Council's consideration.

Financial Implications:

Funds are available in accounts 2121-2392 and 2192-2392 of the current budget to cover the proposed consulting costs for this project in 2005. Funding for this project in 2006 requires a 2006 pre-budget approval, as outlined in Recommendation 4.

Background:

The City of Pickering recognizes the need to achieve a distinctive community that is a desired place to live, work and raise a family. The City is currently embarking on several projects in the area of community sustainability, including a Partners for Climate Protection Plan and a Sustainable Neighbourhood Plan with the assistance of a grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities through its Green Municipal Fund.

On September 19, 2005, to further reinforce and signify the City's commitment to sustainability, Council passed Resolution #161/05 to establish benchmarking standards for sustainability in Pickering through a consultation process with wide cross representation from all sectors of the community. The Resolution required that a plan for the consultation process be brought back to Council no later than November 7, 2005.

In accordance with this Resolution, a Committee was struck with Councillor Brenner as Chair, Councillor Dickerson representing Ward 2, Councillor Johnson representing Ward 3 and Mayor Ryan as an ex-officio member. The Resolution also appointed the Director, Planning & Development and the Division Head, Corporate Projects & Policy to the Committee. Jack McGinnis, President of RDC Group was retained to help facilitate this work, and act as a consultant to the Committee. The Coordinator, Community Capacity Building was also asked to sit on the Committee, as this project has a direct link with a community consultation plan that the Coordinator is finalizing.

The Committee met three times. At the outset, it became clear that the benchmarking exercise should not be undertaken as a "one-time" effort; that to be effective, long lasting and meaningful, the benchmarking exercise needs to be considered and undertaken within a broader context and larger process, referred to by the Committee as a "Sustainability Program". The program at this stage is more a journey than a destination, which is founded on three main pillars: economic, social and environmental. When viewed in this light, the benchmarking project can be seen as a living entity that will continue to grow and evolve over time.

Attached is a report from the Committee outlining Phase One of the broader sustainability program. This Phase includes an effective and exciting public consultation program to support the benchmarking exercise and is designed to provide a context that will guide other aspects of sustainability across the City. It is recommended that Council approve the process outlined in the attached Report and authorize the Benchmarking Sustainability Standards Committee to continue this process, with the assistance of Jack McGinnis of the RDC Group.

Attachments:

1. Committee Report on Benchmarking Sustainability Process

Prepared By:

Maurice S. Brenner
Regional Councillor

Attachments

Copy: Chief Administrative Officer