



DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION

Development and Infrastructure

Report Number:	Report Date: May 14, 2002
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Author's Name(s):	Date to Committee:
Author's Phone: 905 Ext.	Date to Council:
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TO: Chair and Members of the Community Development Committee

SUBJECT: PARTNERS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION

1.0 RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the City of Burlington join the Federation of Canadian Municipalities & International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives' Partners for Climate Protection Program;

THAT the City of Burlington work towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions in municipal operations by 20 per cent below a base level (to be determined) and at least six per cent reductions below a base level (to be determined) throughout the municipality within ten years of joining the program;

THAT the necessary resources to meet the proposed milestones, as described in this report, be requested in the 2003/04 operating budgets for consideration by council; and,

THAT the City of Burlington endorse the attached resolution (Appendix 1) supporting the federal government's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol as per the recommendation of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

N/A

2.0 BACKGROUND:

The City of Burlington's Strategic Plan, Future Focus V, includes a target for the City to join Partners for Climate Protection (PCP). This program is a partnership between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) intended to guide municipal governments in taking stock of its greenhouse gas emissions and developing a plan to reduce the emissions.

3.0 DISCUSSION:

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, are increased by burning coal, oil and natural gas to move cars, fire furnaces or run motors, and to carry out every day activities. These gases, along with clouds and water vapour, contribute to creating a warming blanket around the earth.

In 1997, Canada's greenhouse gas emissions were 682 million tonnes, a 13 per cent increase over 1990. It is estimated that municipal operations generate 38 million tonnes (Mt) of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) per year through fuel and electricity consumption and decomposition of organic matter – from waste, landfills, buildings, fleets, water distribution and wastewater treatment.

Community-wide emissions can be influenced through land-use, transportation and community energy planning, building retrofits, water conservation and storm water management programs, as well as improved waste diversion from landfills and incinerators.

An increase in greenhouse gases is expected to result in an increase in global temperatures and is expected to be greater in northern latitudes in such countries as Canada. Although the precise regional effects and timing of climate change are unknown, it is predicted that the risks of global warming can include drought and an increase in the severity and frequency of extreme weather events, such as storms and heat waves.

Partners for Climate Protection Program

To date, the City has implemented a number of operational measures and improvements to the infrastructure to achieve the co-benefits of reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas benefits, including the:

- Recent addition of two hybrid vehicles for the fleet;
- Adoption of the Halton Smog Response Plan;
- Purchase of "premium" low sulphur fuel;
- Upgraded street lighting

Staff continue to research ways in which the City can reduce its impact on air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, through working closely with Halton Partners for Clean Air,

promoting alternative modes of transportation and car pooling to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips, and improving the energy efficiency of City buildings.

Joining Partners for Climate Protection provides a means for municipalities to measure its achievements and success rate by first developing an inventory of its 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 (e.g. energy bills, etc.).

To track the City's progress in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, PCP includes five milestones to meet. The proposed timing for each milestone is the estimated timeline required for the City to meet each milestone.

Milestone One: Taking Stock

Timing: 2003 (2nd - 4th quarters)

- The City must complete a greenhouse gas inventory (profile of energy use and emissions) using PCP software for both municipal operations and the community for the base year 1994 (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.

Milestone Two: Setting the Reduction Target

Timing: 2004 (1st - 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.

Milestone Three: Developing the Local Action Plan

Timing: 2004 (3rd - 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.

Milestone Four: Implementing the Plan

Timing: 2005 - 2012

- Implementation of the Local Action Plan.

Milestone Five: Measuring Progress

Timing: 2006 - 2012

- Monitor, verify and report GHG emission reductions.

The start timing for the implementation of the Local Action Plan is not proposed to occur until 2005, however, this does not mean that the City needs to delay adopting greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction initiatives in the interim. The City 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. However, the City will benefit from lessons learned by other municipalities experiencing similar situations in attempting to meet their PCP Milestones, such as the City of Mississauga and the Town of Richmond Hill.

The co-benefits of joining PCP include attaining energy savings by cutting waste and reducing air pollution and its effects, such as smog, acid rain, climate change and health problems. According to a report recently released by the Region of Halton Health Department, in the year 2000, it is estimated that poor air quality was likely responsible for 55 premature deaths, 400 hospital admissions, and 1,425 emergency room visits. The total economic cost was estimated at \$290 million dollars including \$18 million to the health care system.

The Kyoto Protocol

In December 1997, in Kyoto, Canada signed a protocol agreeing to a six per cent reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels no later than 2012. Although the Kyoto protocol was signed by representatives of Canada in 1997, the Kyoto protocol has not yet been ratified by the federal government. The Minister of the Environment, the Honourable David Anderson, is currently working with his provincial counterparts to develop an action plan to meet its commitment under the Kyoto Protocol. In response to the delay in implementing the Kyoto protocol, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has sent a request (Appendix A) to member municipalities, including Burlington, asking that they endorse the ratification of the protocol by the federal government. The City of Toronto recently approved the FCM resolution and included a recommendation that the member municipalities of the GTA Clean Air Council also endorse the Kyoto Protocol (Appendix B).

There is considerable press about various industry groups who are lobbying the government not to ratify the agreement by raising concerns that it will cost the national economy billions of dollars and thousands of job losses. On the other hand, there are others who insist that ratification of Kyoto will result in new jobs in construction and the development of technology as well as significant savings in energy costs while protecting our environment. Given the complexities surrounding this issue, staff are relying on the research of the Federation of Municipalities which recommends that Burlington and other municipalities endorse the ratification of Kyoto by the federal government.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is not just about the impacts to the economy and it is not the sole responsibility of the federal government. It is something that we as a community must also take responsibility for. FCM states that using energy more efficiently, and investing in public transit, renewable energy and community energy systems, and other initiatives could save money, improve the local environment and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

4.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Additional resources will be required to complete an inventory of the City's greenhouse gas emissions as well as develop a local action plan. Following the development of a workplan, staff will recommend the appropriate budget for the PCP program in the 2003 operating budget process. The preliminary estimate for Year One is \$20,000. Staff will work to obtain funding from available sources to assist in offsetting the cost of this initiative, such as through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC).

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

In order to reduce or prevent the impacts of climate change, such as increase storm severity, drought and forest fires, we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The principle of "thinking globally and acting locally" is very applicable for the City. It is evident that there are areas where measures can be implemented to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. For instance, the City's Strategic Plan, Future Focus V outlines a target for the development of an anti-idling education program and adoption of smart growth strategies, resulting in land intensification and energy savings.

6.0 COMMUNICATION MATTERS:

As one of the goals of joining PCP involves reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions in the community, a communications plan will be necessary. The purpose of the plan will be twofold: to communicate the City's success in meeting its objectives, and secondly, to encourage community partners to work with the City to reach the overall goals of PCP. The communications plan will be developed with the City's Corporate Communications Department and will be a key component of the Local Action Plan (see Milestone 3).

7.0 CONCLUSION:

In 1994, the City Council adopted "Principles and Objectives of Sustainable Development", where the City will have regard for environmental, economic and social costs and benefits in the development and use of resources, products and services. The City will also promote responsible stewardship to ensure equitable use of natural and environmental resources in order to meet essential needs of both present and future generations. (Source: *Principles and Objectives for Sustainable Development*, Burlington Sustainable Development Committee publication)

By joining PCP, the City supports the principles of sustainable development through the implementation of the Local Action Plan, as well as meeting its Environmental Mission Statement, where a high level of environmental performance is a key objective. Further, the implementation of the Kyoto protocol as recommended by FCM is a complementary community sustainability measure at a larger, more global, scale. The City has implemented a number of strategies in working with the business community to promote and develop the local economy on

a global scale and it makes sense that there should be accompanying global environmental protocols.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and our impact on the environment should not be the sole responsibility of the federal government nor by the industrial sector. Every level of government, the business community, as well as community groups and individuals can take some responsibility for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, whether it is done by strengthening air quality standards, expanding transit systems, improving energy efficiency, or just by ensuring lights are turned off when not in use.

It is recommended that the City join Partners for Climate Protection and work towards reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% from an appropriate base year to be determined, over a ten year period (from the time of joining) and a minimum of six percent for the community. It is also recommended that the attached resolution (Appendix C) from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be approved, requesting that the federal government ratify the Kyoto protocol.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Robichaud
Sr. Environmental Co-ordinator

APPENDICES:
A. Incoming Letter from FCM President Jack Layton
B. Letter from City of Toronto with Kyoto Resolution
C. FCM Resolution Recommending Federal Ratification of Kyoto Protocol

STAFF/OTHERS CONSULTED:	
Name	Telephone #
Management Committee	
Environmental Management Team	
Burlington Sustainable Development Committee	

NOTIFICATION DOCUMENT:
Notification List

APPENDIX C

CITY OF BURLINGTON - COUNCIL RESOLUTION

CITY OF BURLINGTON URGES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RATIFY THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

WHEREAS climate change causes drought, permafrost melting, increases in sea-levels and floods that damage municipal infrastructure, displace citizens and create a financial burden for municipal governments;

AND WHEREAS economic activity in rural and northern communities relying on fisheries, tourism, forestry and agriculture is disrupted by climate change;

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

AND WHEREAS forestry and agriculture sectors can expand business opportunities by increasing the capacity of trees and soils to absorb carbon dioxide and by developing renewable fuels like ethanol;

AND WHEREAS 72 per cent of Canadians want the Kyoto Protocol ratified;

AND WHEREAS the City of Burlington is committed to reducing municipal greenhouse gas emissions by joining Partners for Climate Protection;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the City of Burlington endorses ratification of the Kyoto Protocol; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Natural Resources, and the Leader of the Opposition; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment and Energy, and the Leader of the Opposition; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Region of Halton and the municipalities of Oakville, Halton Hills, Milton and Hamilton for their information , with copies sent to Burlington's MPs and MPPs.