Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – March 14, 2007

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Climate Change Action Plan – Quarterly Status Report
File E

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive this report as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 27, 2006, Council adopted the City of Winnipeg Climate Change Action Plan, as outlined in the report dated August 28, 2006 from the Chief Administrative Officer, and directed the Administration to report back quarterly, with the first quarterly report being submitted in January 2007.

Re: The City of Winnipeg Climate Change Action Plan Quarterly Status Report

FOR SUBMISSION TO: Executive Policy Committee

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED BY: Chief Administrative Officer

REPORT DATE: January 16, 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

1) That Council receive this report as information.

Report Summary

Key Issues:

- On November 25, 1998, the City of Winnipeg committed to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP). This program requires submission of a climate change action plan detailing how specific greenhouse gas emissions targets will be met and how progress will be measured.
- On September 27, 2006, Council adopted the EPC recommendation to accept the Climate Change Action Plan and requested quarterly updates on the progress of the initiatives. This represents the first quarterly report on the CCAP.

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General Implications

( ) None

X For the organization overall and/or for other departments

( ) For the community and/or organizations external to the City

( ) Involves a multi-year contract

Comment(s):

Policy Implications

X No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Regulatory Implications

X None

( ) Eliminates or reduces regulatory impact

( ) Proposes regulatory impact

Comment(s):

Environmental Implications

( ) No

X Yes

Comment(s): Progress in the initiatives contained in the CCAP will lead to a further reduction in the City's greenhouse gas emissions.

Human Resources Implications

X No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Financial Implications

X Within approved current and/or capital budget

( ) Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

Comment(s): All financial requirements are in existing budgets. If any adjustments are required, the Administration will bring forward a report for consideration.

Report

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

On September 21, 2006, the Executive Policy Committee made the following recommendation:

> That the City of Winnipeg Climate Change Action Plan, as outlined in the report dated August 28, 2006 from the Chief Administrative Officer, be adopted and the Administration be directed to report back quarterly, with the first quarterly report being submitted in January 2007.

Council adopted the EPC recommendation on September 27, 2006. This report represents the first quarterly report on the Climate Change Action Plan.

HISTORY:

On November 25, 1998, the City of Winnipeg committed to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program. This commitment requires Winnipeg to submit a climate change action plan detailing how specific greenhouse gas reduction targets will be met, and how progress will be measured. In order to fulfill this commitment, Council directed the Administration to prepare a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). The CCAP was adopted by Council on September 27, 2006.

DISCUSSION:

Quarterly reports on the status of initiatives will be submitted in January, April, July and October.

In addition to reporting on the status of initiatives, the April quarterly report will update the City's GHG inventory, after the previous year's data is collected and analyzed. Many of the indicators used to track progress on the CCAP are only collected on an annual basis. Others are subject to seasonal variations. For example; natural gas usage is up considerably in the winter months, when buildings need to be heated. Similarly, electricity use is up in the summertime, when air conditioning is required. The annual (April) report on GHG emissions will allow results to be assessed more fully.

Civic Facilities

1) Continue to seek out and implement opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades in civic facilities

Since 2002, the City has worked with Manitoba Hydro through a Power Smart Agreement to increase energy efficiency in civic buildings, street lighting and signals. In addition, since 2003, this work has reduced the City's equivalent GHG emissions by 2188.5 tonnes annually. These reductions will be included in the 2006 GHG Inventory.

2) Adopting elements of green building standards for new civic facilities

The City continues to apply elements of green building standards to new facilities. For example, the new Public Works/Water & Waste facility at 1199 Pacific was built to meet (and exceed) Natural Resource Canada's Commercial Building Incentive Program standards. City staff will continue to incorporate elements green building standards wherever possible.

3) Ensure that building management and other key staff members are LEED accredited

At this time, several City staff members are working towards their LEED accreditation or planning to do so in the near future. City staff are also in discussions with the Manitoba Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council regarding opportunities for other staff. This will include both further opportunities for LEED accreditation and an introductory LEED seminar for other staff members.

4) Retain membership in the Manitoba Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council and other relevant professional associations

The City continues to retain a membership in the Manitoba Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council. It was renewed in January 2007.

5) Develop a building user energy efficient practices education/promotion program

This initiative will be introduced as part of #18, through a website designed to show City staff how they can take action individually to help reduce the City's GHG emissions.

Civic Vehicle Fleet

6) Develop a vehicle information package for Fleet customers to allow them to consider fuel efficiency and other environmental options when purchasing vehicles.

This initiative is scheduled for the spring of 2007.

7) Explore opportunities to introduce a "Smart Driving" Program (fuel efficient driving techniques course)

This initiative is scheduled to start after the completion of #9 (administrative directive to reduce idling).

8) "Right Size" the fleet and replace obsolete vehicles with more fuel-efficient, cleaner burning units

This initiative is complete. Since the formation of the Winnipeg Fleet Management Agency, the City's vehicle fleet has been reduced by approximately 30%, from over 2300 vehicles to just under 1600. In addition, the WFMA has introduced a number of cleaner, more fuel-efficient units to the fleet, including 12 hybrid sedans and SUV vehicles.

9) Develop an administrative directive to reduce vehicle idling in the City's fleet

A working group has been struck, with representation from key City departments. The working group will recommend an administrative directive to the CAO in the spring.

10) Provide administrative support for the RRVCCC and use their resources to determine best 'Green Fleet' practices from other jurisdictions

This is an ongoing initiative. The City continues to support the Red River Valley Clean Cities Association, and City staff worked with the RRVCCC to organize a successful alternative fuels event on Odyssey Day (October 12, 2006) where over 100 participants from government, industry and non profit organizations attended conference presentations from experts across Canada and the U.S., attended a tradeshow and participated in an alternative fuel vehicle ride and drive.

11) Run a biodiesel demonstration project to confirm the suitability of this fuel for use in the City's fleet

Staff from the Winnipeg Fleet Management Agency are preparing an RFP for the construction of the equipment required for this project. Construction will start in the spring and the station is expected to be operational by the summer of 2007.

12) Innovation in the City's vehicle fleet

This is an ongoing initiative, and the Winnipeg Fleet Management Agency continues to investigate new and innovative technologies to improve the efficiency of the City's vehicle fleet. An example is the evaluation of in-cab heaters in three City pickup trucks. If successful, this can further reduce vehicle idling in the City's fleet. Also, a revamping of the city fuel distribution system will include the introduction of new technologies that will facilitate vehicle usage optimization for both idling and driver behaviour.

13) Diesel-electric hybrid buses

The first of the diesel-electric hybrid buses will join the Transit fleet in 2008. Independent testing of the different models available has shown that each bus could potentially show up to a 90% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over the average diesel bus.

Water Consumption

14) Continue efforts to reduce water consumption through "Slow the Flow" program

This is an ongoing intiative. The figures for per-capita consumption are not yet available for 2006, but will be incorporated into the next report in April of 2007.

Traffic Signals & Streetlights

15) Continue to replace existing traffic signals with high-efficiency LED systems

From August 1 to December 31 (2006), the City has replaced an additional 821 existing traffic signal display elements with high-efficiency LED units. This effort represents an additional annual savings of more than 194,000 kilowatt hours (kWh), which further reduces annual energy costs by approximately $11,678 (before taxes). In addition, it reduces the City's GHG emissions by approximately 5 tonnes.

In total, the City has now replaced 36.17% of all traffic signal displays. The display replacement project is ongoing and updates will be provided each quarter in the CCAP report.

Corporate Waste and Solid Waste

16) Implement methane gas recapture project at the Brady Road Landfill

Work is continuing on this project and an administrative report is being prepared for consideration by the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure and Public Works.

Other Strategies

17) Annual collection of GHG indicators (fuel, energy, etc.) among all departments and special operating agencies.

This initiative is now in place.

18) Develop an environmental promotion web page on the City's intranet site, including information on reducing paper use, alternative forms of commuting and reducing energy consumption in civic facilities.

This initiative is intended to show City staff how they can take action individually to help reduce the City's GHG emissions. The majority of the content for this initiative has been developed and the website will be introduced to City staff in the spring of 2007.

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS:

Internal Consultation With and Concurrence By:

Winnipeg Transit, Winnipeg Fleet Management Agency, Property Planning & Development, Water & Waste, Public Works.

External Consultation With:

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

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