

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - Minutes

Present:

Chair – Councillor Starchuk
N. Hogan
G. James
S. Sabharwal
G. Sahota (Rep. to DAC)
M. Sharma
D. Skaey
J. Stewart
A. Fasciani (YR)

Regrets:

R. Bains
J. Young
S. Van Keulen (AFSAC Rep.)
A. Zhang (YR)

Staff Present:

S. Godwin, Environmental Coordinator
N. Aven, Urban Forestry & Environmental
Programs Manager
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes of June 17, 2015 to be approved.

It was

Moved by D. Skaey

Seconded by G. Sahota

That the minutes of Environmental

Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held on June 17, 2015 be approved.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

The agenda was varied.

3. **Rethink Waste Program and Multi-Material BC (MMBC)**

Robert Costanzo, Manager of Operations was in attendance before the Committee and presented an update on the City of Surrey's Rethink Waste Program.

The following comments were made:

- The vision for the Surrey Rethink Waste Program is "To fuel Surrey's waste collection trucks with renewable natural gas generated from curbside organic waste". The program was driven by 3 key policy documents; the City of Surrey Sustainability Charter, the Metro Vancouver Solid Waste and Resources Management Plan and the City of Surrey Corporate Emissions Action Plan.

- The goals of the Rethink Waste program are:
 - Achieve 70% diversion from residential curbside waste using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) trucks (*Phase 1 Complete*)
 - Establish an Organic Waste Biofuel Processing Facility (*Phase 2 Under Construction*)
 - Ensure Goals 1 & 2 are economically sustainable (*Achieved*)
- Prior to the waste collection program in 2012, the City of Surrey was generating 50% waste diversion at curbside. A two year pilot project was implemented to collect materials at curbside. Approximately 2000 households received the three cart system that is currently in place with organic waste collected weekly and recycling and garbage collected on an alternating basis. Another 2000 households received one cart and were asked to put out garbage and recycling on a weekly basis. After a year, results showed that the households that put out garbage and recycling weekly eventually reached 50%. The City implemented the three cart system and waste diversion reached 70%. CNG trucks were also introduced at that time.
- The biofuel facility will be the largest of its kind in North America. The facility will process 100% of the City of Surrey's organic waste, along with ICI organic waste helping Metro Vancouver to achieve its regional 70% waste diversion target.
- Some examples of the Economic Benefits of the biofuel facility are:
 - Annual savings in Surrey's waste collection costs: \$3 million
 - City securing long term fixed price certainty on organic disposal rate and renewable natural gas source
- Some examples of the Environmental benefits of the biofuel facility are:
 - 115,000 tonnes of organic waste diverted from landfills per year
 - Corporate RNG use will reduce Co2 emissions by 24% below baseline standards which will exceed the Corporate Emissions Action Plan target of achieving 20% reduction by 2010
- In 2012, the City of Surrey applied to the Public Private Partnerships (P3) Canada Fund for 25% of the capital costs for the biofuel facility. The application was approved for \$16.9 million. An RFP was released by the City and 11 compliant proposals were received. The successful candidate, Iris Solutions (Netherlands) was selected in December, 2014.

Multi-Material BC (MMBC)

File: 5280-01

Allen Langdon, Managing Director was in attendance before the Committee to provide an update on Multi-Material BC.

- In 2011, the Ministry of Environment initiated changes to the *BC Recycling Regulation* making all producers of printed packaging responsible for collection of materials. The non-profit organization, Multi-Material BC (MMBC) was launched in 2014 to work closely with municipalities to develop a stewardship plan to satisfy the requirements of the regulation. As a member of MMBC, the City of Surrey receives funding to pay for collection and processing of curbside collectibles.
- Under the *BC Recycling Regulation*, businesses can appoint MMBC as their agent to discharge their obligations under the regulation. There is also the option for businesses to do it themselves; however, no one has taken that option.
- About 1,000 businesses have joined MMBC as members. The 1000 producers (companies or stewards) finance the collection of materials in municipalities.
- MMBC services 1.24 million curbside and multi-family households and services 96% of BC households through depot networks.
- In 2014, MMBC achieve an 80% recovery rate for members' materials exceeding the regulated 75% target. MMBC collected over 116,000 tonnes of recyclables from households and depots. Over 93% of material collected is recycled, which exceeds the target of 85 – 90% in the stewardship plan.
- MMBC gives priority to end-markets located in countries that are members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
 - Plastics - sold to end-markets in BC
 - Paper/Fibres – The majority of fibres are sold to end-markets in China with the rest either remaining in BC or going to end-markets in the United States and South Korea
 - Glass – sold to end markets in BC
 - Metals – sold to end markets in Ontario with the rest either remaining in BC or going to end-markets in the United States
- The standards of MMBC include:
 - **Target rate for Non-PPP of 3%** (the City of Surrey has exceeded the 3%)
 - **Capture Rate**
 - Curbside collectors with collection rates greater than 180 kg per household receive financial bonuses from MMBC (City of Surrey received financial bonus for having 202 kg per household)
 - Curbside collectors with collection rates lower than 135 kg per household may be required to submit remediation plans
 - **Segregation of Glass** at curbside or depot
 - **Collection of Plastic Film at Depot**
 - Results in cleaner material that meets North America market specifications.

2. Climate Change & Air Pollution Info Labels on Gas Pumps

File No. 5280-04

Matt Hulse, Our Horizon was in attendance as a delegation before the Committee to present on Climate Change & Air Pollution Info Labels on Gas Pumps.

The following comments were made:

- Our Horizon is a Canadian non- profit organization seeking endorsement from municipalities to implement warning labels on gasoline pumps about climate change and air pollution.
- The delegation requested support from the Committee to endorse the recommendation to implement warning labels at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) meeting in September and to recommend to Council that the labels be endorsed in the City of Surrey. The delegation noted that the labels could be used as a condition for acquiring or renewing a business license in the City of Surrey.
- The labels are simple and use images and text to provide information on climate change and air pollution while consumers are pumping gas.
- Climate change is a huge problem. Fossil fuels are burned today but the effects are not seen immediately. The labels are a tool to help engage people directly to link cause and effect. These labels will remind people of their role in climate change in a direct way.
- Tobacco and fossil fuels have striking similarities. A few examples are:
 - The use is a result of numerous complicated social and personal factors
 - The intended use is dangerous to those who use it and those around them
 - Presence is found throughout advertising and media and entertainment
- Research shows that similar labels on tobacco products helped to change both attitudes and behaviour about smoking and, since 2011 there has been a 25% decrease in smoking. The tobacco control model can also be used with fossil fuels. Awareness is a vital catalyst for change and these warning labels will be effective in inspiring change.
- In June, 2015, West Vancouver passed a resolution in support of the labels that will go to a vote at the UBCM meeting in September. North Vancouver will be implementing the labels.
- In response to a question from the Committee, the delegation noted that the idea of warning labels on cars would not be in the jurisdiction of the City to implement and the effectiveness would be lost as people only buy vehicles every 2 to 5 years.

- In response to a question from the Committee, the delegation noted that in Coquitlam and Richmond where pump stations are full service, the labels would be posted on the gas pumps.
- The Committee supports endeavours that deal with climate change and generally supported the idea of Climate Change and Air Pollution warning labels on gas pumps. The Committee requested further information with regards to the resolutions that other municipalities passed in support of the labels. The information is to be provided by the delegation and forwarded to the Committee for further comment at the September 30 ESAC meeting.

The Chair thanked the delegation for the presentation.

1. **District Energy**

File: 5280-11

Jeff Arason, Manager of Utilities was in attendance before the Committee to present on District Energy (Surrey City Energy) in Surrey and provide a progress update for its implementation in City Centre.

The following comments were made:

- District Energy is a community based heating system that is a centralized heating infrastructure instead of individual heating systems such as boilers etc.
- District Energy originally started in Europe with oil as the primary fuel. Due to increasing oil prices, coal was used, which has since been replaced with various other fuels like biomass, waste-to-energy and biomass. By centralizing in one the location, it is easier to change the input of energy source over time, which is impossible to do with a community that has individual systems.
- The Sustainability Charter noted that the City would evaluate district energy opportunities in Surrey and in 2009, the City of Surrey completed the first strategy and in 2010, Council supported the establishment of the City's thermal energy utility. The goal of the utility was to service the Surrey City centre and a couple of the objectives were to look at putting in resilient infrastructure that would allow fuel sources to be changed over time and to achieve greenhouse gas reductions by changing fuel sources as technology grows.
- After introducing the utility and its principals, the City obtained its first high rise development in City Centre with Rize Alliance (The Wave). There were some concerns from the development community related to the cost of hydronic heating systems. An evaluation was completed with Rize and it was determined that the cost was approximately three dollars more per square foot to build.
- In 2013, the City came up with a number of principals that Council supported. The policies focussed on cost recover, rate stability, low carbon

energy, great competitiveness and fairness. Again, the principal policy concern was what the rate would be. The City worked with the development community and explored BC Hydro rates. Council supported a proposal to lock in a set rate for 3 years to give the development community some certainty.

- The development community called for the City to be subjected to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) which is a body that regulates private energy utilities. The City did not require regulating by the BCUC unless city boundaries were crossed. BCUC is also not interested in regulating municipal utilities. To mimic the BCUC, an External rate Review Panel (ERP) was established and comprised of three individuals. Each year, in advance of rates going to Council, the panel will review the proposed rates. Last year, the panel endorsed the proposed rates. The ERP addresses any transparency aspects on the utility.
- In 2014, the City of Surrey commissioned its first district energy system as part of the new City hall building. Excess capacity in the geoexchange system was constructed for the building and the utility will be looking to sell that capacity to a surrounding development when the opportunity arises. A connection will be happening with the library and the library will then be taken off natural gas and heating will be provided by the geoexchange system at City hall.
- The Surrey Central Node is west of City hall. The Rize of Alliance was the first development underway and the plan to occupy was earlier in 2015. The City elected to construct a temporary energy centre. The shipping container has four boilers installed that provide thermal energy to Rize Alliance and a number of development applications under construction. The ultimate site will be built on the same parcel and as development occurs, the City will work with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department to construct a permanent energy centre on the site within three years.
- On King George Boulevard, the future home of Coast Capital will be part of the City's district energy system. A temporary boiler was constructed during the development of the building. The City will service two more customers in this node in the near future as well.
- The Evolve condo tower sold 300 units on its first day of sales. Developers still expressed concerns with affordability of the utility despite the progress made with district energy. Another concern expressed by developers was risk to development timelines. The district energy service to Rize Alliance was in place four months in advance of the date that was requested by the developer. The City continues to meet with developers to address any concerns.
- The City of Surrey was presented the following awards on district energy:
 - Quest - Community Energy Builder Award
 - Federation of Municipal Municipalities

- Community Energy Association – Climate and Energy Action Awards
- Smart 21 – Top 7 Intelligent Community Awards Program
- In response to a question from the Committee the delegation commented that Council elected to make developments in the City Centre area mandatory to connect to the utility. For developments on the outside perimeter, the requirement is to have hot water and heating systems in place that could be compatible for potential future district energy at their discretion.
- In response to a question from the Committee, the delegation noted that buildings that have already been built will not be compatible. Most of those systems in place are electric base boards. For future developments, very little work will be required if the infrastructure is in place.

The Chair thanked the delegation for the presentation.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. ESAC Workplan 2015

It is in order for the Committee to adopt the proposed 2015 Workplan for the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee.

The Chair noted an addition under Special Events (Item 9) that ESAC be provided any reports done on City events regarding environmental issues.

It was Moved by G. Sahota
Seconded by J. Stewart
That the Environmental Sustainability
Advisory Committee adopts the 2015 Workplan as presented.
Carried

D. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

F. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

There were no items referred by Council.

G. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agriculture and Food Security Advisory Committee (AFSAC) Update

There was no report provided due to the absence of the AFSAC representative.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

The DAC representative noted that the meeting did not have any items pertinent to the ESAC to report.

3. Contingency Plan for EBCO Metal Finishing LP 18699 -24 Avenue, Surrey, BC File: 6880-01

A letter from the City of Surrey's Building Department to EBCO was shared with the Committee. In response to questions that came up in regards to spill protection previously, EBCO is now being required to provide the City of Surrey with a Spill Containment Plan.

Staff noted that the second part of the motion that requested a letter be drafted from the Mayor to Metro Vancouver regarding 24/7 monitoring is in process and being drafted.

The Chair noted that inquiries about Nova Pole adhering to the City of Surrey's noise bylaw have been received. The Chair made an inquiry to Nova Pole and the engineers for the company confirmed that the 70 decibel threshold at the property boundary is being met.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

Committee Resignation of B. Campbell

The Committee recognized the letter of resignation from Bob Campbell and recommended that a letter of gratitude for his contributions and expertise to the Committee over the years be sent to Bob.

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 30, 2015** at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, in room 1E Room B.

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Starchuk, Chair