

City Council Information Items

October 2, 2020

Items for information is a weekly publication for the public and members of City Council. Members of City Council may request that any item appearing on this publication be placed onto the next available Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion.

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Information Report



Service Area	Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services
Date	Friday, October 2, 2020
Subject	Generated Carbon Offsets

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise on the optimal use of the City's generated carbon offsets.

Key Findings

The City will continue the sale of generated carbon offsets and apply the associated revenues to the 100RE Reserve Fund. This will leverage the City's environmental actions and reinvest funds to further mitigate climate change and reduce Guelph's carbon footprint.

Solid Waste Services operates and maintains carbon offset initiatives that are third party quantified and verified. Wastewater Services is exploring further opportunities and is currently in the process of evaluating the eligibility of the digester gas recovery and utilization initiative.

In 2019, the City received a total of \$592,243 in unbudgeted revenue from the sale of generated carbon offsets and were applied to the 100RE Reserve Fund. It has been determined that the optimal use of the City's generated carbon offsets is to continue the sale of generated carbon offsets and to apply the revenues to the 100RE Reserve Fund. This will leverage the City's environmental actions and reinvest funds to further mitigate climate change and reduce Guelph's carbon footprint.

Financial Implications

\$592,243 in unbudgeted revenue was received from the 2019 sale of generated carbon offsets and was applied to the 100RE Reserve Fund.

Moving forward, the City will continue the sale of generated carbon offsets and apply the revenues to the 100RE Reserve Fund.

Report

Background

Carbon Offset Overview

Carbon offsets are verified and quantified units of greenhouse gas emission reductions from environmental projects that can be used to compensate for

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by another source. Carbon offsets are typically measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) and can be bought and sold.

There are currently no mandatory offset programs within Ontario. Therefore, the production, sale and purchase of carbon offsets is voluntary. Although voluntary, there is market demand for carbon offsets driven by organizations striving to meet their internal environmental sustainability targets.

City of Guelph Generated Carbon Offsets

Solid Waste Services at the City of Guelph operates and maintains carbon offset initiatives that are third party quantified and verified:

- **Landfill gas recovery and utilization** – landfill gas is recovered and used to generate electricity at the closed Eastview Road Landfill site.
- **Organic waste composting** – organic waste is received and processed into compost at the Organic Waste Processing Facility. This reduces GHG emissions by avoiding emissions that would be produced had the organic waste gone to a landfill and decomposed instead.

In 2019, \$592,243 in unbudgeted revenue was received from the sale of generated carbon offsets. It is anticipated that an additional \$300,000 in unbudgeted revenue will result from the sale of carbon credits in 2020. As in 2019, these funds will be applied to the City's 100% Renewable Energy (100RE) Reserve Fund. This reserve fund supports ongoing energy retrofit and GHG reduction projects and initiatives. Through these investments, the City will continue to progress toward the Corporate 100RE target and support the Community Net Zero Carbon target.

Given the success of the generated carbon offsets, Wastewater Services is exploring further opportunities and is currently in the process of evaluating the eligibility of the digester gas recovery and utilization initiative.

Path Forward

It has been determined that the optimal use of the City's generated carbon offsets is to continue the sale of generated carbon offsets and to apply the revenues to the 100RE Reserve Fund. This will leverage the City's environmental actions and reinvest funds to further mitigate climate change and reduce Guelph's carbon footprint.

Financial Implications

\$592,243 in unbudgeted revenue was received from the 2019 sale of generated carbon offsets and was applied to the 100RE Reserve Fund.

Moving forward, the City will continue the sale of generated carbon offsets and apply the revenues to the 100RE Reserve Fund.

Consultations

Brent Andreychuk, Corporate Analyst, Finance, Finance Client Services

Teisha Colley-Balgrave, Corporate Analyst, Finance, Finance Client Services

Tim Robertson, Division Manager, Wastewater Services, Environmental Services

Cameron Walsh, Division Manager, Solid Waste Resources, Environmental Services

Strategic Plan Alignment

There is strong alignment to the Sustaining Our Future priority of the City's Strategic Plan. The initiatives that generate carbon offsets reduce GHG emissions and mitigate climate change impacts. Further, the reinvestment of the generated carbon offset revenues into energy retrofit projects and GHG reduction projects reinforces the City's climate change mitigation approach.

Attachments

None

Departmental Approval

Jennifer Rose, General Manager, Environmental Services

Antti Vilkkö, General Manager, Facilities and Energy Management

Report Author

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Intergovernmental Consultation



Fall 2020 Provincial Pre-Budget Consultation

Ministry/Department

Ontario Ministry of Finance

Consultation Deadline

Friday, October 16, 2020

Summary

Ontario's Ministry of Finance is holding a pre-budget consultation process in advance of introducing a new budget in Fall 2020 to respond to the COVID19 pandemic and to advance economic recovery province-wide.

Proposed Form of Input

City staff will prepare a written submission to the consultation process and seek out opportunities for virtual or in-person engagement with the Ministry of Finance.

Rationale

The City has an interest in influencing the province's budgetary decision-making.

Lead

Intergovernmental Relations

Link to Ministry Website

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/fall-2020-budget-consultations>

Contact Information

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Intergovernmental Consultation



Proposed Changes to the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program

Ministry/Department

Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Consultation Deadline

Friday, October 23, 2020

Summary

Ontario is proposing to introduce an Expression of Interest system under certain streams of the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program. A new proposed Municipal Nominee Program is also currently under development.

Proposed Form of Input

City staff will prepare a written submission to the consultation.

Rationale

The City of Guelph has an interest in policy related to attracting and retaining newcomers to Guelph.

Lead

Local Immigration Partnership – Culture and Recreation

Link to Ministry Website

<https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=34247&language=en>

Contact Information

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Intergovernmental Consultation



Proposed Regulation under the Ontario Heritage Act

Ministry/Department

Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Cultural Industries

Consultation Deadline

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Summary

Ontario is seeking public input on proposed regulations to the *Ontario Heritage Act* related to *Bill 108, the More Homes, More Choice Act*, 2019.

Proposed Form of Input

City Staff will prepare a written submission to respond to the consultation.

Rationale

The City has an interest in regulatory proposals of impact to heritage planning.

Lead

Planning and Building Services

Link to Ministry Website

<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1348>

Contact Information

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Provincial and Federal Consultation Alert



Proposed amendments to the Director's Technical Rules made under section 107 of the *Clean Water Act*, 2006

Ministry

Environment, Conservation and Parks

Consultation Deadline

9 November 2020

Summary

The Ministry is proposing changes to the technical rules used to assess source water protection vulnerability and risk under the *Clean Water Act*.

Proposed Form of Input

A submission on the Environmental Registry.

Rationale

Ensuring strong source water protection mechanisms are in place is a priority for the City of Guelph to advance the sustainability of the local water supply.

Lead

Water Services

Link to Ministry Website

<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-2219>

Contact Information

Intergovernmental Services

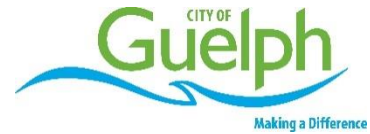
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Provincial and Federal Consultation Alert



Proposed Project List for comprehensive environmental assessments under the *Environmental Assessment Act*

Ministry

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Consultation Deadline

10 November 2020

Summary

MECP is seeking input on a proposed list of types of projects that are to be subject to a comprehensive environmental assessment (EA) process.

Proposed Form of Input

City Staff will prepare a submission for the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

Rationale

The City regularly conducts EAs and has an interest in EA-related policy development.

Lead

Engineering and Transportation Services

Link to Ministry Website

<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-2377>

Contact Information

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