



# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b> Mayor and Members General Issues Committee	<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> CITY WIDE
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> January 14, 2013	
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b> Developing an Environmental Roundtable for Hamilton (CM13002) (City Wide)	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Chris Murray City Manager	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Heather Donison 905 546-2424 ext. 1276
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## Council Direction

The City of Hamilton's 2012-2015 Strategic Plan includes the following action in support of the strategic objective 1.6 Enhance Overall Sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental):

- (i) Development of an Environmental Roundtable that, through collaborative efforts with community partners, would highlight accomplishments and address issues related to environmental sustainability.

## Information

This report provides information about the initial steps to be taken in 2013 to further this action.

## Background

The City of Hamilton has undertaken a wide variety of initiatives that are improving the local and global environment and the health and well being of our citizens. The provincial and federal governments both have a mandate and are actively participating in environmental protection and enhancement in the Hamilton area. Businesses, organizations and individuals within our community are also involved with advocacy, education and projects that protect and enhance the environment.

Hamilton has a robust experience in collaboration to address community concerns including environmental issues. Clean Air Hamilton and the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan are well established collaborations that have been effectively, though quietly, improving our local environment for decades. Newer collaboratives include

Releaf Hamilton, Smart Commute Hamilton, the Hamilton Environmental Industrial Association and the Hamilton Area Econet, among others.

Environmental collaboration builds on common interests - environmental protection, economic development of energy and environmental technology, community improvement and health protection. Environmental collaboration seeks out stakeholders, identifies issues and common ground, gathers information, sets an agenda for discussing issues, attempts to resolve disputes before they occur and develops support and resources to affect action. Environmental collaboration saves time, money and generates a means for effective action.

### **Why are we interested in developing an Environmental Roundtable?**

Hamilton's many environmental collaboratives, organizations and initiatives tend to work on narrow environmental issues. An Environmental Roundtable would provide an opportunity for these various stakeholders to exchange information on other environmental issues and with the public and decision makers and identify opportunities to work collaboratively across broader issues.

An environmental roundtable could play many roles. This initiative could:

- Highlight environmental accomplishments
- Promote Hamilton's environment and environmental projects
- Support economic development and tourism
- Provide input into the renewal of Vision 2020
- Compile a "State of the Environment" report
- Coordinate on emerging and strategic issues so that they can be addressed in an integrated way
- Facilitate new multi-sector collaborative efforts

### **First Step**

Plans are being developed to hold the Hamilton's first Environmental Summit on Thursday April 11, 2013.

This Summit will bring together city staff, federal and provincial government environmental staff and community stakeholders who are involved in environmental education, projects, policies or advocacy, to share their work, network and to talk about opportunities for collaboration or alignment. This one day event will feature presentations that showcase local projects, actions and programs that are enhancing our natural environment or addressing existing problems or threats.

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The summit will include an interactive workshop to engage attendees in defining community needs and the potential role of an environmental roundtable in addressing environmental issues.

Additional outcomes for the Hamilton's inaugural Environmental Summit will be:

- A list of people, organizations, agencies and businesses working to improve the quality of our environment
- An inventory of local projects, actions and programs that are enhancing our natural environment, and
- A video showcase featuring local projects, actions and programs that are enhancing our natural environment

These outcomes will be posted on [www.Hamilton.ca](http://www.Hamilton.ca) to act as an on-going resource for environmental action.

The summit will be attended by approximately seventy to eighty local participants and will be held at a local venue (location to be confirmed). A nominal registration fee of \$20 will be charged to defray the costs. The budget for the Summit will be \$6000 including a facilitator, venue and lunch.

A follow up report will be provided to Committee and Council in Q2 of 2012 on potential next steps, based on the stakeholder discussions at the Environmental Summit.