

March 3, 2014

Heather Donison
Senior Project Manager -- Sustainability
Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division
City Of Hamilton
Lister Block, 28 James St. N
Hamilton, ON L8R 2K1

Re: 2014 Partnership between the City of Hamilton and Green Venture

Dear Ms Donison:

I write to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of Hamilton-Wentworth Green Venture. In 1993 the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth initiated work to develop a non-profit organization to bring together public and private partners in order to advance environmental protection and improvement in the community. The Region recognized that there was a benefit to having an action-oriented, community-based, non-profit organization to implement environmental programs in the community.

A partnership was formed in 1994 between the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth, the Province of Ontario, utilities, private sector environmental companies and community organizations. This organization has become a successful community-based service delivery option for the furthering of the City of Hamilton-Wentworth environmental policy objectives.

The City has contributed \$40,000/year to partially cover the cost of community services, overhead and the cost of developing and securing funds for environmental projects. Continuing investment in maintaining the Green Venture infrastructure means that we can continue to develop partnerships and programs that benefit the Hamilton community. Most importantly, continued investment will enable Green Venture to maintain leveraging city funding. **For example, during Green Venture's 2012-2013 fiscal year, we were able to leverage the city's \$40,000 investment by almost 1,000% in cash, as well as \$30,015 of in kind volunteer support.** These leveraged funds are used to improve the social, economic, and environmental health of Hamilton.

This letter is a formal request for continued support. We would welcome an opportunity to speak to you and to answer any of your questions. Should you wish further clarification regarding the work of Green Venture please contact me at 540-8787 ext 117.

Yours very sincerely,



Kathryn Gold
Executive Director
Green Venture

GREEN VENTURE: TURNING VISION 2020 INTO REALITY

Background

Since inception Green Venture has worked with City staff to meet government objectives and deliver programs, knowledge, and tools that support action by citizens to improve the local environment and economy.

Green Venture grew out of a partnership formed in 1994 between the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth, the province of Ontario, utilities, private sector environmental companies and community organizations. Green Venture was incorporated as a non-profit organization in March 1995 and has continually worked with the Region/City to improve the local environment and economy by affecting changes in citizen behaviour and encouraging sustainable development.

Green Venture is results oriented. We help people to save energy and water, reduce waste, avoid toxic chemical use, etc. through changing behaviour and using green products and services.

Our Mission is: Connecting ideas and people to facilitate sustainable living and realize a cleaner, healthier community.

Green Venture benefits the economy and the environment by:

- creating jobs and business opportunities
- boosting Ontario’s green industry
- saving money for homes and businesses
- deferring and reducing costly infrastructure investments by governments and utilities
- conserving natural resources
- protecting and enhancing the environment

Green Venture is built on community partnerships, involvement, and support. We are locally planned and managed to address local needs and opportunities. Green Venture has its own local board of directors and professional staff. A volunteer community Board of Directors manages Green Venture, which brings expertise from various sectors of our community. Green Venture relies on a flexible workforce and many volunteers. Volunteers provide time and expertise in diverse areas including marketing, natural gardening, database management and computer systems. Many of these volunteers are new Canadians or students benefiting from the opportunity for meaningful experience in a workplace setting.

EcoHouse: Environmental Demonstration Center

EcoHouse is Green Venture's demonstration building combining environmental awareness with community-building and heritage. The former Glen Manor, a 150-year old farm house has been retrofitted with green technology and sustainable living products like composters, energy-efficient appliances, rain barrels, etc. The grounds feature native species gardens, natural landscaping, and renewable energy generation.

EcoHouse provides a backdrop for the presentation of all other programs being run by Green Venture where there are presentations and displays in every room of EcoHouse, combining educational information with practical demonstrations of all of the programs. In support of the various programs offered through Green Venture, EcoHouse also offers a wide range of products for sale, including light bulbs, composters, and water conservation solutions. A community garden is run by volunteers, producing pesticide-free vegetables in support of the local Food Bank.

Over 4,000 people a year visit EcoHouse.

Community Education

Green Venture's knowledgeable staff and volunteers support the local and global community through:

- EcoHouse tours
- Information and brochures to EcoHouse visitors
- Green Venture's website
- Engaging residents at community events
- Conducting community presentations
- Hosting workshops
- Providing energy evaluations

Outreach Programs

Air Quality

- Totally Transit for Kids (2007-)
- Totally Transit for Older Adults (2011-)
- EcoDriver (2008-)
- Small Engine Powered Lawn Care (2010-)
- High School Heroes Poster Contest (2010-)
- Clean Air Events and Speakers (2010-)
- Neighbourhood Mobile Monitoring
- Green Zone Business (2009-2011)

- Wood Burning 101 (2010)
- Car Share (2007-2009)
- Liveable Cities (2007-2009)
- Idling Stinks (2006-2008)
- Corporate Smog Commitment Program (2000-2001)
- Clean the Air (1997-1998)
- Hamilton Commuter Challenge (2000-2008)

Energy

- Solar PV microFIT Installation Services (2010-)
- Home Energy Evaluations (1997-)
- Commercial & Sacred Spaces Resource Assessments (2009-)
- Enbridge Home Weatherization Retrofit Program (2009-)
- Climate Change Champions (2007-)
- Power Shift & Energy Roundtable (2006-2008)
- 20 Per Cent Club (1999-2000)
- Draftproofing and Housewarming (1998-1999)

Lawn and Garden

- Green Venture Community Garden (2004-)
- Hamilton Community Garden Network (2007-)
- Riverdale Community Garden Project (2009-2011)
- Naturally Hamilton (2001-2009)
- Healthy Plants for Healthy People (1996-1998)
- Pesticide Free Naturally (2000-2004)
- Native Tree Planting (1995-2005)

Water Use

- RAIN: An ecological approach to stormwater management
- Water Community Presentations
- Catch the Rain (2007-2008)
- Wise Water Use (2000-2007)
- Multi-Unit Water Retrofit Program (1996-1997)

Waste

- Waste Race Community Presentations (2007-)
- Hamilton.reusues.com (2007-2010)
- Mercury Recovery (1999-2000)
- Battery Round-Up (1998-2000)
- Wasteless (1998)
- Composting (1995-)
- Waterdown Pollution Prevention Project (1996)

- Greening Your School (1995-1996)

Community Stakeholder Initiatives

Green Venture staff are active in the community beyond their work at Green Venture. Green Venture is represented on the following community committees and stakeholder groups.

- Bay Area Restoration Council
- Hamilton Coalition on Pesticide Issues
- Hamilton Children's Water Festival
- Hamilton Bike Share Committee
- People for Active Transportation Hamilton
- Healthy Hamilton Watershed Implementation Team
- Davis Creek Community Planning Team
- Riverdale Community Planning Team
- Healthy Living Hamilton Steering Committee
- Active and Safe Routes to School (ASRTS) Committee
- Partners for Healthy Weights - Policy Sub-Committee
- Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee
- Clean Air Hamilton
- Hamilton Cycling Committee
- Hamilton and District Conserver Society
- Hamilton Administrators of Volunteers
- North Central Community Centre
- Conservation Authority Committees / Working Groups
- Children's Water Festival Organizing Committee
- Doors Open Hamilton
- Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Association
- Head of the Lake Historical Society
- Hamilton Chapter of the Canadian Organic Growers (COG)
- Hamilton Community Garden Network (HCGN)
- Local Planning Team for the Community Access to Child Health (CATCH)
- MACgreen, McMaster University Students' Union
- Revolution Wear/RevWear Fashion Show
- Slow Food Hamilton

Partners & Funders

Green Venture is partners and works closely with, and / or is funded by the following organizations and governments to research, develop and / or deliver programming:

- City of Hamilton:
 - Planning and Economic Development
 - Clean Air Hamilton
 - Public Health
 - Public Works
 - Culture and Recreation
 - Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology
- Natural Resources Canada
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- Ministry of the Environment – Ontario
- Green Communities Canada
- Environment Hamilton
- Hamilton-Wentworth District Catholic School Board
- Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association (HIEA)
- Children’s International Learning Centre
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Conserver Society of Hamilton and District
- Shell Fuelling Change
- Cowan Foundation
- ArcelorMittal Dofasco
- Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.
- Edith Turner Foundation
- Horizon Utilities