



CITY OF HAMILTON
COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 22, 2014
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2015 Hamilton Environmental Summit (CES14045) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Diedre Beintema 905-546-2424 ext. 1286 Heather Donison 905-546-2424 ext. 1276
SUBMITTED BY:	Joe-Anne Priel General Manager Community and Emergency Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the City of Hamilton organize and host a third annual Environmental Summit, which will take place on or near Earth Day in April 2015 at a cost of \$10,000 (gross) to be funded through the Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division's existing budget, be approved; and,
- (b) That the outstanding business item identified as Hamilton Environmental Summit 2014 be removed from the Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the ways which the City of Hamilton supports environmental sustainability is by joining other cities around the world to recognize and celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day is an annual event that is celebrated globally, and which has increasingly become a connecting ground for environmental advocates, residents and stakeholders to shed light on local and global environmental issues.

In 2013 and 2014 Council, through Reports CM13002 and CM13002(a), approved the hosting of an Environmental Summit in Hamilton to celebrate the Earth Day. These Summits were held on April 25, 2013 and April 22, 2014 and brought together key community partners and government agencies to dialogue about pertinent issues impacting the environment in Hamilton. Feedback from attendees at both events was positive and those who attended indicated the need to continue holding environmental summits as it has a long-term impact of supporting sustainability in Hamilton.

This report recommends that the City of Hamilton continue to host an Environmental Summit in 2015. The City's involvement in the Environmental Summit and Earth Day serves as an assurance to residents and community partners that Hamilton is serious about environmental initiatives. It also signals that the City is further committed to working with all stakeholders to protect natural environment and create a sustainable community.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial:

Costs to the City of hosting the Environmental Summit will be funded from the operating budget of the Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division. Approximately \$10,000 (gross) is required for this event. In 2014, approximately 30% of the event cost was offset through registration fees. It is anticipated that about 30% of the cost will also be recovered from the event in 2015.

Staffing:

There are no staffing implications associated with Report CES14045.

Legal:

There are no legal implications associated with Report CES14045.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The City of Hamilton's 2012-2015 Strategy Plan recommended the need to enhance overall sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental) by developing an *"...Environmental Roundtable that, through collaborative efforts with community partners, would highlight accomplishments and address issues related to environmental sustainability"*, Strategic Objective 1.6(i).

In keeping with this objective, Council approved Report CM13002 entitled "Developing an Environmental Roundtable for Hamilton" on January 14, 2103. This approval allowed City staff to plan and host Hamilton's first Environmental Summit on April 25, 2013.

The event featured presentations which illustrated the importance of sustainability from a local, national and international scale. It also highlighted the environmental programs and initiatives carried out by local organizations in Hamilton. Participants discussed the topics presented and strategized ways of addressing them. The top ten environmental issues facing Hamilton as identified by participants included:

- Brownfields
- Energy conservation
- Loss of urban natural areas, open space, and parkland
- Lack of climate change education

- Complete streets and complete communities
- Vehicle emissions
- Rapid transit and funding
- An unwillingness to change lifestyles on a daily basis
- Wise water use
- A consumption-dependent economy

On July 8, 2013, Council heard a presentation outlining the successful outcomes of the event and approved Report CM13002(a) entitled “Hamilton Environmental Summit 2013”, recommending that a second Environmental Summit be held in 2014. In accordance with this directive, a committee consisting of City staff and key local stakeholders was constituted and commenced planning activities in November 2013.

Hamilton’s second Environmental Summit was held on Earth Day, April 22, 2014 at Mohawk College. Approximately 120 community members attended the sold out event. After opening remarks and a keynote address, participants attended three of six offered presentations on the top ten environmental issues for Hamilton identified at the first Environmental Summit. Each session highlighted the importance of sustainability from a local perspective, as well as environmental initiatives being carried out in Hamilton. Attendees discussed their vision for the future of Hamilton during the three afternoon workshops. The event concluded with a panel discussion where four community leaders reflected upon the most important conditions and steps to build a sustainable long-term community plan.

The event facilitators prepared an event report containing a list of presenters, major themes, panel discussion and what City staff should take into future consideration with regard to sustainability in Hamilton. These reports and findings are attached as Appendix A to Report CES14045. In addition, a complete transcript of the participant feedback gathered in the three workshops is attached as Appendix B to Report CES14045.

After the event, participants were contacted to provide feedback on the success of the event and what needed to be changed moving forward. 48 individuals responded to the online survey. The feedback was largely positive and 96% of survey respondents agreed that another Environmental Summit should be held in the future.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

No policy implications or legislated requirements apply to the proposed recommendations.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Internal and external consultation was completed to put forward the recommendation in this report. The consultation was largely based on the success and outcomes of the

2013 and 2014 Environmental Summits, which included feedback from participants (both at the events and through an online survey), feedback from staff and the strategic findings as submitted by the event facilitators.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION

The two previous Environmental Summits fulfilled Hamilton's strategic objective to create an Environmental Roundtable that, "through collaborative efforts with community partners, would highlight accomplishments and address issues related to environmental sustainability." The summits are an indication of the City's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and community dialogues.

Feedback from the past two Environmental Summits indicated a strong level of community support for the event. Attendance was sold out for a second year in a row despite moving to a larger venue and 94% of attendees surveyed indicated that the 2014 Environmental Summit was somewhat to very valuable to themselves or their organization. Hosting a third Environmental Summit in 2015 is in line with the sustainability aspirations of residents and representatives from government, businesses, community organizations, academia and other stakeholders in Hamilton.

The Environmental Summit acts as an opportunity for City staff to showcase the City's work on environmental initiatives and sustainability efforts. The recommended Environmental Summit in 2015 will continue this tradition and showcase the City's key environmental accomplishments while being proactive to tackle future challenges.

The results of environmental summits will continue to prove useful across City divisions. The summits will allow City staff to continue to collaborate with citizens to encourage and foster a culture of sustainability and community participation across Hamilton. In particular, the new community vision and corporate strategic planning process will benefit from the outcomes of the summits.

The Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives Division will incorporate a formal evaluation process into the 2015 Environment Summit. The aim of the evaluation is to determine the impacts of the summits in Hamilton with regard to the local environment and quality of life.

When Council approved Report CM13002(a), the following amendment was added: *"That staff be directed to consult with community stakeholders to develop a terms of reference for an Environmental Roundtable which will support environmental initiatives and projects in Hamilton, for discussion at the 2014 Environmental Summit and subsequent report back to the General Issues Committee with recommendations for next steps following the event."* The staff consulted with the 2014 Environmental Summit Planning Committee consisting of key local stakeholders and City staff and determined that the Environmental Summit is sufficient to meet the objectives of

supporting environmental initiatives and projects in Hamilton and, as such, creating the terms of reference for an Environmental Roundtable is not necessary at this time.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Strategic Objective

1.6 Enhance Overall Sustainability (financial, economic, social and environmental).

Strategic Priority #2

Valued & Sustainable Services

WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.

Strategic Objective

2.2 Improve the City's approach to engaging and informing citizens and stakeholders.

Strategic Priority #3

Leadership & Governance

WE work together to ensure we are a government that is respectful towards each other and that the community has confidence and trust in.

Strategic Objective

3.1 Engage in a range of inter-governmental relations (IGR) work that will advance partnerships and projects that benefit the City of Hamilton.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A to Report CES14045: Event Report

Appendix B to Report CES14045: Meeting Data and Notes