



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Corporate Asset Management Division

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	January 10, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Green Venture (PW22004) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Jasmine MacDonald (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2461
SUBMITTED BY:	Andrea Vargas Acting Director, Corporate Asset Management Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That annual funding of approximately \$65,000 to Green Venture for the purpose of funding community programs delivered through the Public Works Department be extended to Green Venture until the Lease expiry of January 14, 2025 at 22 Veevers Drive to align the service end date with the current lease expiry date.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Hamilton's (City) Public Works Department provides approximately \$65,000 in annual funding to Green Venture for the purpose of funding community programs that educate citizens and students about environmental related services delivered through the Public Works Department.

The City's Procurement Policy #11 has reached its maximum allowable amount of \$250,000.00 for these services with Green Venture and therefore requires staff to seek Council's authority to continue to enter into these long-standing agreements.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 3

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: A budget base amount of \$65,000 has been provided to Green Venture since 2017 and has not increased since that time. This recommendation is required due to the current Policy #11 limit of \$250,000.00 being reached in 2020.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Green Venture is a registered non-profit organization which was established in 1994 as a creation of the former Region of Hamilton-Wentworth. Since that time, Green Venture has been a leading environmental agency within the Hamilton area to promote sustainable living ideas. Green Venture helps to encourage the use of Blue Boxes, Green Carts, rain barrels, sustainable transportation methods, and energy conservation in the Hamilton area.

On January 14, 2015 Council approved Report PED15005, a Lease Agreement for Veevers Estate with Green Venture. The intent of the Lease Agreement was to retain the current tenant and continue the adaptive re-use arrangement for the Veevers Estate. As in the previous Lease Agreement, Green Venture is responsible for all day-to-day costs for the facility. The City, as owner of the estate, will include longer term capital upgrades and preservation initiatives, as necessary, in its ten-year capital plan.

The current term of the Lease Agreement is for a period of 12 years (January 15, 2013 – January 14, 2025) with a nominal fee of two dollars / year, plus HST.

In addition to the funding provided by the Public Works Department, Green Venture also obtains additional funding from other agencies and levels of government and donations to help deliver their programs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The recommendations in this report were prepared in consultation with staff from the Planning and Economic Development Department (Heritage Resource Management Section) and Public Works Department (Environmental Services Division, Hamilton Water Division, Transit Division).

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This recommendation is required due to the current Policy #11 limit of \$250,000.00 being reached in 2020. Green Ventures conducts community based social marketing education and outreach to residents of Hamilton and the surrounding region on behalf of the Public Works Department. This work has been ongoing since 1998.

The messaging from Green Venture helps disseminate Public Works key public messaging to a wide Hamilton audience. This includes messages on water conservation and water quality, waste reduction and diversion, ease and value of public transit, and integrating sustainable transportation options (e.g. cycling).

Approximately 25,000 people are directly or indirectly engaged through this work annually.

Some of the services provided by Green Venture include:

- On-site tours of the EcoHouse to area school classes;
- Delivering off-site environmental education presentations to community groups;
- Sharing Public Works program information at community events;
- Coordinate volunteer management at EcoHouse;
- Operating the Public Works related displays at EcoHouse including strategies to promote waste reduction and water conservation;
- Host a community “Zero Waste Fair”, to promote waste diversion and water quality awareness;
- Continue to house, promote and book the “Waste Education Kits”;
- Disseminate Public Works messaging in the community by sending staff to community festivals and events;
- Increase native plant biodiversity at EcoHouse; and,
- Work with Public Works staff to continue to update messaging as requested.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

If Council does not wish to approve the recommendation identified in Report PW22004, Green Venture services provided to Public Works will not continue into 2022.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Clean and Green

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A