



TO: CITY BUILDING COMMITTEE

WARD: ALL

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: E. TERRY, RPP, PLANNER
EXT. 5135

SUBMITTED BY: A. MILLER, RPP, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: A. MILLER, RPP
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

SUBJECT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That the Sustainable Development Strategy entitled “Sustainable Barrie” attached as Appendix “A” to the City Building Report dated September 10, 2019, be approved.
2. That staff consider the strategy as a foundational document for the New Official Plan, Urban Design Guidelines and use across the Corporation.

PURPOSE

Report Overview

3. Municipalities are becoming increasingly mindful of the sustainability of their communities as public concern continues to grow over the present and future challenges of climate change, changes in our economic systems, changing demographics, continued migration and population growth, pressures on the natural ecological system, rising oil and energy costs, and increases in severe weather events. Sustainability in the context of cities refers to the capacity to endure these challenges and disturbances, while ensuring that the current and future functioning of the city is not jeopardized.
4. The purpose of this staff report is to obtain Council endorsement for the Sustainable Development Strategy, which explores best practices, emerging trends and identifies potential actions to help make the City of Barrie a more sustainable community.

BACKGROUND

5. Staff recommends that the Sustainable Development Strategy act as a foundational document to promote a strategic approach to achieving sustainability throughout the entire municipality.
6. On February 13, 2012, Council adopted motion 12-G-018, directing the following:

"That the following recommendation from the Environmental Advisory Committee concerning Integrated Stormwater Management and Landscape Architecture Practices for Sustainable Developments be referred to staff in the Infrastructure, Development and Culture Division for review and a report back to the Community Services Committee:

'That the following six principles of sustainable development, as defined in Appendix "A" to the Environmental Advisory Committee Report dated December 7, 2011, which shall be applied to all development and redevelopment within the City of Barrie, be adopted:

- Sustainable Building Practices.
- LEED Certification for All Projects.
- Low Impact Development (LID) Practices for Stormwater and Land Development.
- Removal of Any Municipal Administrative/Regulatory Barriers to the Implementation of Sustainable Development Practices.
- Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies to Address the Impacts of Climate Change.
- Monitoring and Maintenance Strategies to Evaluate the Performance of Sustainable Development Initiatives in Barrie'. (File: E00) (File: C05)"

7. Other City priorities pushed the preparation of the strategy out of the forefront for a while, however over the past year planning staff have been working closely with Sustainable Development consultant Lisa Prime from Prime Strategy & Planning to refocus efforts on the Sustainable Development Strategy.

ANALYSIS

8. The proposed Strategy incorporates the six principles of sustainable development identified in the Environmental Advisory Committee Report however the strategy is organized by five themes: Urban Lifestyle, Natural Systems, Economic Prosperity, Inclusive Community and Civic Spirit.
9. Each of the five themes is described through Goals, Action Items and Measures. The Action Items are specific tasks the City can work on collectively to create a more sustainable community and the Measures will be used by different departments to monitor and report success.
10. Sustainable development necessitates that each of these themes are addressed through a holistic, comprehensive, and balanced approach. Actions to protect the natural systems should not be at the cost of continued economic prosperity, urban lifestyle, an inclusive community or civic spirit, but rather solutions need to be realized that are able to balance all components respectively.
11. As a community, we face a number of challenges related to sustainability:

PLANNING FOR RAPID GROWTH. It is expected that, by 2031, an estimated 210,000 people will call Barrie home, a number that is projected to increase to 253,000 people by 2041. In terms of jobs, by 2031, an estimated 114,000 is expected and that is projected to increase to 129,000 by 2041. The ways in which we meet this growth will have a lasting impact on the future of the City. A city made up of homogeneous neighbourhoods with primarily low-density, ground-related housing and completely dependent on the private automobile is not sustainable.

The City of Barrie is responding to the need to intensify and encouraging more mixed-use development by updating its Official Plan, Zoning By-law, and Urban Design Guidelines. The City is also making investments in Infrastructure to accommodate future growth.

MOBILITY. As Barrie continues to grow, the importance of achieving a well-balanced, sustainable transportation network to serve the City's residents and visitors increases. In order for our growth

to be sustainable, regional transportation, local public transit, cycling, and walking need to be viable alternatives to private automobile use, incorporating supportive technological changes.

CLIMATE CHANGE. The effects of climate change pose a challenge for communities across the globe. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, and the extent of their impact has become less predictable. The City of Barrie has prepared a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to build community resilience to the risks we face because of climate change. The challenge moving forward will be preparing an implementation plan and coordinating action among various partners.

COMPETITION IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY. A vibrant community with its own rich history, Barrie offers an established economic base and an outstanding quality of life. Innovation, small businesses, and niche manufacturers continue to drive the area's economic growth. In today's global economy, it is becoming increasingly important that the City's economy be diverse and flexible enough to respond to shifts in global markets and that job creation keep pace with population growth.

DIVERSITY, INCLUSIVENESS & IDENTITY. The City aims to recognize that Barrie consists of a number of diverse communities and, where appropriate, it is important to identify and involve these communities in decision-making and the creative planning process thereby encouraging civic pride.

HEALTH. It is becoming increasingly important to consider the effects that our built environment has on the community's health and wellness. Monitoring the health of our neighbourhoods from different perspectives will help us make incremental changes that will benefit us in the long term. Planning communities and buildings needs to consider wellness and community health benefits.

12. The Urban Lifestyle Theme addresses the following sub-themes: Buildings & Infrastructure; Food & Wellness; and Connectivity.
13. The Natural Systems Theme addresses the following sub-themes: Air; Water; and Land.
14. The Economic Prosperity Theme addresses the following sub-themes: Keeping Jobs and Creating New Ones; Education and Training; Tourism; and Renewal.
15. The Inclusive Community Theme addresses the following sub-themes: Creating a sense of belonging; and Accommodating All Ages and Abilities.
16. The Civic Spirit Theme addresses the following sub-themes: Engagement; Cultural Heritage; and Identity.
17. The City of Barrie is on the right path to creating a sustainable community. Many of the goals and actions within this strategy focus on building upon a strong foundation that currently exists and strengthening coordination among the City's various departments. Key to achieving sustainability is ensuring a balance between all five themes in the way we do business.
18. The Sustainable Development Strategy seeks to provide a lens through which City initiatives and planning can be prepared and implemented. With Council's endorsement, all City departments will know of the Strategy's importance.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

19. The following environmental matters have been considered in the development of the recommendation:
- a) Energy, Air and Climate Change
 - b) Water
 - c) Solid Waste
 - d) Natural Areas

ALTERNATIVES

20. Here is one alternative available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 General Committee could decide not to support the Sustainable Development Strategy.

This alternative is not recommended as it will not respond to 12-G-018 and further Council's strategic goals.

FINANCIAL

21. There are no financial implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation beyond staff time.

LINKAGE TO 2018-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

22. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan:
- Growing the city's economy
 - Fostering a safe and healthy city
 - Building strong neighbourhoods
 - Improving the ability to get around Barrie



APPENDIX "A"

SUSTAINABLE BARRIE – Sustainable Development Strategy