



CORPORATE FACILITIES MEMORANDUM

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Pending #:

TO: MAYOR A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: A. MCMULLIN, MANAGER OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT, EXT. 5097

NOTED: R. PEWS, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE FACILITIES
D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: RESIDENTIAL TREE PLANTING PILOT PROGRAM, PARTNERSHIP WITH LIVING GREEN BARRIE

DATE: JUNE 21, 2023

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update to Council regarding a pilot residential tree planting program being delivered by Living Green Barrie with financial support from the Energy Management Branch in the amount of \$5,000.

Tree Planting Background

The Energy Management Branch completed the community energy and greenhouse gas reduction plan, titled 'Inspiring Climate Action in Barrie', which was endorsed by Council in March 2022. The plan establishes emission reduction targets for the community and identifies actions and strategies to achieve these reductions. The plan was developed and supported by several community partners and stakeholders; the Energy Management Branch is moving the plan forward and is initiating the implementation of actions and strategies identified in the plan.

Protecting and expanding natural areas, increasing the urban tree canopy, and other nature-based solutions were recognized in the plan as a strategy to sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Living Green Barrie is named as a potential partner within the 'Inspiring Climate Action in Barrie' implementation plan under the 'Nature Based Solutions' goal. Living Green Barrie is a registered charity that has been implementing environmental programs and initiatives in the community for over 30 years. The City has supported Living Green Barrie with past tree planting initiatives, including the 10,000 Trees for Barrie program. Space to plant trees in the community is a limiting factor and establishing a program to support tree planting on private property would greatly resolve this limitation.

Program Details

Living Green Barrie has developed this pilot program and will be fully responsible for its delivery and implementation. The residential tree planting pilot program will be deployed in the summer of 2023 beginning with a mail out notification to residents in the selected pilot area. Residents interested in participating in the pilot will have the opportunity to have a low-cost tree consultation and planting service with a professional arborist. The consultation will include a site visit to determine the optimal location for the tree and the selection of a suitable native tree for the area. The program will be available on a first come, first serve basis, with others placed on a waitlist for the following year. The home visit consultations will occur in the fall of 2023 and tree planting scheduled for in fall 2023 and spring 2024, depending on nursery stock availability. Homeowners will be encouraged to participate in the planting activity and be provided with planting aftercare instructions. The City's contributions will support the public engagement, communications and awareness component of the program.

Should you have any questions about the activities of the branch or the contents of this memo please do not hesitate to contact me at extension 5097.