



## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

**FROM:** K. SUGGITT, RPP, MANAGER OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, POLICY AND ANALYSIS

**NOTED:** M. BANFIELD, RPP, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
A. MILLER, RPP, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT  
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**RE:** 2030 DISTRICT STANDARDS PROGRAM INVESTIGATION

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 16, 2020

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The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with information related to a Council motion brought forward in 2019 to investigate the possible participation by the City in the 2030 District Standards Program.

*"19-G-303 - That staff in Planning and Building Services investigate the feasibility of participating in the 2030 District Standards Program in partnership with the Canadian Urban Institute and report back to General Committee."*

### **Background**

At the September 24, 2019 Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee a presentation was made to the committee to outline an initiative, known as the 2030 District Standards Program. The initiative targets efforts to affect the built form and potential building upgrades to reduce energy and water consumption. Many cities around the world have joined this initiative. The presentation resulted in the above-noted resolution of Council.

Staff have investigated the initiative further as directed by Council. The 2030 District Standards Program is one of many similar types of initiatives. The 2030 District Standards Program is a USA registered non-profit organization whose mission is to develop and sustain local 2030 Districts as they empower and inspire their members and partners to achieve the 2030 challenge of 50% reduction in energy, water and transportation related emissions. It operates as a network of communities with a goal to establish a global network of thriving high performance building districts and cities, and to unite communities involved to encourage transformation in the built environment given its role in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Many of the cities that have joined the initiative are very large urban areas (i.e. Toronto, New York City, Portland, San Francisco, and Dallas), and their 2030 District Standards Program participation is focused on a specific area of the city such as a downtown core or business district. They are focused on commercial real estate buildings where they can identify opportunities for energy reduction. The scale of the initiative and the focus seems more suitable to large urban areas, and not necessarily a mid-sized city such as Barrie.

The City of Barrie is currently undertaking its work on the Community Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Plan which is a multi-stakeholder initiative being led by the City with the assistance of LURA Consulting. That Plan will help guide the City's efforts in reducing energy consumption and GHG emissions and help to meet the community's climate priorities. It will include ways for residents, businesses and industries to curb their energy consumption. The work involves examining current and future energy use, and GHG scenarios throughout the City, whereas typically the 2030 District Standards Program is



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focused in a specific area of a city such as a business district or downtown. The Plan is expected to be drafted and presented to Council by late summer or early fall of 2021.

In the fall of 2019 Council declared a climate change emergency which is directing City operations to become carbon neutral by 2050. The work on the Community Energy and GHG Reduction Plan is meant to establish targets and strategies. The outcomes of the Plan will help inform the City on whether or not to proceed or participate in any given initiative, so at this point in time, it is premature to select any one specific program or initiative. It is likely that there are other programs or initiatives out there that are more geared towards small and mid-sized cities which might be more suitable for the City of Barrie to pursue.

By researching the 2030 District Standards Program, staff better understand the scale of such an initiative, and the fact that work is currently underway on the Community Energy and GHG Reduction Plan that will help inform decisions to participate or not and what other programs are available based on the City's intended targets. At this time, staff do not recommend pursuing participation in this Program.