



Report on the Promotion of Sustainable Building Features for Private Development

April 19, 2010

Report Number: PB-32/10

Chair, members of the committee, staff

My hat off to staff for an excellent report.

BurlingtonGreen has a few comments:

I assume the recommendations apply to all buildings including residential.

If possible the City should encourage upgrading of existing buildings by using tools such as the BOMA BEST program.

The meeting with area homebuilders made me smile. Humans prefer the status quo. The grape growers of Ontario complained about new regulations that would bankrupt them. The restaurateurs complained about no smoking regulations, the lawn care industry complained about cosmetic pesticide bylaws and proposed laws preferring IPM and the car manufacturers complained about stricter pollution controls. If we had listened to all these groups we would not have progressed to where we are today. The only thing that works is enforceable laws, such as a stronger National Building Code or failing that the adoption of inducements such as recommended in this report.

Mention is made of solar panel installations. We recommend that the building permit and inspection fee be waived or lowered to encourage greater citizen participation.

We support the staff recommendations and encourage the adoption of a Triple Bottom Line (Environment, Social and Economic) system of evaluation of all projects, whether City owned or private. A number of communities in Canada are using this approach already. (Victoria BC, Calgary, Peterborough, Hamilton)

Thank you for your attention.

Kurt Koster
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