



Thursday, January 20, 2011

Dear Mayor Goldring, Members of Council and City staff,

BurlingtonGreen has received citizen inquiries about the city's decision to use artificial turf on sports fields. We have made some initial inquiries with Mr. Rob Peachy on this issue and he kindly provided a response (*see link to website posting further below*).

However, there remain a number of outstanding questions on this issue that we would like to bring to your attention:

- Are there any health risks associated with installation, player use, maintenance and disposal of artificial turf?
- Does artificial turf include greater or less environmental implications than natural turf over its life cycle?
- What are the life cycle financial costs associated with artificial turf vs natural turf?

Review of the 2008 report provided by Mr. Peachey indicates that these important questions have not been addressed and we do not believe this issue has been effectively communicated to the citizens of Burlington. As a result, **BurlingtonGreen's position is that the city should not proceed with any additional artificial turf installations until more comprehensive research is conducted on the environmental, financial and health considerations of this product and that the findings be effectively communicated to the citizens of Burlington.** We also recommend that this issue be included in the upcoming strategic plan with equal consideration, effort and supporting research provided for the social, economic and environmental implications and benefits. The Strategic plan process should also include habitat context identifying which locations in Burlington, if any, can support the installation of this product from an environmental perspective.

We have posted more information on this issue on our website and we of course invite you to check it out [here](#).

Thank you for your time. We would very much appreciate being notified of any Council directives or staff related developments on this topic that are available for public consumption.

Respectfully,

Amy Schnurr(Executive Director) & Michelle Bennett( Board of Directors)

**BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association**

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