



April 10, 2012 Burlington City Council : BurlingtonGreen Delegation

Re: CSi-02-12 Burlington Community Energy Plan Terms of Reference

Mayor Goldring, Members of Council and Staff:

I am very pleased to be delegating on a Community Energy Plan (or CEP) for Burlington and would like to thank staff, Council and Mayor Goldring for the inclusion of such a progressive and environmentally bold initiative in our Strategic Plan.

We would like to make three comments on the Terms of Reference as outlined in Appendix C:

1. Although the objectives outlined are laudable as they include “environmentally sustainable solutions”, “meaningful public engagement” and “the inclusion of community development, transportation and transit”, it would be better to have a comprehensive vision and more explicit objectives that would allow progress to be measured. We would recommend adding:
 - a. A “vision” for Burlington energy consumption and generation that could be integrated into the Official Plan. For example, renewable energy from wind turbines has been controversial in the past and the CEP should provide guidance for what the community would like to develop, where and when.
 - b. Quantified objectives for per capita energy consumption and/or green house gas reduction.
 - c. A focus on transportation energy usage reduction.

Leaving the above concepts to be generated by the public consultation process may result in their not being included or receiving a strong focus.
2. We are puzzled and disappointed by the make-up of the Steering and Advisory Committees:
 - a. As this is a Community Energy Plan, it is very disappointing that the Steering Committee has no one from the community at all – just city and Burlington Hydro.

- b. The Advisory Committee also has no community representation and it includes the possibly biased OPA and Union Gas power generation organizations and Joseph Brant Hospital.

Without community input at the planning level and the ability to counter balance the very strong power generation make up of both committees, the CEP runs the risk of being flawed or biased. For example, neither Burlington Hydro nor union Gas could be impartial regarding independent power generation.

3. We would strongly recommend that a dedicated staff person be assigned responsibility for our CEP. The “Community Energy Planning For The City Of Burlington” review developed by a Sheridan College graduate student for BurlingtonGreen last year also recommended this position be incorporated into a CEP based on the best practices researched across Canada and gave the following rationale:
 - a. The addition of a director to oversee the development of the CEP will help focus the city’s efforts and monitor progress. The person in charge will be able to investigate how effective each process is and manage the entire process without losing the bigger picture.
 - b. Having a dedicated staff member to oversee the process will mean that the whole project will be monitored for any issues and conflicts that may arise.
 - c. This dedicated person will also assist with consultations with stakeholders and community groups and mediate between their needs more effectively.

Thank you.

Ken Woodruff
President, BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association