



May 31, 2011 Budget & Corporate Services Committee: BurlingtonGreen Delegation

Re: Report CSI-13-11 Community Energy

Chair Sharman and Committee Members:

We would like to thank you for this opportunity to address and comment on the background information and options outlined in the Community Energy report CSI-13-11 and the Burlington Economic Development Corporation "City of Burlington Strategic Planning Process – Community Energy Management" document included as an appendix.

First and foremost, we would like to thank and congratulate the city for their review of options available for Burlington to address a Community Energy Plan or CEP. BurlingtonGreen strongly supports the development of a Community Energy Plan and the important benefits it can bring to support Burlington's competitiveness and long-term sustainability.

Of the five options outlined, we would recommend # 5's Sustainability or Green Plan as it provides a much broader focus than just energy and would give Burlington an opportunity to develop a publically supported, integrated plan that would make all aspects of Burlington more sustainable. However, we also recognize that it is an ambitious undertaking for the city and if it is judged to be too complex at this time, then Option 3, for a Community Energy Plan would be a good first step for developing a longer-term sustainability plan at a future date.

Under the "Issues to Consider" section, we agree, "a good consultation program and communications plan is key". The more the public and other stakeholders are involved, the more the CEP will reflect community concerns and the greater the chance for its endorsement and success.

BurlingtonGreen agrees with the majority of the comments in the BEDC appendix, especially their endorsement of Option 3 for a Community Energy Plan. We also agree with the BEDC and staff that there is a need for clear leadership for responsibility in developing and executing a CEP. Finally, we most enthusiastically endorse BEDC's vision that with some additional planning Burlington could become a recognized leader in energy management.

We do have some concerns with the BEDC document. Namely:

- We question their statement that "if we want to encourage economic growth then reductions in overall energy consumptions are not logical". We submit that energy conservation implies efficiency and cost reduction and both are positive goals. Also there is no need to limit the production of energy from non-GHG emitting, renewable energy using wind turbines and solar installations.
- We disagree that Burlington can only rely on education and voluntary action to reduce GHG reductions. Incentives for energy efficient buildings and renewable energy use can be effective tools to change behavior.
- We agree with staff that the BEDC conclusion that setting GHG emissions reduction targets may be an "unnecessary and ineffective approach". It is both necessary and and has been

done by other communities such as Toronto, Vancouver and Chicago¹

In closing, we would like to mention a few key relevant action initiatives that BurlingtonGreen has taken on in support of renewable energy advancement:

1. We have arranged for a graduate student at Sheridan College to review Community Energy Planning in Canadian communities with an objective to create an overview of community energy planning and how CEPs have been implemented and a report is expected in August. We would be pleased to share this report with the city.
2. We are currently working with OSEA to explore the potential of a Renewable Energy workshop before October where members of Council and various community stakeholders will be invited to learn more about the true benefits of advancing renewable energy projects on their facilities.
3. Our AGM to be held on November 30 will be focused on the topic of renewable energy with a three-pronged look at the local picture – awareness, advocacy (policy) and action initiatives that are underway, and again we hope you will attend.

Thank you for your time.

Ken Woodruff
President, BurlingtonGreen

¹ The City Climate Catalogue <http://www.climate-catalogue.org/index.php?id=7611>