

March 18, 2016

Mayor Rick Goldring,
Members of Council,
James Ridge
Michelle Dwyer

City Hall
426 Brant Street
Burlington, Ontario
L7R 3Z6

Re: Input to Final Draft Strategic Plan for 2015-2040

BurlingtonGreen is pleased to provide final comments to the City's Strategic Plan for 2015–2040. We want to congratulate the City for taking the time and investing the resources you have in creating a long term vision to guide future decisions. It is clear from the many changes made to the first draft plan that you have listened carefully to the abundant community feedback you have received.

Our comments and recommendations today focus on the few, but in our opinion, important issues that we think need to be further strengthened to ensure a sustainable future for Burlington. From the 7 issues that we raised in our feedback to you of January 11, 2016, we offer the following comments:

In the Key Strategic Direction of a **Healthy and Greener City**:

1. Overall this section has been significantly strengthened and addresses many of the issues we raised.
2. With respect to Section 3.1's first Strategic Initiative, we ask that it be amended to read: "Parks Master Plan will be updated to include a public and private green space inventory to support decisions to meet the needs of growth objectives and changing density in the city."
3. We suggest that Section 3.2.e be amended to read: "The city will work with community stakeholders to implement the *Community Energy Plan and achieve the goals and objectives related to energy conservation generation, availability, security, and emission reduction."
4. We suggest that Section 3.2.g, which refers to climate change, be moved up and positioned as 3.2.a. This would acknowledge the overarching significance of climate change while also aligning better with the order of the bullets in the Strategic Initiative section, which begins with points relating to climate change.
5. We suggest that Section 3.2's fifth Strategic Initiative be amended to read: "Working with Burlington Hydro, the city will explore *district energy, *micro-generation, low carbon electrical, renewable, and new storage technologies"
6. With respect to Section 3.2's final Strategic Initiative, we ask that it be amended to read: "The streetscape plans and private development will increase the city's tree canopy and measures such as a private property tree by-law will be implemented to protect the existing canopy."
7. We ask that two Strategic Initiatives be added to Section 3.2:
 - a. The city will adopt a balanced approach to development planning to ensure natural areas are preserved and habitat restoration work is advanced to protect and enhance local bio-diversity

b. The city will collaborate with and encourage the Region and Province to increase waste reduction goals and will establish targets for its green procurement strategies

8. We ask that the fourth Progress Indicator for Section 3.2 be amended to read: “Progress on energy and emission targets in the *Community Energy Plan and Corporate Energy Management Plan”

In the Key Strategic Direction of **An Engaging City**:

1. We ask you to include building community awareness of and engagement in environmental issues and activities by amending Section 4.2.a to read: “The city supports and encourages the community to identify opportunities to build active, creative, greener neighbourhoods.”
2. To support this, we would suggest the addition of a point in the Strategic Initiatives section as follows: “The city will expand opportunities to educate the public about how they can become engaged in developing greener, more sustainable communities and will collaborate with community organizations to promote and support environmental initiatives, events and educational programs.”

Again, we congratulate Council and Staff on achieving, to quote Brent Toderian, “one of the best Strategic Plans he has seen”. And we hope that our final suggestions can be adopted to make it “**the best strategic plan for the best city**”.

Respectfully,



Gloria Reid,
Vice President

BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association