



July 12, 2010

Dear Mayor Jackson, Committee Chairs and Members of Council,

There are a number of items on your meeting schedule this week that BurlingtonGreen would like to offer input on. They are as follows:

### Budget and Corporate Services – July 13

[Report providing information on the Quarterly Environmental Initiatives.](#) BurlingtonGreen appreciates the City including events hosted by our organization on your website as a valuable opportunity for citizens to learn about and participate in engaging, local eco-focused opportunities.

### [Report providing information on Take Action Burlington & World Environment Day.](#)

BurlingtonGreen was very pleased to be asked to participate in the planning of the Take Action May 6 event and to attend the World Environment Day event in June. Lynn Robichaud and Fleur Storage-Hogan should be commended for their lead role in planning such organized, professional, detail oriented events with a welcoming and inclusive approach to all members of the Climate Change Summit planning team & invited Exhibitors and guests.

We also very much appreciate the City's donation of \$1500 to directly support the delivery of Climate Change workshops for children throughout Burlington beginning this fall.

We believe the report summarizes the events well and it captures the follow-up feedback provided by BurlingtonGreen. For the Climate Change Summit, the statements *"But more remains to be done.....and Some participants also expressed an interest in the development of a local action plan with targets and measurable"* to be of particular importance. We celebrate the achievement of the City hosting such an important event and look at it as a critical first step. We hope the City will continue with this momentum by supporting other eco-focused initiatives (such as the 10-10-10 Global Day of Action) and leading by example by ensuring that at least one major event a year is dedicated to the environment (with consideration to the arts, music and culture events and opportunities provided by the City).

BurlingtonGreen also believes that the multitude of ideas supporting Climate Change need to be put into action. To ensure authentic, advancements to combat this global issue are achieved at the local level, an [action plan](#) should be developed that includes specific targets with measurable outcomes.

We also suggest that the City consider sharing their extensive information pertaining to the environment, successes, strategies and targets in a more inviting, inclusive and interactive manner with the citizens of Burlington. While the City must assume a leadership role when it comes to environmental stewardship and combating climate change challenges, sending a clear message that the solution lies with all of us is an important one. A dedicated website supporting this is just one suggestion. The City of Ottawa for example has established a [user friendly site](#) including an interactive opportunity for citizens to measure their own impact and how they can take action to support positive change.

[Report recommending endorsement of GTA Clean Air Council 2010 inter-governmental declaration on Clean Air and Climate Change and providing an update on the 2010 Burlington Clean Air & Climate Change Summit.](#)

BurlingtonGreen supports the City of Burlington's participation in this important initiative and ongoing opportunity for collaboration to share practices across the GTA and beyond. However, as per above, we believe the City should establish associated action targets with measureables to maximize the benefit of this partnership and to support clean air and climate change strategies. The chart on page 5 of the [Environmental Initiatives Quarterly Report](#) is a good example of a format to apply for all operations.

Community Services Committee – July 14, 2010

**[Report recommending a response to the Region of Halton about a smoking ban on outdoor public property.](#)**

BurlingtonGreen was surprised and disappointed that no “environmental matters” were included in this report. This again speaks to our longstanding recommendation that the City adopt a triple bottom line approach for all reporting to ensure that social, economic and environmental considerations are presented to Council for all issues.

There are a number of reports regarding the topic of cigarette smoke and air pollution such as the position of the Canadian Cancer Society : “*The Canadian Cancer Society believes that smoking in select outdoor spaces, such as parks and playgrounds, can be detrimental to both our health and the health of the environment.*” and did you know that cigarettes are considered to be the [most common litter item in the world?](#)

31 municipalities in Canada have implemented some form of outdoor smoking regulation and BurlingtonGreen suggests that the report on this matter be more thorough by including the relevant environmental considerations. A number of associated public awareness strategies/signage can be implemented to help address smoking in parks and outdoor spaces and the resulting air pollution and litter that is caused.

**[Report recommending approval of Burlington's formal comments on the Niagara to GTA Corridor environmental assessment \(EA\) and provision of an update on the EA study.](#)**

BurlingtonGreen supports the City staff recommendation to oppose the Ministry of Transportation's preferred alternative for the Niagara to GTA 9N-GTA) Corridor EA that was presented to the public on June 23, 2010

We concur that the MOT's alternative would impose negative impacts on the environment. To identify a few, the proposal would have the NGTA alignment cutting across the Niagara Escarpment and the Green Belt including wildlife corridors and the added corridor would support increased urban sprawl. The MTO proposal is yet another example of supporting single use automobile transport versus eco-efficient shared transit systems.

We hope that the various recommendations and supporting references regarding the identified issues above are helpful to members of Committee and Council as you advance your commitment to create a more environmentally sustainable future for Burlington.

Respectfully,

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