

February 27,2024

Good afternoon Mayor Meed Ward and Members of Council,

There are various items on the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting agenda that BurlingtonGreen would like to offer brief input on. We hope you find the comments to be helpful.

<p><b>Item 5.14 - Burlington solar incentive proposal ( EICS-02-24 )</b></p>	<p>BurlingtonGreen fully supports the report recommendations to approve incentive and potential longer term funding for this program.</p> <p>Renewable energy is identified as a key program area in Burlington’s Climate Action Plan that includes milestone actions such as community adoption of solar photovoltaic panels. By covering the cost of the building permit for solar installations, one more barrier is removed to encourage adoption of renewable energy in our community.</p> <p>We also concur with the report references to risk noting “ <i>There is limited risk in implementing a pilot program to support solar installations in Burlington. The greater risk is a lack of action to support the City’s Climate Action Plan and failing to achieve the target to be a net carbon neutral community by 2050.</i>”</p> <p>With BurlingtonGreen’s large online and in-person community reach, we would be pleased to actively promote this opportunity provided by the City.</p>
<p><b>Item 8.1 - 1200 King Road vision update (ECDEV-02-24)</b></p>	<p>BurlingtonGreen would like to see “<i>Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment</i>” added to Vision to Focus Alignment in the report and in the project vision, planning and community engagement presentations, particularly given the magnitude of the proposed project and the Provincially Significant Wetland complex in the area.</p>
<p><b>Item 11.1 -Recommendations for the evolution of Tyandaga Golf Course (RCC-04-24)</b></p>	<p>BurlingtonGreen provided earlier input on this issue, commenting on the multitude of benefits with maximizing greenspace protection and natural restoration as much as possible. We acknowledge and appreciate the report’s important environmental and climate facts and considerations and given the escalating implications of climate change and biodiversity loss, it is our hope that this Council will direct and support staff responsible for this file to prioritize the planning and advancement of naturalization measures as follows and not limited to: “..... <i>the addition of native plants and hiking trails, pollinator gardens, rain gardens, or wildlife habitats to name a few. These examples allow for the</i></p>

	<i>restoration of natural ecosystems, in addition to enhancing biodiversity within the neighbourhood.”</i>
<b>Item 11.2 - Fireworks and drones for festivals and events – Canada Day (RCC-02-24) and 15.2 Correspondence from Ward 2 Councillor's summer 2023 interns related to fireworks and drones for festivals and events - Canada Day</b>	BurlingtonGreen acknowledges the various fact-based environmental, social and economic negative impacts caused by fireworks captured in both the staff report and that of the Ward 2 Councillor’s summer intern report. Replacing fireworks with safe and sustainable alternatives is a responsible action aligned with the City’s Vision to Focus environmental priorities as well as Burlington’s 2022 Bird Friendly City designation.
<b>Item 11.3 - BurlingtonGreen fee for services (EICS-01-24 )</b>	BurlingtonGreen very much appreciates the report authored by Lynn Robichaud highlighting our organization’s significant longstanding impact, and the multitude of benefits to the community and health of the Burlington environment our essential services provide. As BurlingtonGreen’s Executive Director I will be pleased to delegate on this item at the March 4th Committee meeting. In addition to the Report’s Appendix A (BurlingtonGreen’s Nov 1, 2023 funding proposal), as a ‘refresher’, I thought it may be helpful to also re-share my earlier November 2, 2023 delegation speaking notes <b>below</b> .

November 2, 2023

Good afternoon Mayor Meed Ward, Members of Council, City staff and the Burlington community

I’m here today on behalf of BurlingtonGreen with a two-fold request pertaining to your budget considerations and decision-making:

1. One, that you provide even greater consideration than you already are to the importance of the key function the not-for-profit community sector provides in advancing the city’s strategic priorities by deepening those investments;
2. Secondly, and with consideration of this larger context, that you recognize the specific value BurlingtonGreen provides in servicing key city and community needs, by unanimously choosing to invest in our essential work going forward in a more sustained way.

To the first point: you may be aware of the recently released [Ontario Nonprofit Network report titled “A Tipping Point”](#), that presented dire findings.

The forecast includes that **by 2026:**

- *Every single nonprofit in Ontario will be experiencing an increase in demand for service.*
- *Only 17% of nonprofits will forecast financial sustainability for 12 months or more.*
- *Nonprofits will see a 131% increase in costs.*
- *There will be 63% of nonprofits knowing of similar organizations closing down and ceasing operations.*

**The loss of nonprofits and the benefits they provide will lead to less economically viable, less socially vibrant, and less connected communities.** Our sector encompasses what I refer to as the “survive and thrive” role. And thus, I respectfully ask that you do all you can with your always challenging role of making tough choices when prioritizing budget investments, to factor our sector.

And secondly, and with this in mind, in regards to BurlingtonGreen’s funding proposal - I would like to emphasize that this should not be considered a hand up - instead it’s a value proposition based opportunity. I won’t repeat the case I outlined in my written submission. We operate leanly, nimbly, with equity, transparency, and accountability to carry out important mission-driven community based work that directly advances and supports city priorities, addressing environmental and community needs.

On route here today I thought about two comments I heard from members of council this week and earlier today. Councilor Bentivegna’s comment about the importance of identifying and investing in “low hanging” fruit to provide what we need to address these essential needs.

And just a few hours ago, Councilor Nisan’s comment that “we need to make the investments to see the change that is needed”.

Investing in BurlingtonGreen speaks to both these good points. Our charity has helped to shape the Burlington we are privileged to live in today. We’ve contributed to those changes and will continue to do so.

From a state of the environment perspective, the stakes have never been higher. And from a community perspective, all sectors we serve need us and the services and solutions we provide.

Thank you very much,



**Amy Schnurr (She/Her)**

Co-Founder / Executive Director

