



Report
Staff Report
The Corporation of the City of Brampton
11/27/2024

Date: 2024-11-20

Subject: **Brampton's Business Climate Partnership Program**

Contact: Andrea Williams, Sector Manager, Advanced Manufacturing,
Economic Development

Report number: CAO's Office-2024-934

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report from Andrea Williams, Sector Manager, Advanced Manufacturing, to the Committee of Council Meeting of November 27, 2024, re: **Brampton's Business Climate Partnership Program**, be received; and
2. That Economic Development staff work with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA), Partners in Project Green (PPG) to develop a partnership program for Brampton businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote energy conservation and support sustainability practices; and
3. That staff report back to Council on the results of this program in Q4 of 2025.

OVERVIEW:

- **Municipalities are at the centre of sustainability efforts and the global movement toward reducing our impact on the planet.**
- **Incorporating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles, particularly in managing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate risks, is no longer just a regulatory or environmental consideration but a critical economic strategy for businesses.**
- **By proactively identifying and managing GHG emissions and climate risks, businesses can mitigate costly disruptions from extreme weather events and regulatory changes and unlock new growth opportunities and operational efficiencies.**
- **Economic Development staff have identified an opportunity to engage with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA), Partners in**

Project Green (PPG) to develop a partnership program for Brampton businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote energy conservation and support sustainability practices.

- **A climate action support program for Brampton businesses will position Brampton as a leader in climate action, enhancing both economic stability and regional competitiveness.**
- **The program will feature a two-phased approach, one beginning in Q4 of 2024 and the second in Q2-Q4 of 2025.**
- **The recommendations in this report will result in expected costs of \$58,635 plus taxes to be funded from the Economic Development approved operating budget and funding from the Region of Peel.**

BACKGROUND:

Grow Green Environmental Master Plan

Municipalities are at the centre of sustainability efforts and the global movement toward reducing our impact on the planet. In 2014, City Council approved ([CW200-2014](#)), the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan (EMP), the City's first blueprint for improving environmental sustainability at both the City and community level. The outcome of extensive research, consultation, and collaboration, Brampton Grow Green outlines a vision, guiding principles, goals and actions for a more sustainable future, as well as performance metrics and targets to drive and evaluate our progress.

In April 2021, an update to the EMP was approved by Council ([CW124-2021](#)), which included a refreshed action plan highlighting the importance of “collaborating with regional organizations like Partners in Project Green to promote green businesses and environmentally friendly business practices.”

Guiding Principle of EMP: Partnership

Staff recognize the need for, and value of partnerships with other levels of government, conservation agencies, conservation groups, stakeholders and the community.

Partners in Project Green

In 2008, a decade-long partnership between [Toronto Pearson](#) and [Toronto and Region Conservation Authority](#) (TRCA) yielded a network of like-minded businesses working together towards advancing the community and local economy. This idea evolved to include government, institutions, and utilities and was named Partners in Project Green (PPG).

Today, PPG is a not-for-profit community of leaders advancing environmental action and economic prosperity across the GTA. They facilitate programs, create, collect and

curate knowledge and share it in the form of case studies, offering events, webinars, training and tours to support sustainability efforts to their members. PPG is committed to helping businesses turn sustainable practices into bottom-line results.

Economic Development staff have been engaged with PPG to determine how the City can best support the business community in their own sustainability efforts.

PPG has successfully implemented climate action programs in collaboration with the City of Mississauga and Town of Caledon. Both programs have seen positive engagement with local businesses and identified over 100 projects to drive GHG reductions, energy efficiency and climate change resilience.

PPG and City of Brampton Economic Development Office have recognized similar opportunities to build on the lessons learned through these programs. As a result, PPG is proposing a localized climate action support program for Brampton businesses in partnership with the City of Brampton.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Staff are recommending that a program be designed to help Brampton businesses take practical and cost-effective steps to address climate change through site assessments, one-on-one support and a capacity building workshop. The program will be delivered in two phases, with a pilot starting in Q4 2024, followed by a full program launch in Q2 2025.

- Phase 1 will target up to seven businesses in 2024 with report completion by Q1 of 2025.
- Phase 2 will feature a full marketing and social media campaign, targeting up to 10 Brampton businesses on a first-come, first-serve basis in Q2 of 2025.

Both phase 1 & 2 will involve discussions with participating businesses to understand the existing changes they've made to reach their ESG goals to date, followed by a 2-4-hour site assessment at each participating business. The site assessments will be led by TRCA with support from additional technical advisors/ partners such as: ***Region of Peel, Alectra Utilities, Enbridge Gas, Sheridan College and SaveOn Energy***. The opportunities identified during each site assessment will be outlined in a summary report and forwarded to the business. The report will highlight potential changes that could be made that would positively impact the business' ESGs, potential long-term savings and would also identify potential funding and/or incentives.

This phased approach will ensure a successful partnership program, creating customized carbon footprint plans to support local private and public sector leaders committed to measuring and reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and leading Brampton towards a net zero future.

This program showcases how the City of Brampton is working towards transformative change. Building upon the foundational work that is already underway, the City and its

partners will continue to expand education efforts and capacity building within the business community. The opportunity for education and engagement will not only focus on building knowledge for environmental initiatives, but also on fostering participation and empowering business to act.

Moving towards a green economy can lead Brampton towards greater economic prosperity and standard of living while also achieving its environmental goals.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

The recommendations in this report will result in expected costs of \$58,635 plus taxes to be funded from the Economic Development approved operating budget and funding from the Region of Peel.

Other Implications: If none, delete headings.

Legal Implications

Legal advice and guidance will be sought as needed.

Communications Implications

Strategic Communications will work with Economic Development Office and PPG to develop a full communications and marketing plan to promote the program following the successful launch of the pilot program. Staff anticipate a full launch in Q2 of 2025.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:

Environmental Resilience & Sustainability; Government & Leadership

CONCLUSION:

Incorporating ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles, particularly in managing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate risks, is no longer just a regulatory or environmental consideration but a critical economic strategy for businesses. Evidence shows that businesses prioritizing ESG demonstrate stronger financial resilience, attract more investment, and build greater customer loyalty. By proactively identifying and managing GHG emissions and climate risks, businesses can not only mitigate costly disruptions from extreme weather events and regulatory changes but also unlock new growth opportunities and operational efficiencies.

A program to assist businesses in identifying these opportunities can position Brampton's business community as a leader in climate action, enhancing both economic stability and regional competitiveness.

Authored by:

Reviewed by:

Andrea Williams
Sector Manager, Advanced
Manufacturing
Economic Development

Denise McClure
A/Director
Economic Development

Approved by:

Marlon Kallideen
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Detailed outline for Phase 1 & Phase 2
- Attachment 2 – Social Tile
- Attachment 3 – High Level Overview (Presentation)