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Subject: **Update of the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan**

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Recommendations:

1. That the report titled: **Update of the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan** to the Committee of Council meeting of March 10, 2021, be received; and
2. That Council endorse the updated Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan.

Overview:

- In 2014, City Council approved 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 Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan, like other master plans, is a living document that should be updated every five years to ensure it remains current, relevant, and reflective of the City's evolving environmental priorities and ambitions.
- The updated EMP addresses changes in policies, plans, and programs, and provides a new Action Plan and revised set of performance metrics to accelerate our momentum toward a more healthy, resilient, and sustainable Brampton.
- The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the updated Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan.

Background:

In 2014, City Council approved the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan (EMP), the City's first blueprint for improving environmental sustainability at both the City (internal) and community (external) level. Organized under the core components of People, Air, Water, Land, Energy, and Waste, 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. It has helped Brampton become an environmental sustainability leader in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

The Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan, like other master plans, is a living document that should be regularly updated to ensure it remains current, relevant, and reflective of the City's evolving environmental priorities and ambitions. The original Environmental Master Plan recommends that this exercise be undertaken every five years.

EMP Refresh Process

Updating the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan was an iterative process that was led by the City's Grow Green Team and involved:

- understanding the progress toward achieving the EMP goals, actions, and targets;
- reviewing the City's strategic documents approved since the launch of the EMP;
- leveraging information gathered as part of other city-wide plans that recently underwent public engagement;
- performing a jurisdictional scan to identify current international, federal, provincial, and local plans, policies, and priorities for environmental sustainability;
- benchmarking against environmental plans of other municipalities;
- undertaking interviews and meetings with City staff and other stakeholders;
- conducting an online survey for public input on potential actions and action prioritization; and
- consulting with Brampton's Environment Advisory Committee.

How Have We Done So Far?

Five Key Corporate Directions

The initial Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan outlined five key corporate directions to position the City for the successful implementation of the EMP, including modifying how we conduct business, communicate between departments, monitor and

report performance, make decisions, and manage operations. The City has made advancements in all five directions, which are summarized in Appendix 1.

Grow Green Action Plan

Brampton has come a long way since City Council approved the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan in 2014. Brampton Grow Green has been the catalyst for a variety of the City's plans, policies, projects, and practices that are improving Brampton's environmental performance, quality of life, and economic development.

Our progress includes the delivery of over half of an ambitious ten year Action Plan comprised of both City and community focused actions. Key completed actions include the:

- development of the Corporate Energy and Emissions Management Plan, and the Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (CEERP);
- creation of the Brampton Cycling Advisory Committee, and the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP);
- installation of Low Impact Development projects, like the County Court Bio-filter Swale;
- growth of the Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) into two additional neighbourhoods;
- expansion of the Naturalization Program, and launch of the Don't Mow, Let it Grow initiative;
- installation of renewable energy systems and Electric Vehicle charging stations across City facilities; and
- growth of the Brampton Transit network, and greening the transit bus fleet.

A complete list of the initial Grow Green Action Plan and the status of each action is available on the City's website at www.brampton.ca/EMP, while Appendix 2 provides a snapshot of our notable achievements since the launch of the EMP.

Grow Green Performance Metrics

The Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan identified a series of City and community performance metrics, as well as aspiring targets to motivate action and drive change. As outlined below, the majority of the metrics are on target or progressing toward their targets, while several are not meeting their target. The remaining metrics either had no or limited data available, or had no targets established in the first iteration of the EMP.

On Target:	Transit Trips; Natural Heritage System (NHS) Restoration
Progressing Toward Target:	Corporate Building Energy Use; NHS in Public Ownership; Environmental Programs; Public Waste Diversion; Density
Off Target:	Vehicle KM Traveled; Participants in Programs; Water Use
No Target Established in the Initial EMP:	GHG Emissions; Watercourse Channel Naturalization; Trees Planted
Limited/No Data Available:	Renewable Energy; Corporate Waste Diversion; Community Energy Intensity

Success in achieving land-related targets, particularly connected to natural heritage restoration, illustrates the expanding restoration partnerships between the City and its local Conservation Authorities (Toronto & Region Conservation Authority and Credit Valley Conservation).

Transit has performed exceptionally well, with Brampton Transit being one of the fastest growing transit systems in Canada. Yet while public transportation use is increasing, so is the average distance Brampton drivers are travelling each day, highlighting the need to create more complete communities, foster local economic development, and invest in multi-modal transportation options.

Building energy use intensity of City facilities has improved, largely driven by the guidance of the City's Energy Management team and their Corporate Energy and Emissions Management Plan.

Community and City staff participation in environmental initiatives and events have seen declines, mainly attributed to the wind down of the Brampton Clean City team and the Smart Commute Brampton-Caledon initiative.

While the Community waste diversion rate across Peel region has improved over the last several years, progress regarding waste cannot be evaluated for City buildings and outdoor facilities because this information is not currently being tracked.

Additional detail regarding our progress against each performance metric is available in Appendix 3.

What Has Evolved?

Several notable changes have occurred in the years since the initial Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan was approved in 2014. Prior to the EMP, the City's environmental efforts were typically ad-hoc and lacked coordination across the corporation and its partners. Council's endorsement of the EMP provided direction and emboldened City staff to apply an environmental lens to their work and decision making. The EMP's directive to increase environmental awareness amongst City staff and the general public coupled with the mandate to monitor and report environmental progress resulted in acquiring more knowledge and fostering higher expectations for meaningful environmental action. Consequently, environmental sustainability has become more integrated into a broader suite of City strategic documents and master plans, most notably the Brampton 2040 Vision and the Term of Council Priorities. It also ushered in efforts to establish community organizations to help achieve our goals, such as the Grow Green Network and the Centre for Community Energy Transformation.

Aligning with Regional, Provincial, Nation, and International Sustainability Priorities

As part of the background research to update the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan, a range of sustainability plans of partner agencies and upper level governments were reviewed. The top themes that emerged are listed below, and guided the development of the new EMP Action Plan:

- transitioning to a low-carbon future (climate change mitigation);
- increasing climate change adaptation and resilience;
- expanding multimodal transportation;
- creating complete communities;
- fostering natural heritage stewardship;
- improving water quality;
- advancing public health;
- cultivating green jobs;
- supporting a circular economy;
- building partnerships; and
- empowering the community.

Many of these themes are also reflected in the City's Term of Council Priorities.

Current Situation:

The Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan update is complete and ready for implementation. It is not a full reinvention or redesign of the plan. The Brampton Grow Green vision, guiding principles, and core components remain pertinent and continue to act as the foundation of the EMP.

Instead, the update of the Brampton Grow Green Environment Master Plan focuses on providing a revised and streamlined Action Plan and updated performance metrics. The

updated EMP also illustrates an evolution in our sustainability approach by aiming to better acknowledge, constructively influence, and strategically leverage the interrelationships between the three E's of sustainability - environment, economy, and equity.

The new ten year Action Plan is comprised of approximately 60 high-impact actions that chart the course for a greener Brampton. It carries forward and adapts key actions from the original EMP that have yet to be achieved, and adds new actions that are reflective of best practice and tailored to the qualities, needs, and opportunities of Brampton. Some of the major actions the City aims to move forward with includes, but is not limited to:

- launching Complete Streets Guidelines;
- creating Water Efficiency Strategies for City buildings and facilities;
- expanding the Community Gardens program;
- pursuing Bee City designation; and
- establishing a Home Energy Retrofit Program.

The majority of the EMP metrics remain unchanged as part of this refresh. However, several metrics, baselines, and targets have been refined based on the review of metric suitability, availability and accuracy of data, methodological improvements, and direction garnered from other technical studies and plans. One new metric has been added regarding the sustainability performance of new development.

Next Steps:

Following Council's endorsement of the updated Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan, next steps include:

- undertaking a communication strategy to build awareness of the updated EMP amongst City staff, external partners, and the general public;
- exploring external funding opportunities that could be pursued to support the implementation of actions; and
- regular meetings with the Grow Green Team to monitor progress.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications resulting from the approval of the recommendations of this report. Through the 2021 City Budget process, Council appropriately allocated funding to implement the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan actions. Any additional resources and funding required to implement actions

will be identified and brought forward to Council for approval as part of the annual budget process.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications resulting from the approval of the recommendations of this report.

Term of Council Priorities:

The updated Brampton Environmental Master Plan contributes to all of the Term of Council priorities, particularly “Brampton is a Green City”, “Brampton is a City of Opportunities”, “Brampton is Healthy and Safe”.

Conclusion:

The updated Brampton Grow Green EMP aims to accelerate progress in creating a more healthy, resilient, and environmentally sustainable city. While Brampton has made great strides since the launch of the Plan in 2014, gradual progress must be replaced with transformative action if we are to address today’s environmental challenges and avert climate disaster. The Grow Green vision will require support from leadership, inter-department cooperation, sustained and dedicated resources, ongoing education, sector-wide collaboration, and persistence.

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Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Fulfilling the Five Corporate Directions Identified in the Initial Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan

Appendix 2 – Grow Green Achievements Snapshot: 2014-2020

Appendix 3 – Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan Refresh (2020)