

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

The Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan (2014) outlined five key corporate directions to position the City for the successful implementation, including modifying how we conduct business, communicate between departments, monitor and report performance, make decisions, and manage operations. Provided below are these key directions and an overview of the City's progress in achieving them.

1) Define and assign municipal sustainability resources

Brampton Grow Green must be embedded in the organizational configuration and composition of City departments and their associated divisions. A City department is typically responsible for specific tasks, goals and responsibilities relevant to its departmental mandate and function. The way the EMP is positioned within the City structure will influence collaboration between departments, promote corporate awareness of environmental initiatives and performance, and enhance public messaging about the priority of environmental sustainability within the City.

The following municipal resources and actions were identified to create changes that will help the EMP succeed in the long term.

- a) The Senior Management Team (SMT) will lead and support the Departments responsible for each action and facilitate interdepartmental collaboration, communication, education, and reporting on the City's environmental performance.
 - *Each City Department is responsible for leading the implementation of their respective actions identified in the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan.*
 - *The Environmental Planning staff of the Public Works and Engineering department coordinates the communication, monitoring, and reporting on the City's environmental performance.*
 - *Interdepartmental collaboration is facilitated by the Grow Green Team (refer to item 1.c).*

- b) Senior Management Team (SMT) will promote, coordinate and monitor Corporate and Community Actions to achieve improvements to the City's environmental performance.
 - *While overall support for Brampton Grow Green is being provided by senior management, the promotion, coordination, and monitoring of the City's environmental performance is headed by the Environmental Planning staff in collaboration with a network of internal and external partners.*

- c) SMT, with support of an integrated divisional Grow Green Team, will operationalize the EMP actions including partnership collaboration.

- *In 2017, the senior management endorsed the establishment of a corporate Grow Green Team, a group of cross-departmental staff led by Environmental Planning, to help facilitate the implementation of the Brampton Grow Green Action Plan, track progress, and promote a culture of conservation.*
- *The benefits of having one team have been multifaceted, including shared information, improved communication, and increased collaboration between departments. In addition, the Grow Green Team has been instrumental in providing an in-depth understanding of the successes, opportunities, and challenges of implementing Brampton Grow Green.*

2) Educate and promote awareness within and beyond the Corporation

Communication of environmental imperatives, goals, policies, and actions within the Corporation as well as to the community, including residents, private corporations, non-profit organizations, stakeholders and other levels of government, will be an important element of the EMP's success. Internal and external education must focus on engaging stakeholders and building support to undertake environmental actions. The public and City staff must understand what it is they are expected to do, what supports are in place to assist them, and what benefits are expected from their actions.

The following are actions for the City to expand awareness and educate the community at large and its partners about the EMP.

- a) Expand the role of the Brampton Environmental Planning Advisory Committee to act as EMP community resource for education and outreach.
 - *As the representation of and conduit to the community, Brampton's Environment Advisory Committee (BEAC) plays an important role in the development and delivery of public outreach and education.*
 - *Over the last several years, BEAC has supported and participated in a variety of community events.*
 - *More recently, the Terms of Reference for BEAC were updated to focus the committee's efforts toward assisting, educating, and engaging the community to advance the goals and actions of Brampton Grow Green.*

- b) Expand the role of the Brampton Clean City Committee to act as EMP community resource for education and outreach.
 - *In 2015, the Region changed their grant formula, which resulted in the City withdrawing from the delivery of waste education, terminating the Clean City program, and redirecting resources to sports and recreation programming.*

- c) Establish a Sustainability Hub/Environmental Learning Centre to champion the environment to Brampton residents, business and stakeholders.

- *In late 2019, City Council approved a conceptual plan of the establishment of Trailhead Eco Park, in collaboration with the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), near Bovaird Drive and Heritage Road within the Credit River watershed.*
 - *The park will be a prominent, centre for environmental learning and outdoor education, and will include “The Landmark” – a signature building that will function as a multi-use community and base of operations for CVC public education and stewardship services, a public-facing environmental interpretation centre and even space, and aligned not-for-profit and community agencies.*
 - *In 2020, City Council directed staff to establish a Centre for Community Transformation (CCET), a not-for-profit community organization to help Brampton accelerate toward a low carbon future and act as a catalysts to implement the Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan (CEERP).*
- d) Develop a Mandate for the Sustainability Hub to promote, coordinate and monitor Community Actions to achieve improvements to the City’s environmental performance.
- *The Sustainability Hub has not been established.*
 - *Nevertheless, City staff are working with community partners, such as the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Credit Valley Conservation, Region of Peel, and members of the Grow Green Network to promote, coordinate, and/or monitor the Community actions identified in the EMP.*
 - *The City is also in the process of establishing the not-for-profit community organization Centre for Community Transformation (CCET), which will function as a hub for leading Brampton’s energy transition.*
- e) Host an Environmental Event in conjunction with the Brampton Environmental Planning Advisory Committee and Brampton Clean City Committee to share and learn best practices being implemented at home and abroad.
- *Environmental Planning staff and BEAC have partnered with Parks Community Programs staff to host an annual Earth Day community tree planting event, which includes booths providing information on various community organizations, environmental initiatives, as well as education materials.*
 - *City staff will continue to work with community partners to increase the scale, participation, and impact of this annual event.*
- f) Develop annual environmental recognition/incentives for businesses, institutions and citizens.
- *An annual Grow Green recognition program has not been established, and has been carried forward as a recommended action in the EMP refresh.*
 - *In 2020, the City launched the Advance Brampton Fund (ABF), a community granting program that supports non-profit sector development and provides municipal funding to Brampton-based non-profit or charitable organizations for strong project proposals that*

align with the Terms of Council priorities, including the “Brampton is a Green City” priority.

- *The ABF Green City stream prioritizes environmental stewardship projects on City-owned property that support the Brampton Grow Green Environmental Master Plan by: enhancing the city’s urban forest and natural heritage system, encouraging active transportation (e.g. walking or cycling), and/or providing opportunities for residents to learn about environmental issues and solutions.*
- *Environmental Planning staff are currently exploring opportunities to establish incentives for environmental actions that support the goals of Brampton Grow Green on private property.*

g) Develop a comprehensive Brampton Grow Green Communication Strategy.

- *A Brampton Grow Green Communication Strategy has been developed outlining variety of tactics, including traditional and digital media as well as community events to education and engage staff, residents, businesses, and other partners to support the Environmental Master Plan and to take steps to achieve its goals.*
- *To help maximize reach, the strategy aims to leverage existing network of environmentally focused organizations, residents and staff; develop a clear, concise and powerful message that promotes environmental stewardship; and equip advocates with a message and materials to inspire action among their own networks.*

3) Establish data collection and performance monitoring

The impact of the EMP cannot be known without baseline data collection, ongoing monitoring and a refinement of the environmental performance framework and strategies over time to ensure effectiveness. Quantitative tracking of environmental metrics will demonstrate whether the City is making progress towards its environmental goals and provide powerful evidence to support additional environmental initiatives.

Performance benchmarking is a key element of the EMP and involves choosing metrics that reflect attributes that are important to the city. Establishing performance targets for priority metrics and targets (based on a knowledge of current performance and precedents), and monitoring actual performance over time is necessary to evaluate Brampton’s environmental performance.

The following actions are required to establish the basis for a successful long-term monitoring of the City’s environmental progress.

a) Determine baseline data, and confirm and/or develop targets for all priority metrics.

- *Over the last three years Environmental Planning staff have worked with the Grow Green Team and community partners to gather available data related to the EMP metrics, which has been used to refine baselines and inform new performance targets.*

- b) Identify departmental and corporate responsibilities for monitoring of Corporate and Community EMP Performance Targets, including data management and reporting.
- *EMP implementation monitoring and reporting is currently being coordinated by Environmental Planning, in cooperation with the Grow Green Team, and community partners such as the TRCA, CVC, and Region of Peel.*
- c) Establish protocols for data collection, analysis and reporting for each EMP Performance Target.
- *Protocols for data collection, analysis, and reporting on the Brampton Grow Green performance metrics have been established and will be regularly updated as new data sources, collection, analysis, and reporting methods become available.*
- d) Engage a third party environmental auditor to review data collection, analysis and reporting protocols, and annual environmental performance results.
- *A third part environmental auditor has not been engaged.*
 - *The City of Brampton is a member of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), a global alliance of more than 9,200 cities leading the fight against climate change. As part of this commitment, the City provided Brampton's GHG emission data gathered as part of the Community Energy and Emission Reduction Plan to GCoM for validation.*
- e) Annually update the Canvas of Environmental Initiatives, a snapshot of current ways in which Brampton and its conservation partners are improving the City's environmental performance.
- *Environmental Planning staff maintains the Canvas of Environmental Initiatives, which is available on the City's webpage.*
- f) Prepare an annual Council report that describes the status of the implementation of the Environmental Master Plan.
- *In 2018 Council received the first status update on the City's implementation of Brampton Grow Green. It highlighted the City's progress, and provided direction on ways to improve and strengthen Brampton's performance as it becomes a more healthy, resilient, and environmentally sustainable city.,*
- g) Prepare a Sustainable Brampton Report that describes and shares the status of the City's Corporate and Community environmental performance, issued at 5-year intervals.

- *In 2019, Environmental Planning staff commenced the review of the first five years of EMP implementation, culminating in the Brampton Grow Green EMP Refresh, as well as the Grow Green Achievements Snapshot: 2014-2020, which provide a summary of Corporate and Community environmental performance.*

4) Detail a budget and decision-making framework

How Brampton budgets for and makes decisions about environmental initiatives and programs is key to the implementation of the EMP. Successful implementation of the EMP will require a commitment of resources, both capital and staff, and institutional resources. The decision making framework of each City department needs to closely consider the EMP's environmental framework, directions and priorities, as well as the environmental cost of its action and inactions. The EMP can open up access to external resources such as Provincial and Federal funding sources, staff internships and partnerships. Providing such support to the EMP will assist with its long-term success.

- a) Allocate a portion of the City's annual budget to implementation of the EMP, with an allocation of funds for municipal staff and funding for pilot projects.
 - *Annual budgets for have allocated funding to the implementation of the Brampton Grow Green EMP.*
 - *As part of its approval of City of Brampton's 2021 Budget, City Council endorsed a substantial increase in the budget allocated for the implementation the EMP, with \$1.5 million distributed over three years to expedite project related to climate change and environmental sustainability priorities.*

- b) Initiate a True Cost Accounting approach to decision making in all City departments. The environmental cost of options (GHG emissions; water pollution, etc.) and actions should be directly included in budgeting and reporting process.
 - *A True Cost Accounting approach to decision making in all City departments has not been established.*

- c) Tie budgets to environmental performance; projects that make a contribution to the environment should rank higher on the priority list.
 - *Budgets and project prioritization has not been tied to environmental performance.*

- d) Develop a strategy to secure external funding opportunities and partners to help supplement the municipal resources and budget for environmental initiatives.
 - *While an external funding strategy has not been developed, City staff have pursued and secured multiple partnership and external funding opportunities since the launch of the EMP. Recent examples include, but are not limited to:*

- *\$10 million in Clean Water Waste Water Funding from the Federal and Provincial governments;*
- *\$300,000 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for Haggert Avenue Low Impact Development (LID) project;*
- *\$90,000 from the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development, and Mines toward completion of the Community Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan;*
- *\$11.15 million in Federal funding for battery electric buses in Brampton; and*
- *\$25,000 sponsorship from CN Rail for anti-litter campaigns.*

5) Manage municipal operations and procurement standards

Municipal procurement is defined as the acquisition of goods, services and works and can range from the purchasing of office supplies or the procurement of food, to funding complex, large-scale municipal contracts such as building a recreational facility. Through procurement practices, cities are becoming increasingly focused on how environmentally sustainable their contractors, suppliers and service providers offer services and manage their internal operations.

The following actions describe how the City of Brampton can incorporate environmental practices into the planning and operation of municipal facilities and services provided to the City

a) Develop a Sustainable Procurement Strategy.

- *In May 2020, City Council endorsed a Sustainable Procurement Framework as the basis for the development of a Sustainable Procurement Strategy, with the aim of using the procurement process to generate social, economic, and environmental value through public spending on goods, services, and construction.*
- *One of the Framework objective is to “increase environmental sustainability considerations in City procurements by incorporating environmental requirements for acquisitions and evaluation of supplier’s environmental practices”.*
- *The Framework also directly references the Brampton Grow Green goals for the EMP core components of Air, Water, Land, Energy, and Waste.*

b) Follow the practices of the G.I.P.P.E.R.’s (Governments Incorporating Procurement Policies to Eliminate Refuse) Guide to Environmental Purchasing that provides recommendations and guidance to City staff at all levels for environmentally responsible procurement.

- *The City’s Sustainable Procurement Framework include reducing waste generation as one of the sustainability factors that may be considered for any procurement.*
- *City staff will review the G.I.P.P.E.R.’s Guide when developing the final Sustainable Procurement Strategy.*

c) Develop a code of sustainable qualifications that vendors/contractors are encouraged to meet when managing their operations or providing services to the City.

- *This will be considered when developing the final Sustainable Procurement Strategy.*
- d) Require contracts with professional service providers to demonstrate an internal responsibility to sustainability and, through product delivery, how they are reducing environmental impacts.
- *This will be considered when developing the final Sustainable Procurement Strategy.*
- e) Develop an assessment protocol that evaluates the environmental consequences of an acquisition at various life cycle stages. Consider life cycle costing for products, buildings and facilities and demonstrate how they meet the City's environmental performance goals.
- *An assessment protocol that evaluates the environmental consequences of an acquisition at various lifecycle stages has not yet been developed.*
 - *In 2016, the City of Brampton released its first Corporate Asset Management Plan, which acknowledges that "Comprehensive Asset Management is an integrated set of processes to minimize lifecycle costs of owning, operating and maintaining assets, at an acceptable level of risk while continuously delivering established levels of service."*
 - *It also includes an Asset Management Roadmap with the ISO 55000 as the backbone to implement the Asset Management Strategies, which aims to provide multiple benefits, including but not limited to decisions being based on the triple bottom line (social, environmental, economic), and minimizing lifecycle costs.*