

Date: 2022-02-02

Subject: **Grow Green Environmental Awards**

Contact: Kristina Dokoska, Environmental Planning, Public Works and Engineering, kristina.dokoska@brampton.ca

Report Number: Public Works & Engineering-2022-024

Recommendations:

That the report titled **re: Grow Green Environmental Awards** to the Committee of Council meeting of February 2, 2022 be received

Overview:

- **Through the Term of Council priorities, implementation of the Grow Green Environmental Master Plan, and climate emergency declaration, Council has increased the number of environmental initiatives taking place across the city, charting the course for a more sustainable Brampton and improving the city's environmental performance over the next 10 years.**
- **In discussion with the Brampton Environmental Advisory Committee, City staff will be undertaking the Grow Green Environmental Awards. The Awards provide an opportunity to celebrate Brampton's environmental champions, promote environmental initiatives taking place in the city, foster a sense of community, provide education and engagement on environmental initiatives, and encourage others to take action.**
- **The Grow Green Environmental Awards will recognize outstanding individuals, businesses and organizations from across the city that have demonstrated environmental leadership and have significantly contributed to the Grow Green Vision of conserving, enhancing, and balancing our natural and built environments to create a healthy, sustainable, resilient Brampton.**
- **The first Grow Green Environmental Awards ceremony will be conducted on April 23, 2022.**

- **The Grow Green Environmental Awards will feature a series of four awards including, the Climate Change Award, Stewardship Award, Youth Award, and Environmental Legacy Award.**

Background:

The Grow Green Environmental Master Plan Refresh (2020) charts the course for a more sustainable Brampton, outlining key actions to improving Brampton's environmental performance over the next 10 years. A key action outlined in the Plan is to develop an environmental recognition program that honors individuals who have contributed to the environmental goals of the City.

Brampton's new Grow Green Environmental Awards will celebrate the environmental achievements of the Brampton community through a bi-annual award ceremony and celebration event. The first Grow Green Environmental Awards ceremony is planned for April 23, 2022.

Current Situation:

The Grow Green Awards will recognize outstanding individuals, businesses and organizations from across the city that have demonstrated environmental leadership and have significantly contributed to the Grow Green Vision of conserving, enhancing, and balancing our natural and built environments to create a healthy, sustainable, resilient Brampton. The first Grow Green Environmental Awards ceremony will be conducted during Brampton's 2022 Earth Day Environmental Celebration, pending COVID-19 restrictions. The event will gather Brampton's environmental leaders and residents to celebrate the environmental achievements of the past year(s), learn about various environmental initiatives, and provide opportunities for residents to get involved in various activities (e.g., tree planting) to spur action in the community.

The Grow Green Environmental Awards will feature a total of four (4) award categories including:

1. **Climate Change Award** – Provided to an individual and a business/organization that have significantly contributed to advancing climate change mitigation and/or climate change adaptation awareness and outreach.
2. **Stewardship Award** – Provided to an individual and a business/organization that have significantly contributed to the advancement of environmental sustainability initiatives and/or the preservation and enhancement of natural systems (e.g., natural heritage system, urban tree canopy, biodiversity, outreach and education, etc.) in Brampton

3. **Environmental Youth Award** – Provided to an individual or youth group that have significantly contributed to the advancement of environmental protection, climate change actions, and/or sustainability in Brampton
4. **Environmental Legacy Award** – Provided to an individual that has demonstrated significant, continuous dedication to the Grow Green Vision, including the protection and preservation of our environment, action on climate change, and/or sustainability.

All awards will be provided on a bi-annual basis, with the exception of the Environmental Legacy Award. The Environmental Legacy Award will be provided once per Council term to recognize exceptional individuals who have contributed significantly to the City’s Grow Green Vision and have left a lasting legacy, and may not be provided on a regular basis.

The Grow Green Awards will include a formal nomination process. The call for nominations and nomination forms have been posted on the Grow Green Awards website. An Award Coordination team, consisting of Brampton Environmental Advisory Committee (BEAC) members and Environmental Planning staff, will be established to review nominations and select award recipients. BEAC members and two (2) Environmental Planning staff will form the Grow Green Awards Panel. Award recipients will be selected based on agreed upon evaluation criteria prior to the release of the nomination forms.

The following is a timeline for the first Grow Green Environmental Awards:

Item #	Description	Month
1.	Call for nominations open on the Grow Green Awards website	January 31, 2022
2.	Nominations close	February 28, 2022
3.	Award coordination team screen nominations	March 2022
4.	Award coordination team notifies award recipients	April 2022
5.	Grow Green Environmental Awards & Celebration Event	April 23, 2022

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

There are currently no financial implications resulting from the recommendations of this report.

Term of Council Priorities:

The Grow Green Environmental Awards fulfills the “Brampton is a Green City’ Term of Council direction, in particular the Implement a Green Framework by recognizing individuals that have demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental sustainability in Brampton.

In addition, the Grow Green Environmental Awards contributes to promoting ‘Brampton is a Mosaic’ and ‘Brampton is a City of Opportunities’.

Conclusion:

The Grow Green Environmental Awards aims to honour those that have demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the Grow Green Vision to conserve, enhance and balance our natural and built environments to create a healthy, sustainable and resilient Brampton. The Awards provide an opportunity to understand and promote the environmental initiatives taking place across the city, foster a sense of community, provide education and engagement around environmental initiatives, and encourage others to take action.

Authored by:

Kristina Dokoska, Environmental
Planner

Approved by:

Jason Schmidt-Shoukri,
Commissioner, Public Works &
Engineering

Reviewed by:

Michael Won, Director, Environment and
Development Engineering

Submitted by:

David Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer