



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Damian Szybalski, Manager of Sustainability

DATE: August 28, 2014

REPORT NO.: PDS-2014-0059

RE: Town Sustainability Implementation Committee (TSIC)
Status Update
File No.: D27-IN

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PDS-2014-0059, dated August 28, 2014 regarding the Town Sustainability Implementation Committee, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approve the Imagine Halton Hills Community Sustainability Partnership Application Package, attached under separate cover to Report No. PDS-2014-0059, in principle, in order to allow for the Imagine Halton Hills Sustainability Partnership Application Package to be piloted by the Town and the Town Sustainability Implementation Committee.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the initial accomplishments of the recently established Town Sustainability Implementation Committee, thereafter referred to as "TSIC". It is also to obtain in principle approval of the Imagine Halton Hills Community Sustainability Partnership Application Package.

BACKGROUND:

In approving the recommendations of Report No. PDS-2014-0007 (dated January 22, 2014), Council approved updated TISC Terms of Reference. Subsequently, through a separate report, Council approved the membership of TSIC – consisting of highly qualified, knowledgeable and dedicated community members that are committed to

advancing local economic prosperity, cultural vibrancy, environmental health and social well-being. Mayor Bonnette is the committee's Chair.

TSIC's mandate is:

"To advise, lead and assist Council and the citizens of the Town of Halton Hills in improving quality of life by focusing on actions that enhance Halton Hills' cultural vibrancy, economic prosperity, environmental health and social well-being. Accomplish this through partnerships, and by championing, enabling and implementing the Community Sustainability Strategy. To perform a community development function and act as a decision making body in reviewing submissions to the Community Sustainability Investment Fund."

Priority tasks for TSIC include:

- Preparing an annual workplan.
- Implementation of the Community Sustainability Strategy.
- Assistance with the Community Sustainability Investment Fund.
- Identification and recruitment of community partners.
- Identification of external funding opportunities.

COMMENTS:

1.0 Initial Accomplishments

Starting in May 2014, TSIC has had four monthly meetings. These meetings have been very interactive and productive, generating valuable feedback and tangible results. Although a significant amount of work remains to be completed over the long-term, thus far, TSIC has already accomplished the following:

- Workplan: In light of the broad scope of the Community Sustainability Strategy, the preparation of an annual workplan that sets out priority Focus Areas, Goals, Actions, timelines, responsibilities and budget requirements has been TSIC's top priority.

To accomplish this, TSIC has followed a systematic approach to scope the 32 Focus Areas and 167 Goals of the Community Sustainability Strategy into a manageable workplan. This has involved small group discussions, surveys, the use of an evaluation framework, research, review of best practices, and consideration of supplementary input from such sources as the Town's Environmental Advisory Committee and community input provided during the development of the Community Sustainability Strategy. Once the Workplan is finalized, it will be presented to Council for approval.

Figure 1 outlines the priority Focus Areas and Goals identified by TSIC. Discussions are ongoing to identify specific actions that can be implemented to advance each of the Goals.

Figure 1: Priority TSIC Community Sustainability Objectives

Pillar	Focus Area	Goal
Cultural Vibrancy	Strong Sense of Community	Maintain existing and foster new cross-sector relationships that strongly benefit our community through partnerships and working together, including connections between rural and town neighbourhoods.
		Ensure “maintaining a small-town feel” is a priority for our community.
	Vibrant Arts and Culture Sectors	Increase the availability of cultural information [and promote local arts and cultural activities.]
	Inclusive to Youth	Ensure youth needs are known and continuously being addressed.
	Inviting Parks and Trails	Designate, provide and promote a wide range of inviting parks, trails and green spaces through cross-sector partnerships and resource models.
Economic Prosperity	Live-Work Opportunities	Promote the establishment of enhanced live-work relationships to reduce commuting, energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions [i.e. living and working in Halton Hills].
		Facilitate the development of live-work units in appropriate locations such as Intensification Areas.
	Diversified and Resilient Economy	Maximize the industrial benefits from existing and future designated employment lands [such as the Halton Hills Premier Gateway].
	Vibrant Food and Agricultural Sector	Raise community awareness of the importance of viable local food production.
	Infrastructure	Be resilient to climate change and other challenges by regularly updating infrastructure plans.
Environmental Health	Land Use	Ensure that future urban areas are developed as a complete community, with compact pedestrian friendly neighbourhoods, a mix of housing types, appropriate employment opportunities, community facilities and open spaces.
		Create vibrant, complete, walkable neighbourhoods that demonstrate leadership in sustainable community design and functioning.
	Energy	Demonstrate leadership in local renewable energy generation and conservation.
		Reduce the amount of energy consumed by residential, industrial, commercial, institutional and business sectors.

	Water	Preserve and enhance lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and riparian areas to enhance water quality [and quantity], and provide aquatic habitat. Protect groundwater recharge areas. Reduce total and per capita water consumption (both potable and non-potable) from all sources.
	Natural Heritage	Increase the total area and connectivity of natural systems, including natural corridors and significant woodlots.
	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Be prepared for climate change.
	Social and Health Services	Live healthy and active lifestyles.
Social Wellbeing	Comfort, Safety and Inclusion	Ensure all residents and visitors feel welcomed, safe, connected, respected and actively engaged in Halton Hills.
	Transportation	Meet community needs, especially those of seniors, youth, low income households, and those with accessibility issues, to effectively get where they want to go.
	Seniors	Ensure older adults are incorporated into active, healthy communities in ways that enhance the quality of life for all Halton Hills residents in a reciprocal way.

*Words in [] were added by TSIC.

- Imagine Halton Hills Community Sustainability Partnership Application Package: In his opening remarks that are contained within the Community Sustainability Strategy, Mayor Bonnette noted that “Our immediate task is to continue to demonstrate leadership and swiftly move ahead with the Strategy’s implementation by forming partnerships...” The Chair of the committee that led the Strategy’s development, wrote: “Our Strategy is unique. It is not just a Strategy for the Town of Halton Hills – it is a Strategy for our entire community. It is owned by each and every one of us, including businesses, organizations, institutions and residents...Achieving success will require a long-term commitment and effort from our whole community...”

Recognizing the fact that the Strategy is ‘owned’ by the community and that its successful implementation will require collaboration with community partners, TSIC completed a review of best practices from across Canada related to creating community partnerships. Thereafter, committee members developed a ‘made-in-Halton Hills’ “Imagine Halton Hills Community Sustainability Partnership Application Package” to effectively engage community partners in the implementation of the Community Sustainability Strategy. The Package outlines a partnership model to engage the community in the Strategy’s implementation. The preparation of a Partnership Model is also included in the Council approved Implementation Plan for the Community Sustainability Strategy.

Attached under separate cover, the Imagine Halton Hills Community Sustainability Partnership Application Package contains information to allow interested individuals and organizations to become a partner. TSIC and the Office of Sustainability will collaborate to identify and assist interested stakeholders in becoming partners.

Key aspects of the proposed Partnership approach include:

- A flexible and meaningful opportunity for community stakeholders, which can be individuals, businesses and institutions, to join in the Strategy's implementation and the shaping of the future of Halton Hills.
- Partnerships will help implement the Strategy by:
 - Enhancing community awareness of sustainability
 - Increasing local community capacity
 - Complementing limited Town staff resources
 - Recognizing community stakeholders for sustainability leadership
 - Leveraging and supporting community ownership of the Strategy
- The Strategy was intentionally framed around broad goals to enable partners to identify and implement specific actions that are best suited to their interests. Partnerships will allow and encourage this to happen.
- Partners can select from two levels of commitment:
 - Sustainability Ambassador: To become a "Sustainability Ambassador", an interested party would need to sign a "Sustainability Partnership Agreement and Pledge". Doing so would indicate the Partner's commitment/pledge to supporting the Strategy's vision. Sustainability Ambassadors would also be encouraged to communicate and champion sustainability by displaying the Ambassador logo (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Sustainability Ambassador Logo



- **Sustainability Champion:** To become a “Sustainability Champion”, an interested party would need to first sign the “Sustainability Partnership Agreement and Pledge”, similar to the requirement for the “Sustainability Ambassador”.

Next, to advance to the Sustainability Champion level, the Partner would take specific actions that contribute to the Strategy’s implementation. This would be accomplished by completing a “Sustainability Champion Action Sheet(s)” by identifying the Focus Areas and corresponding actions being undertaken by the Partner. The Guide includes a separate form for each of the Focus Areas. The forms ask for a brief description of each action, start date, end date, number of hours contributed and the project’s dollar value. Completed forms would be submitted to the Town for verification and to communicate the community’s efforts. Sustainability Champions will also be encouraged to communicate and champion sustainability by displaying the Champion logo (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Sustainability Champion Logo



- Depending on their level of commitment, Partners would receive various benefits, including:
 - Promotional opportunities
 - Access to an online resource library
 - Use of the partnership logo and other promotional materials
 - Recognition in the Bi-Annual State of Sustainability Report
 - Access to networking workshops and events
 - Access to an online forum

At this time, it is recommended that Council approve the Imagine Halton Hills Community Sustainability Partnership Application Package, in principle. Doing so will allow TSIC to continue to refine the Package, if needed, while providing a

framework that can be piloted to consult with, identify and engage potential partners prior to the Package being presented to Council for final approval. This is anticipated to happen in late 2014 or early 2015.

- Community Sustainability Investment Fund: As outlined in Report No. PDS-2014-0051 (dated June 27, 2014), TSIC reviewed and evaluated seven applications to the Community Sustainability Investment Fund. This was the first time that the Town accepted applications to the recently created Fund. Collectively, these applications represented a meaningful contribution to Halton Hills' cultural, economic, environmental and social well-being, and quality of life.

1.2 Next Steps

Key next steps include:

- TSIC will finalize its workplan by identifying priority actions.
- TSIC will finalize the Community Sustainability Partnership Application Package.
- TSIC will identify and engage potential community partners.
- Town staff will report to Council with the recommended TSIC workplan and final Community Sustainability Partnership Application Package.
- TSIC's work will be supplemented by the Corporate Sustainability Audit and Action Plan project which will advance the Town's corporate sustainability.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Sustainability is at the core of the Town's Strategic Plan and is one of Council's top ten priorities. TSIC's work supports the implementation of multiple Strategic Plan goals, objectives and strategic actions, including:

- A.6.(m) Continue to develop a "Town-led, community owned" Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.
- B.2.(a) Maintain and support the Town Sustainability Advisory Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no Financial Impact associated with this report.

COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT:

Town staff will inform TSIC of Council's decision pertaining to this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life. The relationship between this report and the Strategy is summarized below:

Do the report's recommendations advance the Strategy's implementation?

Yes No N/A

Which pillar(s) of sustainability does this report support?

Cultural Vibrancy Economic Prosperity N/A
 Environmental Health Social Well-being

TSIC's deliverables are anticipated to make a meaningful contribution to the quality of life in Halton Hills. The committee will accomplish this by deliberating, identifying and advancing actions that improve cultural vibrancy, economic prosperity, environmental health and social wellbeing in the community.

Overall, the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is:

Excellent Very Good Good Fair N/A

CONSULTATION:

Contents of this report are based on the work of TSIC.

CONCLUSION:

This report provided an overview of TSIC's initial accomplishments and sought Council's in principle approval of the Community Sustainability Partnership Package.

Respectfully submitted,

Damian Szybalski, M.Sc.PI, MCIP, RPP
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