

GREATER TORONTO CHAPTER

CANADA GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL (CaGBC)

MUNICIPAL LEADERS FORUM WORKING GROUP

TEMPLATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF BEST PRACTICES TOOLKIT FOR THE GTA CONTEXT

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES for SUSTAINABLE BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT*



GREATER TORONTO

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since 2003*

1. MUNICIPALITY: City of Pickering
2. PROJECT / POLICY DESCRIPTION:

Starting in January 2007, Reports to Committee and Council were required to contain a separate section entitled “Sustainability Implications”. This section required that the recommendations of the Report be considered through the three lenses of the City’s Sustainable Pickering Program: Environmental; Economic; and Social; as well as through the Program’s five objectives: Healthy Environment; Healthy Economy; Healthy Society; Responsible Development; and Responsible Consumption.
3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY (more than one may apply):
 - ✓ Green Buildings
 - ✓ Energy Conservation
 - ✓ Green Infrastructure
 - ✓ Smart Growth / Sustainable Urban Design
 - ✓ Water Conservation
4. POLICY/ PROJECT OBJECTIVE OR GOAL: to promote the Corporate and City-wide objectives of sustainability
5. INSTRUMENTS OF IMPLEMENTATION :

Report Template: A standard report template was prepared, with a companion report on what each section should contain. The report template is available for staff to download from the City’s intranet.
6. INCENTIVES (if any): n/a



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7. RESULTS / MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

The conscious act of filling in the section reinforced a thinking and evaluation process that asked not only “whether” and “how” the recommendation is contributing to sustainability, but also, “what more can be done”.

Further, the corporate-wide approach helped reinforce the message that all staff and departments (not just the Planning & Development Department) make many recommendations and decisions on a day to day basis that affect the ability of the municipality to achieve sustainable building and development.

8. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED:

Numerous reports are prepared where the recommendation is to “receive for information” respecting routine reporting functions of the Treasurer, or updates on the status of various studies. There is an inconsistent approach to this type of recommendation. Some staff indicate there are “no sustainability implications” while others address the sustainability implications of the project that is the subject of the update. Still others note that the act of disclosing information is consistent with social sustainability objectives.

In some instances, the information is so high level that it does not really serve a useful purpose.

9. LESSONS LEARNED:

A corporate approach is important. The approach to a “receive for information” report needs consistency. The section may need “reinventing” to keep it meaningful.

*private development only – does not include municipal or other public projects and developments

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