

NO: R139

COUNCIL DATE: June 21, 2010

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **June 18, 2010**

FROM: **Deputy City Manager
Sustainability Manager** FILE: **0512-02**

SUBJECT: **Sustainability Charter Implementation - Update on Progress related to the
Development of Indicators and Targets**

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager's Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the efforts being made to develop sustainability indicators and targets to measure progress towards the Sustainability Charter's vision and goals.

BACKGROUND

Part 4 (Implementation Strategy) of the Surrey Sustainability Charter notes that the City's ability to achieve its vision of sustainability requires the setting of targets and the establishment of "indicators" or mechanisms to monitor progress towards meeting these goals. It states that indicators and targets will be established to support achieving the vision, goals and scope items of the Sustainability Charter and these will be:

1. Clearly related to the Vision, Goals and Scope items;
2. Measurable and easily understood;
3. Comprised of data that is readily available and will remain available over time;
4. Able to measure current performance against past performance; and
5. Achievable within a reasonable time frame with available resources.

Scope Action Item G2 under the Immediate Actions of the Charter is to *establish a Sustainability Indicators Task Force* to define key indicators and targets to achieve the Charter's goals, to establish baseline values for these indicators, and to define a monitoring program for the Charter's implementation strategy.

The Sustainability Indicators and Targets Task Force were brought together in September 2009. Task Force members are drawn from throughout the community, and provide input and expertise across all three sustainability pillars; a membership list is attached as Appendix A. Several

members of City Advisory Committees are also participating. A facilitator, Mark Holland of HB Lanarc, was engaged to facilitate Task Force meetings and provide expertise on these issues.

At the initial meeting held September 29, Task Force members received an introduction to concepts and definitions of indicators. At meetings held October 15 and December 2, 2009 the Task Force was divided into three sub-committees representing the three sustainability pillars – Socio-cultural, Economic and Environmental - and began to identify appropriate indicators tied to each Charter Scope Action item. The sub-committees were a means to make efficient use of participants' time and resources, though it is recognized that a holistic perspective is needed for sustainability. At the December 2009 meetings, the Task Force brainstormed over 300 possible indicators and narrowed this list to approximately 100 indicators for further consideration. This list by Sustainability pillar is documented in Appendix B.

In January 2010, City staff reviewed the prioritized indicators to determine if data was readily available; the Task Force then discussed these in more detail at sub-committee meetings held on January 26, February 2 and February 9, 2010. Throughout this process, relevant City staff were also canvassed and involved, and several attended Task Force meetings to share their expertise.

On March 24 and April 9, 2010, the full Task Force met to begin discussing longer term or “aspirational” targets for proposed indicators, looking at the Charter’s 50 year vision for 2058.

DISCUSSION

Attached in Appendix B is a preliminary list of indicators, tied to the main themes of the Sustainability Charter. The Indicators and Targets Task Force continues its discussions on appropriate sustainability indicators, working with staff to identify data limitations and other issues. Engagement from Task Force members has been very high and they continue to provide their time, energy and expertise to this process, indicating that they see indicators and targets as critical to making the Sustainability Charter operational. The overall goal of this process is to identify an appropriate number and scope of indicators that will measure progress on sustainability, knowing that the list will evolve over time.

In the coming months, staff will continue discussions with the Task Force on longer-term targets for 2058, as well as for shorter term or “stage” targets that will determine the pace at which the City can move towards its vision. For example, if we set a waste reduction goal of “zero waste” for 2058, we would need to consider the current baseline of waste diversion in the community, and determine appropriate waste diversion targets for 2018, 2028 and so on that would enable us to reach 100% diversion in 2058.

Broader input will be sought on proposed indicators and targets, including from City Advisory Committees and public open houses this fall. Throughout this time Council and the Task Force will be updated and staff will remain involved. Further, staff will be working with SFU Surrey’s School of Interactive Arts and Technology to develop innovative options for visualizing the indicator results and presenting them to the community. A full complement of sustainability indicators and targets will be brought to Council for approval this Fall. If endorsed, initial reporting on indicators could be completed in early 2011 via the City website and other means.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Through the Sustainability Office, staff will continue to pursue sustainability ideas and initiatives that further the Sustainability Charter goals. Implementation of the Sustainability Charter will advance the City towards its 2058 sustainability vision. The development of indicators and targets in particular, will set a critical baseline against which to monitor progress over time.

SUMMARY

The City of Surrey Sustainability Charter sets out a vision for sustainability in Surrey and acts as an overarching policy document for the City. A key deliverable of the sustainability program in 2010 is the development of the sustainability indicators and targets to monitor progress. A Task Force was created with broad community membership supplemented with support staff that has developed a preliminary list of indicators as contained in Appendix B. Further work is required to refine the indicators and develop targets for Councils consideration later this Fall.



Anna Mathewson
Sustainability Manager

Dan Bottrill
Deputy City Manager

AM/DB/mc

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Appendices

Appendix A – List of Task Force Members

Appendix B – Preliminary List of Sustainability Indicators

List of Task Force Members

Name	Organization/ Position	Pillar of interest
Stephen Dooley	Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Member, Surrey Social Planning Advisory Committee	Socio-cultural
Susan Papadionissiou	Office of Early Childhood Learning & Care	Socio-cultural
Board representative	Vibrant Surrey	Socio-cultural
Lesley Tannen	Literacy Outreach Coordinator	Socio-cultural
Dr. Helena Swinkels	Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health Authority	Socio-cultural
Pat Horstead	Surrey School District	Socio-cultural
Natasha Raey	Consultant for Seniors' Roundtable and Food Action Coalition	Socio-cultural
Vera LeFranc	Surrey Homelessness and Housing Foundation	Socio-cultural
Tariq Ghuman	Member, Surrey Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee	Socio-cultural
Muhammad Afzal Malik	Member, Surrey Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee	Socio-cultural
Rosemary Zelinka	Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities	Environmental
Deb Jack	Surrey Environmental Partners	Environmental
Al Schulze	Member, Surrey Environmental Advisory Committee	Environmental
Dr. Roy Strang	Community stakeholder	Environmental
Allen Aubert	Community stakeholder	Environmental
John Nyboer	SFU	Environmental
Marion Town	Fraser Basin Council	All
Ron Meadley	Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club	Environmental
Peter Maarsman	Green Timbers Heritage Society	Environmental
David Riley	Birds on the Bay	Environmental
Mary Eickhoff	Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition	Environmental
TBD	Translink	Environmental
Grant Rice	Surrey Urban Farmers Market	Environmental
Joanne Curry	SFU Surrey	Economic
Anita Huberman	Surrey Board of Trade	Economic
Bill Reid	Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce	Economic
Doug Hart	White Rock/Surrey Chamber of Commerce	Economic
Kathleen Zimmerman	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	Economic
Jeff Fisher	Urban Development Institute (UDI)	Economic
Mary Jane Stenberg	Kwantlen Polytechnic University	Economic
Michael Bose	Member, Surrey Agricultural Advisory Committee	Economic
Pat Harrison	Member, Surrey Agricultural Advisory Committee	Economic
Jim Cox	Surrey Development Corp	Economic
Kevin Shoemaker	Polygon Homes	Economic
Peter Simpson	Greater Vancouver Home Builders' Association	Economic

Preliminary List of Sustainability Indicators – June 18, 2010

Socio-Cultural Pillar

1. Accessibility to Services

1. Program Availability-SC05*
2. Distribution of Facilities-SC06
3. Leisure Access Pass Program-SC07
4. Daycare Spaces-SC12

2. Arts and Culture

1. Arts and Culture Groups-SC04
2. Spending on Public Art-SC04
3. Employment in Arts and Culture-SC04
4. Number of Cultural Businesses-SC04
5. Development of Arts and Culture Space-SC16

3. Community Safety

1. Criminal Code Offences-SC11
2. Break and Enters-SC11
3. Bylaw Infractions-SC11
4. Graffiti Reports-SC11
5. CPTED-EN13

4. Diversity

1. Languages spoken by City staff-SC02
2. Cultural Events at City Hall-SC02

5. Education (also in Economic Pillar)

1. Early Development Index-SC15
2. Post Secondary Enrolment-SC15
3. Post Secondary Transition-SC15
4. Post Secondary Graduation-SC15
5. High School Graduation-SC15
6. Educational Achievement-SC15
7. Pre-School Availability-SC15
8. Lifelong Learning Index-SC15

6. Health

1. Ratio of Health Care Professionals-SC06
2. Smoking Restrictions at work
3. Current Smokers
4. Low Birth Weight

7. Heritage

1. Heritage Sites-SC10

8. Housing

1. Multi-Family Housing Starts-SC09
2. Core Housing Need-SC09
3. Homelessness-SC09
4. INALH-SC09
5. Rental Market-SC09
6. Home Ownership-SC09
7. Social Housing-SC09

9. Responsive Government

1. City Cultural Events-SC04
2. Volunteers-SC04
3. Use of Civic Facilities-SC06
4. Public Meetings-SC08

10. Social Well-Being

1. Low-Income Cut Off (LICO)
2. Income Gap
3. Working Poor
4. Labour Force Participation (Recent Immigrants)
5. Unemployment Rate (Recent Immigrants)
6. Median Income (Recent Immigrants)

Economic Pillar

11. Agriculture and Food

1. ALR Land-EC12
2. Non-Urban Land-EC12
3. Farm Gate Receipts-EC12
4. Farmers Markets-SC14
5. Harvest Box Program-SC14
6. Pocket Markets-SC14
7. Community Gardens-SC14
8. Healthy Choices in City Food Vending-SC14

12. Building and Development

1. Building Age/Durability-EC09
2. Energy Ratings of new homes-EC15
3. Certified Green Buildings-EC07
4. # Retrofits-EN01

13. Community Design

1. Beautification Results-EC09
2. Population/Employment Density along key transit corridors-EC09
3. Unit to Amenities Proximity-EC09
4. Greenway/Bikepaths-EN13

14. Vibrant Economy

1. Fiscal Health-EC01
2. # Business by sector-EC02
3. # Employees by sector-EC02
4. Industrial Land Base-EC02
5. Ratio of jobs to labour force-EC02
6. Tax Base-EC02
7. Median Household Income-EC02
8. Vacancy of industrial and office space-EC11
9. Investments in infrastructure-SC19

Environmental Pillar

15. Ecosystems

1. Educational Programs-EN06
2. Water Consumption-EN08
3. Stormwater Quality (streets)-EN08
4. Stormwater Quality (ISMPs)-EN08
5. Vegetative Coverage (sites)-EN08
6. Vegetative Coverage (city)-EN08
7. Tree Canopy Coverage-EN09
8. Trees Planted-EN09
9. Parkland-EN09
10. Non-Conservation Natural Spaces-EN12
11. Water Quality-EN16

16. Energy and Climate

1. City Facilities Energy Consumption-EN01
2. City Fleet Energy Consumption-EN03
3. Community Building Energy Consumption/GHG Emissions-EN11
4. Community Transportation Energy Consumption/GHG Emissions-EN11
5. City Facility/Fleet -Renewable/Alternative Energy Consumption-EC08

17. Transportation

1. Modal Share-EN15
2. Commuters-EC16
3. # Passenger Vehicles-EC-16
4. Employment Proximity-EC16
5. Transit Shelters-EN13
6. Kms new sidewalks-EN13

18. Waste Reduction

1. Corporate Waste-EN02
2. Community Waste-EN02
3. Corporate Paper Consumption-EN05
4. Construction Waste-EC07