



2004 ANNUAL REPORT

GREEN PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

March 2005

Prepared for
GREEN PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

by
Heather Kepran - GPSC Chair

2004 Accomplishments

REPORTING & COMMUNICATION:

- Recognizing the age of the Green Plan (1994), GPSC identified the need to review the implementation of the plan's goals and objectives. In conjunction with the Planning & Building Department and Guelph Environmental Leadership (GEL), GPSC secured funding for a Ten Year Review of the Green Plan to report to PETC and Council in 2005. Further, this funding will allow for the creation of topic-specific action plans to guide and monitor the implementation of the Green Plan going forward (process will begin in 2005).

COORDINATION & IMPLEMENTATION:

- GPSC finalized its Report and Recommendation on Ecological Functions in the City of Guelph. This included recommendations on how the city should address the issue of ecological functions. As well, an inventory was created of over 45 environmental reports and assessments that have been prepared for the city and over 60 other studies and surveys of the aquatic, terrestrial (flora and fauna), and geological resources of the city. These were compiled into two documents that have already proven useful to city staff:
 - *Compilation of Environmental and Ecological Data for the City of Guelph* (8 pp)
 - *Compilation of Environmental Resources at Guelph City Hall* (139 pp)
- The committee developed recommendations for energy efficiency in Guelph buildings through the Leadership in Environment and Energy Efficient Design (LEED) program.

PROMOTION & VISIBILITY:

- Glynis Logue represented the committee at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Sustainable Communities Conference in February.
- The committee collaborated with City staff to hold the "5th Annual Clean Air Festival" on June 2nd to promote the need for community action and co-operation to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.
- Glynis Logue was recognized as Canada's first "Local Hero" by Earth Day Canada.
- The committee updated access to GPSC documents via the City website.

ONGOING SUPPORT:

- Committee members participated in public involvement processes, including the Guelph Trail Master Plan. Glynis Logue sits on the Technical Committee for the Natural Heritage Strategy and Laura Murr was nominated as GPSC's representative on the Water Supply Master Plan.
- GPSC comments were instrumental in the City's decision to purchase the property at 211 Kortright Road as open space for the protection of ecological functions in the Hanlon Creek Watershed.

Problems, Concerns and Resolutions

- *Concern*—It was identified that there is a need for improved communication and coordination of GPSC initiatives with City staff, the Planning, Environment & Transportation Committee, and Council.
Resolution—GPSC members met with City staff on several topics in 2004, and issued invitations to GPSC meetings to new staff in the planning department. GPSC also updated and expanded the Green Plan materials available on the city's website.
- *Concern*—There was a concern regarding the role of GPSC in assisting the Planning, Environment & Transportation Committee and Council on issues of environmental sustainability.
Resolution—GPSC reviewed the need for possible modifications to the committee's mandate. The committee determined that it would be best to await the outcome of the Green Plan Ten Year Review before finalizing and proceeding with recommending changes to their mandate.

Record of Meetings

NUMBER OF MEETINGS:

- GPSC called a total of 11 meetings during calendar year 2004.

ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS:

- Glynis Logue attended 11 meetings (chair for 8 meetings)
- Heather Kepran attended 9 meetings (chair for 3 meetings)
- Stephen Rodd attended 9 meetings
- Jay Cranstone attended 2 meetings (resigned in May)
- Lyle McNair attended 1 meeting (concluded term in January)
- Puni Piyasena attended 6 meetings
- Sandy Middleton attended 9 meetings
- Raminder Kanetkar attended 9 meetings (appointed in February)
- Cathy Cobey attended 7 meetings (appointed in February)
- Laura Murr attended 7 meetings (appointed in February)
- Leslie Work attended 3 meetings (appointed in February / resigned in July)
- James Etienne, Jennifer Turnbull and Martin Lavictoire from the Environment & Transportation Group shared the role of staff liaison to the committee.

Please refer to the attached Attendance Roster for further information.

ATTENDANCE OF GUEST SPEAKERS:

- Jim Riddell attended the November meeting to introduce himself to the committee as the new director of the Planning & Building Department.

2005 Work Plan Highlights

1) REPORTING & COMMUNICATION: Ten Year Review of the Green Plan

Goal – Assess progress and update the Green Plan’s goals and objectives (Ten Year Review).

Goal – Develop a topic-specific action plan template to guide and monitor the implementation of the Green Plan’s goals and objectives over the next five years.

Actions (to be undertaken by GEL/GPSC):

- Survey City departments and community groups to see what has been done in relation to Green Plan goals, objectives and suggested actions.
- Publish and distribute results of Ten Year Review in 2005.
- Prepare an action plan for one topic area in the Green Plan (e.g., energy, transportation). Action plans for remaining topics will be developed in subsequent years.

2) COORDINATION & IMPLEMENTATION: Environmental Benchmarking

Goal – Advise on the development and management of an environmental benchmarking process.

Actions:

- Begin work on the State of Sustainability/State of the Environment Report (3rd Edition).

3) COORDINATION & IMPLEMENTATION: Natural Heritage Strategy

Goal – Collect data and assess the natural heritage inventory of the city.

Actions:

- Glynis Logue representing GPSC on Steering Committee.
- Committee to provide further input as requested.

4) COORDINATION & IMPLEMENTATION: Water Supply Master Plan

Goal – Identify strategies to supply water to Guelph for the next 50 years.

Actions:

- Laura Murr representing GPSC on Public Advisory Committee.
- Prepare Position Paper on Principles for the City’s Water Supply Master Plan.

5) ONGOING SUPPORT: City of Guelph Long-Range Plans

Goal – Respond to other City of Guelph Long-Range Plans

Actions:

- Provide comments on long-range plans and studies related to the Green Plan as required and/or requested (e.g., Guelph’s Strategic Plan, Guelph-Wellington Transportation Study, City of Guelph Naturalization Plan, etc.).