

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*



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1. MUNICIPALITY: City of Pickering
2. PROJECT / POLICY DESCRIPTION:
The City reorganized in March 2007 to create the first municipal Office of Sustainability in Ontario (see <http://sustainablepickering.com/officeofsustainabilityc2.php>).
The Office works closely with the Sustainable Pickering Advisory Committee of Council (<http://www.sustainablepickering.com/advisorycommiteec1.php>). The Office also looks after economic development.
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 become a sustainability City
5. INSTRUMENTS OF IMPLEMENTATION:
Corporate Restructuring: Revised job descriptions, corporate structure and work programs were developed.
Sustainable Pickering Website: The Office was responsible for the development of, and now maintenance of, the Sustainable Pickering website.
Staff Training: the Office conducted sustainability orientation for all City staff.
Annual Sustainable Pickering Day: the Office of Sustainability coordinates this event. In 2008, the focus was “responsible development” (one of the five



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objectives of the Sustainable Pickering program). Proposed green developments and the City's Sustainable Development Guidelines were showcased.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Partners for Climate Protection Program: the City participates in this program, completing Milestones 1, 2 and 3 in June 2006. The Office of Sustainability is coordinating work towards achieving Milestones 4 and 5.

Community and Business Outreaches and Challenges: the Office conducts these periodically.

Measuring Sustainability Report: the Office of Sustainability recently completed the first edition of a report to establish a baseline for key indicators of sustainability in Pickering.

6. INCENTIVES (if any): n/a

7. RESULTS / MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

Because the Office of Sustainability also looks after economic development, they are often a first point of contact for industrial and commercial development, and in some cases, major residential development. Accordingly, there is an emphasis on promoting, and requiring where appropriate, sustainable/ green development from the outset. Staff orientation throughout the City means no matter which Department a developer contacts, or at which point they are in the process, consistent messaging is delivered on promoting sustainable development.

8. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED:

Constant effort is required to keep the message fresh (such as revamping the website; creating a new logo), which can be challenging with limited resources. The City's Sustainable Pickering Website identifies "Challenges" for various groups, including the development industry, to build more sustainably (see <http://sustainablepickering.com/challengesfordevelopersc94.php>). While this



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type of challenges works well for residents and community groups, the development industry for the most part has been silent in responding. The physical aspects of sustainable buildings and development are important to achieve. Equally important are programs aimed at how people operate and behave (for example, over-watering grass; leaving the thermostat at the same setting even when away). The Office of Sustainability runs programs, and partners with other community groups and organizations, to help identify more sustainable behaviours and actions. However, getting people to change their behaviours and actions, and maintain those changes, is difficult

9. LESSONS LEARNED:

Sustainability is a journey, not a one-time effort or a destination.

Try a number of sustainability initiatives on a variety of fronts.

Sustainable building and development is one facet of a sustainable placemaking

(<http://sustainablepickering.com/sustainableplacemakings2.php>). It's

important not to lose sight of other facets such as quality urban design and context (for example, a LEED certified large format building is still a "big box" surrounded by parking). The Office of Sustainability helps reinforce a holistic approach.

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