

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**TO:** Secretary, Planning and Operations Committee  
**FROM:** Chair, Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee  
**DATE:** January 24, 2000  
**SUBJECT:** Climate Protection Activities/Energy Efficiencies  
**FILE NO.:** CK. 175-9

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**RECOMMENDATION:** that a report be submitted to City Council with the following recommendations:

1. that the City of Saskatoon become a member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM's) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program;
2. that, as a first step in its climate protection activities, the City undertake to hold Homewise workshops at home shows, provide energy efficiency training to renovators, make a registry of qualified renovators available to home owners, and promote regular features on energy efficient home renovations through the local media; and
3. that the City develop a local action plan for the reduction of greenhouse gases from City facilities, and from homes, businesses, and transportation throughout the City.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Canada is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol which requires developed countries to reduce their emissions of "greenhouse gases" from the burning and other uses of fossil fuels. A national climate change strategy is being developed by federal and provincial governments. A national 'Issue Table' has shown that municipalities could play a major role in this strategy as the majority of fossil fuels are consumed in urban areas. The federal government is indicating that it will provide financial assistance to municipalities to reduce greenhouse gases in the 2000 budget.

Over 300 cities and towns throughout the world, including 63 in Canada, are members of a Cities for Climate Protection (CPP) Campaign coordinated by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has joined with ICLEI to form "Partners for Climate Protection: For a Better Quality of Life" or PCP. This program offers municipalities tools that can be used to estimate greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, industries, transport, and households, and evaluate options for reducing them. The PCP program also provides a chance for cities and towns to learn from each other. Many members have already made significant reductions in emissions from municipal facilities. They are now starting to implement city wide programs. ( See PCP Information in Attachment No. 2.)

At a recent meeting of mayors hosted by the City of Saskatoon, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) encouraged more cities and towns to join PCP. The FCM is particularly interested in the other benefits that increased efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions can bring – lower energy costs, better air quality, job creation, and economic development. The FCM has also shown that opportunities for efficiency exist not only in electricity and heating systems, but in water, sewage and waste management systems as well.

In 1997 City Council asked the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee to review a report on Global Climate Change from the City of Toronto Health Unit. The Committee made the following recommendations to Council at that time:

- Look at ways of promoting the use of public transit.
- Provide foot paths and bicycle paths in and out of residential neighbourhoods.
- Recommend the use of electric lawn mowers versus gas powered ones.
- Look into the amount of methane gas being generated by landfill that could be used for commercial purposes.
- Support composting.
- Increase public awareness of recycling programs. Expand recycling and look for viable markets for materials.

The Committee also provided the City with information on the City of Regina’s “Cool Down the City” program, and about the programs offered by ICLEI.

In the fall of 1999, Green Saskatoon, a coalition of local environmental groups, put on a pilot “Homewise” workshop to help homeowners reduce energy costs during renovations and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants. The City of Saskatoon was one of several sponsors of the workshop. Other sponsors included the University of Saskatchewan, Loewen Windows, Panasonic and SaskEnergy. Participants rated the value of the workshop highly and recommended that the workshops be held on a regular basis at home shows, that renovators be trained and certified in energy efficiency, and that more information on energy efficient retrofits be provided to City residents. (See Attachment No. 1.)

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

Since 1995, the City has taken steps to improve energy efficiency in City facilities, including building the award winning Alice Turner Library which uses 50% less energy than an average new building. The City is also supporting improvements in bicycle paths and last fall supported a workshop on energy efficient home renovation. The City is developing a new long range waste management plan which hopefully will see an increased role for waste minimization, recycling and composting.

The Committee believes, however, that the time is right to take a more comprehensive approach to the climate change issue – joining other towns and cities in Canada and around the world. The Committee feels that there is a need for an integrated plan for city facilities, waste minimization and management, transit, and promotion of efficiencies in City homes and businesses. This will lead to a wide range of benefits including lower energy costs, improved air quality, and new jobs and businesses.

### **OPTIONS:**

As an alternative to the Committee’s recommendations, the City could continue to maintain an observer role on the climate change issue. In doing so, however, the City’s residents and businesses would miss out on many of the benefits of a comprehensive program – lower energy costs, better air quality, job creation, and economic development. The opportunities to learn from other members of Partners for Climate Protection would also be lost.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

No changes in City policy would be required. Membership in Partners for Climate Protection requires no legal commitment by the City. As a more comprehensive climate change program and action plan is developed, however, some changes may be required in City bylaws, procurement policies, and other regulations.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There would initially be no financial commitment to joining Partners for Climate Protection. However, the development of a City wide energy use profile and draft climate change plan would require some allocation of City staff time or consultant funding. Some of the preparatory work for this has already been carried out by the Environmental Advisory Committee as part of its 1997 State of Environment Report.

In the longer term, there would be a requirement for a staff person and small budget to coordinate the climate change program. Implementation would involve some larger expenditures, but these would be in the form of “investments”:

- improvements to City facilities (buildings, water and sewage facilities, waste management) that would save more than they cost,
- financial and other support for improved transit, waste minimization, home and business renovation that would provide a return to the City in the form of reduced infrastructure expenditures, power purchases, etc.,
- revolving funds that could be used to help homes and businesses finance efficiency improvements.

In many cases implementation of the program would not involve new funds but rather spending existing funds in a different way.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

**1. Joining PCP.** It is recommended that The Planning and Operations Committee ask City Council to pass a motion to join the FCM Partners for Climate Protection Campaign as soon as possible, including a directive to the Administration to undertake all necessary steps.

The Environmental Advisory Committee would be pleased to provide additional background and information as required. If more details are needed, a representative from ICLEI or FCM could be asked to make a presentation to Council on the PCP program.

**2. Follow-up to Homewise.** At the same time, it is recommended that the Administration be asked to prepare a plan and budget estimate for:

- a program of Homewise workshops to be held at home shows in 2000/2001,
- an energy efficient training and certification program for renovators,
- publication of a directory of experienced renovators, and
- a media promotion program on energy efficient renovation

The Administration should be asked to consult with Green Saskatoon, local builders and renovators and others in developing this plan.

**3. Developing an Action Plan.** It is also recommended that the Administration be asked to assign a staff person to work on a draft local greenhouse gas emissions action plan, and to consult as needed with the Environmental Advisory Committee and other local stakeholders such as the Saskatoon Energy Management Task Force and the Saskatchewan Environmental Society.

Representative from ICLEI or FCM should be asked to make a presentation to City Councillors and staff on the climate programs of other PCP cities and towns, and help identify greenhouse gas reduction options that the City could consider.

The Administration should also be asked to allocate financial resources in the 2000/2001 budget to allow the preparation of a City energy use profile and an action plan of greenhouse gas reduction options.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Report on October 23, 1999 Homewise Energy Efficient Home Improvements Workshop by Green Saskatoon.
2. Information on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program. A full version of this briefing and other information on the PCP and its affiliation with municipalities around the world may be found on the FCM web site <http://www.fcm.ca>; [www.fcm.ca](http://www.fcm.ca), and web site for the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) at <http://www.iclei.org/co2.htm> [www.iclei.org/co2.htm](http://www.iclei.org/co2.htm).

**Written by:**            **Mr. Roger Peters**

**Approved by:**            \_\_\_\_\_  
**Robert Donahue, Chair**  
**Saskatoon Environment Advisory Committee**  
**Dated: January 31, 2000**

**Note:**            The Planning and Operations Committee considered this report at its meeting held on February 15, 2000 and resolved that the matter be referred to the Administration for a report back to the Committee on the implications and recommendations and as at December 31, 2000 there has been no response back to the Committee. \_\_\_\_\_