

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: Planning and Operations Committee
FROM: Chair, Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee
DATE: October 21, 2002
SUBJECT: Enquiry – Councilor T. Paulsen (May 21, 2002)
Development of Environmentally Friendly Purchase Plan
FILE NO.: CK. 1000-1

RECOMMENDATION: 1) that the Administration conduct an in-depth feasibility study for the establishment of an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EP3) program, which would include exploring EP3 models, full cost accounting models and potential partnerships with other municipalities and public institutions; and

2) that the Administration be authorized to provide for an allocation of funding for this feasibility study in the 2003 Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND:

The following enquiry was made by Councillor Paulsen at the meeting of city Council held on May 21, 2002:

"Could the Administration please report on the development of an environmentally-friendly purchase plan for the City of Saskatoon. In addition to reporting on the feasibility of such a plan, I would also ask that issues such as partners in purchasing, be explored to maximize the environmental benefits for a purchaser and that other plans in existence be examined, such as the purchasing plan in the City of Regina."

The attached report of the General Manager, Corporate Services Department dated September 12, 2002 in response to this enquiry, gives a comprehensive outline on the status of environmentally preferable purchasing programs (EP3) within Canada and more specifically within Saskatchewan. Your Committee has met with the Purchasing Section Manager to review this report, and has determined that although there hasn't been a proactive approach to EP3 purchasing within Saskatchewan, there does appear to be an interest throughout North America and there are many excellent examples of existing models.

REPORT:

For an EP3 to be sustainable the City must not incur increased overall expenditures. It is anticipated that through lifecycle analysis EP3 would decrease the City's disposal costs, reduce regulatory liability and improve worker safety.

Environmentally preferable products may contain fewer toxic materials, minimize waste, conserve energy and water and may contain recycled content or plant-based materials. EP3 also includes purchasing specifications related to construction and landscaping materials, office products, automotive products and more. The City could also encourage product stewardship, which includes full cost (cradle to grave) analysis.

Another benefit seen through out North America is the synergy between municipalities or public institutes that allow for greater purchasing leverage for sustainable products. The CSEA Committee will explore the opportunity for an EP3 partnership with the City of Regina Environmental Advisory Committee at a joint meeting in December.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS:

The Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee supports the adoption of an Environmentally Responsible Purchasing Policy for the City of Saskatoon.

In conclusion the Committee would like to thank Councillor T. Paulsen and the Corporate Services Department for the energy and resources they have put towards exploring green procurement options.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Report of the General Manager, Corporate Services Department dated September 17, 2002.

Written by: Ms. Lorna Shaw-Lennox

Approved by:

Mr. Leo Monseler , Chair
Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee
Dated: October 22, 2002