

## **BACKGROUND, INTRODUCTION, AND GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

The City of Brampton has grown to be one of the largest and most prosperous cities of the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton (GTAH), and according to the 2006 Census, Brampton is the second fastest growing community in Canada. Supported by a culturally diverse population and a strong economy, the City is an exciting municipality with civic pride in the social, cultural and economic development of the community and protection of the environment. The City, its residents and businesses recognize the need to protect, enhance and restore the natural heritage system, support air, water, soil and energy conservation, and make wise use of non-renewable resources.

Current federal and provincial government and conservation agency initiatives provide direction to ensure comprehensive, integrated, long-term management and planning that will implement the principles of strong communities, a clean and healthy environment and economic growth. Federal and provincial funding is available to support sustainable growth and development including the Gas Tax, Public Transit and Municipal Infrastructure Funds, Metrolinks, etc. In addition, emerging global environmental trends and influences illustrate how all levels of government must share the responsibility to control and manage pollution that affects public health and climate change, and take actions that will improve the quality of the natural environment and its resources. A more detailed overview of these issues is provided in Appendix 1.

The principle of sustainable development represents the foundation of Brampton's Official Plan 2006. Environmental sustainability is also reflected in many of the City's strategic documents and initiatives, and departmental programs and services including the Flower City Strategy, Communities in Bloom, Clean City, Master Plans and the Brampton Environmental Planning Advisory Committee; and the management, operation and maintenance of over 3 million square feet of buildings, facilities and structures (such as City Hall, the Flower City campus, libraries, recreational centres, maintenance and work yards), 3500 ha of natural areas, parkland, historic cemeteries and urban open space, etc, and an immense transit and maintenance fleet of buses, cars and trucks. The City as a corporation and as a land use approval authority recognizes that it must identify, budget for and monitor environmental initiatives, programs and actions across all departments to ensure that our policies, practices and actions will positively influence the health and development of our community. A preliminary inventory of current City of Brampton environmental initiatives, programs and activities is provided in Attachment 2.

Defining, advocating and communicating a corporate sustainable environmental strategy is the purpose of the Environmental Master Plan. The Environmental Master Plan in combination with the Strategic Plan, Official Plan and Growth Management Program, shall outline Brampton's long-term sustainable community objectives that will protect and conserve our natural environment including the water, aquatic and terrestrial resources, enhance our heritage as a Flower City, support our diverse cultural and social values, contribute to the economy and enhance our quality of life. These strategic documents will translate into environmentally sustainable, achievable, educational and affordable services, programs and actions for all City departments, as well as ecosystem based land use planning and development.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

Council directed staff to undertake the preparation of an Environmental Master Plan as part of the Planning Department's work program. The Environmental Master Plan (EMP) will evaluate current methods, approaches and best practices and recommend improvements, where appropriate, in areas of health and safety, education, corporate operations, programs and services, transportation, community (land use) planning, energy, waste, water use, the natural heritage system and urban green space. The preparation of the EMP should be undertaken within a transparent planning process that includes the creation of Steering and Technical Advisory Committees and a defined public consultation process that seeks community participation, feedback and direction for the EMP.

### **2.1 Why An Environmental Master Plan?**

The City of Brampton recognizes that human needs and desires are being fulfilled by technical solutions that are adversely impacting the earth and climate upon which we depend for our lives. In these challenging times while human and ecological health is diminishing, social inequities are also being magnified. Yet despite all this, the City of Brampton is a caring community, and its staff, residents, businesses and stakeholders have an awareness and interest in creating a healthy, liveable city. The EMP will outline a sustainable environmental framework to direct the City's efforts to conserve, restore and enhance the environmental health of our human and ecological communities within the City of Brampton.

### **2.2 Sustainable Environmental Framework**

Today municipalities must address the multiple economic, social, environmental and cultural dimensions of sustainability. The City's Official Plan and philosophy of corporate management are founded on the principle of sustainable development, and these will assist the EMP to develop a sustainable environmental framework particular to the needs and circumstances of the City of Brampton that will:

- Provide a vision that will advocate, motivate and focus the City of Brampton, its residents, businesses and stakeholders to make Brampton a healthy, liveable city;
- Define objectives that are attainable and quantifiable;
- Identify actions that bridge the gap between strategic documents and implementation programs and activities, and between departmental mandates and services; and
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership, both internal and external to the City, which will strengthen the City's sustainable environmental activities.

### **2.3 Corporate Sustainability and Management**

The Environmental Master Plan is intended to bring corporate cohesion to the many environmental initiatives, policies and programs from across the City's departments, operations and services, without duplicating the work and value of the other strategic documents, studies and programs. The EMP will compliment and supplement other municipal initiatives by identifying actions not addressed by those plans and programs, and by identifying opportunities to educate, engage and communicate with our residents, businesses, stakeholders and conservation partners the community's environmental and ecological opportunities and challenges.

While chiefly a guidance document that outlines actions, an underlying value of the EMP will be its recognition of the corporate organizational structure that is necessary to implement the environmental action plans by the respective departments and divisions, and in collaboration with external agencies and our stakeholders. The goal, objectives and actions of the EMP must translate into responsible, achievable, educational and affordable environmental programs and activities for the City departments and the land use development program.

## **2.4 Preparation**

This RFP may need to contemplate a phased approach for the preparation of the Environmental Master Plan given the complexity of issues for identifying, assessing and implementing sustainability across the breadth of municipal responsibilities.

## **3. Purpose of the Study**

The TOR and the Environmental Master Plan (the Study) will explore current environmental issues and influences that are legislated, promoted and encouraged to achieve a sustainable integrated community. The Environmental Master Plan will apply to the entire City of Brampton within its spheres of responsibility as a corporation and a land use approval authority.

The Study will define a sustainable environmental framework to address Brampton's municipal responsibilities related to public health and safety, corporate programs and operations, community (land use) planning and services, and environmental protection and conservation. Senior Management, municipal staff and the EMP Steering Committee will use their collective knowledge and experience of provincial initiatives and regulatory obligations, corporate programs and activities, current environmental trends and recent public input to direct the preparation of the following information to guide the EMP and initiate discussion with Council, residents and stakeholders including the content for:

- A draft Mission Statement, Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives and an Action Plan template; and
- A framework for a municipal environmental network that will provide the internal communication and coordination to implement the action plans of the EMP.

The Study will need to summarize the gaps and opportunities in the City's current environmental initiatives, programs, services and activities, as well as the fiscal, social and governance challenges and barriers to implementing preferred 'best practices' for corporate operations and land use development. To ensure the long-term success for the City's environmental endeavours, the EMP must be prepared with regard to current corporate sustainability and management strategies wherein:

- ✓ The development, implementation and management of environmental programs are based on technological, fiscal and staffing realities.
- ✓ Corporate operations and land use development are based on a life cycle approach that recognizes and plans for the long-term management of corporate buildings, facilities, structures, infrastructure, public lands, and environmental programs and activities.
- ✓ Environmental actions are prioritized within a cost-benefit framework that has regard for legislative-regulatory requirements, measurable environmental results, technological realities, environmental trends and issues, and public input.

- ✓ Municipal departments and staff are empowered to adapt programs, services and activities, as required, to respond to current environmental trends, issues and requirements; and
- ✓ Environmental programs, services and activities are assessed to ensure that they are achieving the desired end results, and that those results can be reported in a transparent way.

Lastly, the Study will provide strategies for prioritizing, implementing and monitoring sustainable programs and actions, with specific emphasis in developing an environmental awareness and education program for the corporation, the residential and business communities and stakeholders. Brampton is committed to a sustainable integrated community, and the Study will outline both the City's short and long term objectives and actions to ensure that our local programs, services and activities will support a healthy, liveable community.

### 3.1 Goals of the Study

The Environmental Master Plan (EMP) will function in concert with the Strategic Plan, Official Plan and Growth Management Program as the City's *integrated community sustainability plan*. In combination with these strategic documents, the EMP will achieve the following goals.

- Confirm the City of Brampton's leadership role in implementing sustainable urban growth and development in the context of its role in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area;
- Promote an integrated approach to municipal sustainability, encompassing the natural, cultural, built and economic environments within the City, and that recognizes the linkages between these elements and the benefits of comprehensively planned solutions;
- Incorporate the principles of sustainability into all aspects of municipal administration, operations and growth;
- Serve to optimize the quality of life for the residents of the City of Brampton while respecting the protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment and cultural heritage resources, supporting air, water, soil and energy conservation, and ensuring wise use of non-renewable resources, while accommodating planned growth;
- Support and complement sustainability measures emerging from other levels of government, public agencies and the private sector;
- Serve to optimize the quality and quantity of employment and business opportunities while promoting green business and respecting the natural environment and resources, and the social and cultural needs of the residents;
- Define the City's corporate and land use development (environmental) impacts and identify benchmarks from which future sustainability progress can be measured;
- Create a synergy between the City and its stakeholders to minimize, mitigate and compensate for our environmental impacts; and
- Identify an education and communication strategy that will engage Brampton's Council and municipal staff, the residential and business communities, conservation partners and general public to respect and support the City's environmental initiatives, programs and activities, as well as promoting the value and importance of all stakeholders assuming responsibility for ensuring that their future actions and decisions are in keeping with the principles of sustainability.

### 3.2 Objectives of the Study

Specifically, this Environmental Master Plan Study will be prepared with regard to the following objectives:

- To develop a sustainable environmental framework particular to the needs and circumstances of the City of Brampton, including such key components as:
  - A Mission Statement that will advocate, motivate and focus the City of Brampton, its residents, businesses and stakeholders to make Brampton a healthy, liveable city;
  - Guiding Principles that define the fundamental values that form the foundation of the EMP;
  - Goals that articulate a strategic direction to realize the mission statement and chart the direction for the EMP. Goals are general statements of desirable achievements, which are not expected to be measurable, nor achieved within a definitive time period;
  - Objectives that are attainable and quantifiable and that are meant to contribute to the accomplishment of a goal. The EMP should include both short and long term objectives and describe the results to be achieved;
  - Action plans that identify the various steps to achieve the objectives by recognizing 'who' will undertake an action, 'when' it will occur and 'what' indicators will be used to assess the rate of success in meeting the objectives and goals;
  - A corporate framework to manage and support the implementation of the Environmental Master Plan across all municipal departments, as well as within the context of other Council initiatives, and to promote the EMP in conjunction with the Brampton Environmental Planning Advisory Committee and stakeholders; and
  - A strategy for how the City of Brampton will implement sustainable 'best practices' that is practical, fiscally responsible and can be achieved within the means and the spheres of responsibility of a local municipality.
  
- To conduct a review of:
  - Other environmental sustainability plans to identify environmental trends, issues and solutions that are affecting municipalities, large corporations, etc.
  - Government legislation, regulations and initiatives, and agency documents to identify municipal 'best practices' in sustainability, informed by science and practical application for:
    - Public health and safety;
    - Corporate programs and operations including but not limited to: building construction, management and maintenance; information technology (IT); communications; recreational services; and administration and finance, as appropriate;
    - Community (land use) planning and services;

- Transportation (i.e. transit, pathways, etc.);
  - Infrastructure and servicing;
  - Resource conservation (air, water, soil, energy and waste);
  - Open Space protection and conservation (natural heritage system, parks, urban forest, and cultural resources); and
  - Education, stewardship and outreach.
- Current (and planned) municipal initiatives, programs and operations, and identify gaps and opportunities which will require policy and/or program changes based on current and emerging environmental conditions and trends;
  - Private vendors providing goods and services to the City that may contribute and/or affect Brampton's environmental programs and operations to strive for sustainable services (i.e. snow removal, recycling, office supplies, etc.);
  - The preliminary findings of the Growth Plan Conformity Exercise studies to determine the impact of projected growth and distribution on the City's ability to provide sustainable environmental programs and operations.
- To recommend policies:
    - Based on 'best practices' that are designed to meet the needs of the City, and developed in consultation with Council, affected municipal departments, stakeholders and external agencies. Such policies will guide the implementation of programs and detailed action plans; and
    - To update the Strategic Plan, Official Plan Amendment (OPA) and Growth Management Program Strategy, as appropriate.
  - To identify strategies:
    - For the creation of a data base and appropriate benchmarks to analyze the effectiveness of the City's sustainable programs and operations, and to prepare a 'state of the environment' report, with the length of the reporting period to be determined;
    - To inform and educate municipal staff, the general public and private sector public of the City's sustainability initiatives, and the value and importance of all stakeholders assuming responsibility for ensuring that their future actions and decisions are in keeping with the principles of sustainability; and
    - To complement and support efforts by other levels of government, agencies, the private sector and the public to promote sustainability, and where appropriate, partner in the development and implementation of shared programs that are consistent with the City's values and objectives.
  - To develop the Environmental Master Plan with the benefit of a comprehensive public engagement and consultation process that will develop and promote consensus with the affected stakeholders, including Council, the public, staff, government and conservation agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

The Environmental Master Plan is anticipated to be undertaken in 2009-10 and may inform updates to the Strategic Plan and the City's Official Plan.