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Items for the Action of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee

TO: Chair and Members of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee
Meeting #01/20, Tuesday, June 16, 2020

FROM: Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

RE: **PARTNERS IN PROJECT GREEN 2020 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

KEY ISSUE

Executive Management Committee update on 2020 strategic priorities for Partners in Project Green.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS Partners in Project Green was launched in 2008 to advance the adoption of sustainability practices within the Pearson Airport economic zone;

AND WHEREAS a Strategic Refresh to the Partners in Project Green program was completed in 2019 that affirmed objectives related to the expansion and advancement of eco-business programming and services to additional economic clusters across TRCA's nine watersheds;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the following information report on 2020 priority action areas for Partners in Project Green be received;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back at the September 2020 Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee meeting on progress related to the 2020 priority action areas as outlined.

BACKGROUND

Partners in Project Green: A Pearson Eco-Business Zone was launched in 2008 by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), with support from the Regional Municipalities of Peel and York, the City of Toronto and from the nearby business community to transform the employment lands surrounding Toronto Pearson, and located within TRCA's Etobicoke-Mimico Creeks Watershed into an internationally recognized community of eco-friendly businesses.

The creation of Partners in Project Green (PPG) stemmed from an eco-business model recommendation identified in a 2006 joint TRCA and GTAA report that provided restoration strategies for the natural and aquatic systems surrounding Toronto Pearson.

At Board of Directors Meeting #4/19, held on April 26, 2019, Resolution #A51/19 was approved as follows:

THAT the Partners in Project Green Strategic Refresh 2019-2023 and Executive Management Committee Terms of Reference 2019-2023 ... be approved

This strategic refresh was intended to guide the next generation of eco-business activities

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through PPG focused on increased engagement, improved performance outcomes and enhanced alignment with municipal and business priorities.

RATIONALE

As part of 2020 priority-setting exercise, TRCA staff identified specific areas of activity for 2020 that will increase the reach and potential of PPG while building additional capacity for long-term growth of the program:

- Re-energize the PPG network through improved programming, outreach and membership, with a particular emphasis on engagement of Boards of Trade/Chambers of Commerce and municipal economic development offices;
- Redevelop the PPG membership structure, including categories, services and financial model;
- Development of a screening process for identifying high-priority/high-potential geographically based economic zones for business engagement;
- Complete a sector-services based Integrated Service Delivery Model to better integrate specific TRCA programs that provide sector-based programs, including PPG, SNAP (Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Program), STEP (Sustainable Technology Evaluation Program), PAIE (Professional Access into Employment) and Community Transformation/Corporate Sustainability.
- Develop a Long-Term Financial Plan for sector-based programs and services that leverage both programming and financial opportunities to enhance services and financial models for the delivery of TRCA activities.
- Leverage opportunities to provide corporate and employee engagement activities through the Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation's *Look After Where You Live* program.

The above activities are intended to increase the reach and potential of the PPG network while also leveraging other TRCA activities that can support the advancement of objectives of both PPG and TRCA related to sustainability within target economic zones.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 1 – Green the Toronto region's economy

Strategy 5 – Foster sustainable citizenship

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

Strategy 8 – Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

At upcoming PPG Executive Management Committee meetings, staff will provide detailed reports and updates related to the above priorities, including action tracking related to overall progress of specific goals.

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