

Item 9.2

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

TO: Chair and Members of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee
Meeting #1/20, Tuesday, June 16, 2020

FROM: Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

RE: **UPDATE ON PPG PROGRAMMING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

KEY ISSUE

Overview of updates to programming, delivery formats in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS at Meeting #6/08, the TRCA Board of Directors approved the establishment of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee (“PPG EMC”) as a subcommittee of the TRCA Board of Directors;

AND WHEREAS the PPG EMC has been convened to assist businesses in the Pearson Eco-Business Zone to improve their environmental performance, retain and attract more environmentally friendly investments, and act as a catalyst for innovation with a focus on reducing environmental impacts;

THEREFORE IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the following information report on the update to Partners in Project Green (PPG) programming during the COVID-19 pandemic be received.

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.

In order to continue to achieve PPG’s strategic priorities and deliver its programming in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, PPG programming has shifted in two specific ways: 1) altering programming delivery venues and formats in accordance with Public Health Ontario’s requirements and recommendations, and 2) updating programming and content to reflect the changes to the workplace that have already occurred for many PPG members and workers throughout Ontario.

RATIONALE

To address the needs of PPG's program stakeholders while adhering to Public Health Ontario's directives, TRCA staff identified the following specific actions and programming updates:

- Convert PPG programming events (such as webinars, conferences, workshops, and stakeholder meetings) to virtual formats;
- Promote TRCA's at-home focused content (such as TRCA's e-Learning program, "At Home With Nature") throughout the PPG network;
- Launch a monthly webinar series, allowing PPG members to continue professional development activities in remote work arrangements;
- Continue to deliver programming and services which intrinsically allow for appropriate physical distancing, such as PPG's "Material Exchange" program;
- Develop specific programming content to address the new realities of work for many PPG stakeholders, and allow participating organizations to foster employee engagement at a time when in-person interaction is discouraged;
 - Specifically, provide content in the *People Power Challenge* program focused on implementing sustainability in a work-from-home environment;
 - Update the *People Power Challenge* content to reduce administrative requirements, allowing more time for participants to manage workload and family care requirements, and
- Continue to monitor Public Health Ontario's directives and adjust programming, content and format as required.

The above activities are intended to increase the relevance and reach of PPG's programming, continue to advance sustainability objectives of both members and potential members of the PPG network, while ensuring that both PPG stakeholder and TRCA staff safety is prioritized.

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 2 – Manage our regional water resources for current and future generations

Strategy 8 – Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge

Strategy 9 – Measure performance

Strategy 10 – Accelerate innovation

Strategy 12 – Facilitate a region-wide approach to sustainability

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

At upcoming PPG Executive Management Committee meetings, staff will provide detailed reports and updates related to the evolution of PPG's programming and formats, ensuring delivery of program outcomes while acting in accordance with public health directives vis-à-vis pandemic spread.

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