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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
Tuesday, June 15, 2021 Meeting

FROM: Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

RE: **2021-22 ENERGY PERFORMANCE & LOW CARBON TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

KEY ISSUE

Identification of key areas of opportunities for PPG related to Energy Performance and Low Carbon Transportation through 2021-22.

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the following information report and presentation on the areas of opportunity for 2021-22 PPG Energy Performance and Low Carbon Transportation program delivery be received.

BACKGROUND

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), with support from municipalities including Peel, York, the City of Toronto, and lower tier municipalities including Mississauga and Brampton, and from the nearby business community has been working 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.

At Board of Directors Meeting #4/19, held on April 26, 2019, Resolution #A51/19 was approved in part 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 through PPG focused on increased engagement, improved performance outcomes and enhanced alignment with municipal and business priorities. The delivery model for Partners in Project Green was updated to include four performance areas:

1. Waste Management
2. Water Stewardship
3. Energy Performance & Low Carbon Transport, and
4. Communications & Engagement.

A key component of the Strategic Refresh was to formally introduce Low Carbon Transport to the Energy Performance area. Partners in Project Green has worked on several projects in the clean transportation space, dating back to 2015. Including:

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- **PPG Open EV Network Program (2015-17):** Worked with 17 organizations to facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging stations ([Link](#)).
- **Peel Region Off-Peak Pilot (2017):** Supported Peel Region Transportation Division's *Peel Off-Peak Pilot* ([LINK](#)) initiative through recruitment of businesses to participate in the initiative.
- **Peel Region Goods-Movement Strategic Plan (2019):** Delivered a report to the Region of Peel's Transportation Division, *Region of Peel Goods Movement Strategy: Alternative Fuels and Efficiency Initiatives*, including a presentation of findings to the Peel Goods-Movement Task Force ([LINK](#)).
- **Regional ZEV Strategy for Peel municipalities (Ongoing):** PPG is project managing the development of a *Regional Zero-Emission Vehicles Strategy* to accelerate the adoption of zero-emission personal vehicles and light-duty fleets in Peel. The project is an initiative of the Peel Climate Change Partnership (Peel, Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, TRCA, CVC). An early success included facilitating work to secure a grant from NRCAN's ZEVIP program, resulting in funding for 43 publicly-accessible charger installations on municipal and conservation authority properties ([LINK](#)).

An additional element of the 2019-2023 Strategy Refresh was identifying Energy Efficiency engagement with Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The SME Energy Management Consortium launched in 2020 with funding support from IESO. As of June 31, 2021, the relationship with the IESO will come to an end and the SME Energy Management Consortium will continue as a self-sustaining PPG program.

RATIONALE

The Committee will be updated on the Energy Performance Area work since 2019 and provided with an overview of next steps in the performance area's program development.

Regional ZEV Strategy

The Regional ZEV Strategy project was initiated by the Peel Climate Change Partnership (PCCP), which is a collaborative effort between the four municipalities in Peel (Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon and Peel) and the two conservations authorities in the region (TRCA and CVC). The PCCP seeks to build and accelerate innovative climate solutions and pursue strategic actions that transcend political boundaries and collectively produce greater results.

The PCCP determined that a key area of collaboration to support each organizations' climate action plans was accelerating the adoption of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) in Peel. The resulting project involved the four municipalities working collaboratively to create an official Strategy to accelerate adoption of ZEVs in Peel. Specifically, the focus was on light-duty passenger vehicles in the region. TRCA was selected to project manage strategy development and PPG was engaged based on experience supporting members with EV adoption and installation of charging infrastructure.

The project includes: research into actions taken by municipalities across North America and internationally; a study of appetite and perceived barriers for residents and businesses of Peel; a modelling study of projected ZEV uptake in Peel and potential electrical grid capacity constraints; research into socioeconomic impacts of ZEVs; engagement of municipal staff across each of the four organizations to ideate and identify municipal actions; and preparing an delivering the ZEV Strategy report.

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As of this time, PPG is concluding background research studies and preparing to engage municipal staff in a process to prioritize and select the municipal actions that will be committed to in the finalized Strategy. Municipal actions up for evaluation that may provide opportunities for engagement from PPG members include education and awareness initiatives for facility owners, fleet operators, workplaces and Multi Unit Residential Buildings (MURBs); ZEV-ready infrastructure for new builds; advocacy for ZEV-supportive policy implementation from other levels of government; working with partners to support adoption of new business models around charging infrastructure, fleet electrification, skills development, etc.

Region of Peel's Goods Movement Strategic Plan

The 2017-2021 Goods Movement Strategic Plan (GMSP) is a key initiative of the Region of Peel's Transportation Planning Division. It is a five-year blueprint to support development of "a safe, convenient, efficient, multi-modal, sustainable, and integrated goods movement transportation system" ([LINK](#)). In contrast to the Regional ZEV Strategy scope of work, the GMSP addresses heavy-duty freight and commercial delivery vehicles.

In 2019, PPG supported the GMSP team by undertaking a research study to engage local businesses and stakeholders on the Plan's *Action Area #8: Pursue Alternative Fuels and Fuel Efficiency Initiatives*. The study identified key market trends, regional challenges and issues, and key stakeholders for implementation opportunities. One outcome was to define strategic work areas: Education and Awareness, Collaborative Alignment with Other Municipalities, and Establishing Industry Partnerships.

Next steps include continuing conversations with the GMSP team on how PPG can provide further support, specifically with regards to supporting planning around low-emission fuels in the Plan's 5-year renewal process occurring this year.

SME Consortium

The SME Energy Management Consortium project was initiated in 2019 and the consortium group was launched in 2020 following the recruitment of four SME manufacturers. The project was funded through the IESO's Grid Innovation Fund (formerly the Conservation Fund). The non-profit group Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium was engaged to support program delivery.

The initiative is modeled after the Energy Leaders Consortium whereby energy managers from each company convene on a regular basis to share best practices and learn about energy management strategies and technologies. In addition to providing the platform to convene, the program also provided \$15,000 to each participant to install energy monitoring equipment as well as information resources to implement Strategic Energy Management best practices.

Next steps are to transition the IESO-funded project to a self-sustaining PPG program. A fee structure and program design will be developed to best address the audience targeted: SME manufacturers in the GTA region.

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 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

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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 related to pandemic spread.

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Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: Presentation - 2021 Programming Update – Energy Performance & Low Carbon Transportation Program Development Opportunities