

**City of Edmonton**

**Environmental Advisory Committee**

**2010 Annual Report #15**

to the

**Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)**

**January to December 2010**



**Approved by the Corporate Leadership Team  
February 3, 2011**



## **Environmental Advisory Committee**

### **Annual Report #15**

to

**Corporate Leadership Team**

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### **1. Recommendation to Senior Management Team**

That the Environmental Advisory Committee's 15<sup>th</sup> annual report be received as information and that the Environmental Advisory Committee continue to operate through 2011.

### **2. Overview**

In 2010, the EAC completed its 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation. The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) was established to provide strategic input on environmental issues, particularly from a public perspective, to the City of Edmonton's administration (Terms of Reference attached). Membership on the Committee is comprised of seven citizens-at-large and one representative from each of Alberta Health Services, Alberta Environment, the University of Alberta, Environment Canada and a post-secondary educational institution with an environmental program.

The EAC provided significant input into the development of The Way We Green, one of the City of Edmonton's six highest level Strategic Plans along with receiving presentations from City departments and other organizations on their environmental activities throughout the year. The EAC provided key input into the:

- EcoVision 2009 Annual Report
- Planning process for the development of The Way We Green
- The Way We Green White Paper (discussion paper)

### **3. Membership**

**Members as of December 31, 2010** (Biographical notes in Attachment 2)

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Lina Cosentino     | Citizen-at-large        |
| • Margaret Fairbairn | Environment Canada      |
| • Joy Fraser         | Citizen-at-large        |
| • Catherine Garvey   | Citizen-at-large        |
| • Lori Hanson        | Citizen-at-large        |
| • Rasel Hossain      | Alberta Environment     |
| • Rick Pelletier     | University of Alberta   |
| • Ansar Qureshi      | Citizen-at-large        |
| • Ludmilla Rodriguez | Alberta Health Services |
| • Paul Wyminga       | Citizen-at-large        |



Support from the City of Edmonton's Office of Environment, Deputy City Manager's Office was provided by:

- Mark Brostrom, Director, Office of Environment
- Nancy Shave, Administrative Assistant, Office of Environment

#### **Members who left the Committee in 2010**

- George Watts                      The King's University College

#### **4. Activities During 2010**

The Environmental Advisory Committee met eight times during 2010, with additional participation by Committee members in three The Way We Green workshops and a tour of downtown community gardens. The February and August meetings also included a meeting with the City's Corporate Leadership Team.

#### **Liaison with Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and the Environmental Policy Leadership Committee (EPLC)**

At the February 4, 2010 meeting with CLT, the 2009 EAC Annual Report was presented and approved and the following items were discussed:

- The Way We Green – defining 'Environmental Sustainability' for Edmonton
- The Climate Change Deliberative Democracy initiative (University of Alberta)
- The development of the City's strategic plans (The Ways)
- City Operations GHG Strategy Update
- Update by General Managers on a number of the City's environmental initiatives

The EAC met with the CLT on August 26, 2010 during which time the following items were discussed:

- The Way We Green – community input into the plan and implementation
- The Way We Grow – key linkages to The Way We Green
- The Way We Move – key linkages to The Way We Green

Additionally environmentally related items discussed at CLT meetings were provided to the EAC on a regular basis and EPLC and EAC meeting minutes were shared with each other at their respective meetings.

#### **Key Issues and Items Where Advice or Feedback was Provided by the EAC in 2010**

##### **The Way We Green**

The EAC continued to provide advice on the development of The Way We Green throughout 2010.

- At their January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting the EAC provided input into *The Way We Green* work plan, specifically the public involvement component and the role of the EAC.
- At their February 4<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup> meetings with CLT, the focus of discussion was regarding The Way We Green.



- At their March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting the EAC provided input into key sustainability factors for Edmonton, feedback on the scope of the Sustainability Papers that are going to be developed and input into the stakeholder list that will be used for The Way We Green consultation.
- At their May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting the EAC was provided a progress update for the development of The Way We Green.
- At their August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting the EAC was provided an overview of the key sustainability issues arising from the Discussion Papers and the stakeholder workshops.
- At their October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting the EAC provided input into a draft The Way We Green White Paper (discussion paper) which was publicly distributed at the end of October.
- At their December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting the EAC provided preliminary input into The Way We Green White Paper and determined a process for finalizing this input.
- Six, five and three EAC members attended the June 1-7, June 22-25 and November 16-18 The Way We Green workshops respectively.

#### **EcoVision Annual Report**

- At their March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting the EAC discussed the development of the forwarding statement which was included in the 2009 EcoVision Annual Report.

#### **Sustainable Purchasing Policy**

- At their May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting the EAC received a presentation and provided feedback on the City's newly approved Sustainable Purchasing Policy.

#### **City of Edmonton Biodiversity Initiatives**

- At their November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting the EAC was given a comprehensive overview of the City's biodiversity initiatives and a number of opportunities that the Office of Natural Areas have had to provide information to national and international audiences.

#### **Participation of EAC Members on the Committee's Behalf**

- Cathy Garvey - Edmonton City-Wide Food and Agricultural Strategy Workshop
- Ludmilla Rodriguez - Understanding the Energy Implications of Land Use Decisions through Energy Density Mapping



## 5. 2011 Environmental Advisory Committee Anticipated Activities

In 2011, it is anticipated that the Environmental Advisory Committee will continue to provide input and advice into the development and implementation of *The Way We Green*. This will be accomplished through:

- **Joint meetings with Corporate Leadership Team**
  - Meet with CLT twice during the year to discuss strategic environmental issues.
- **Liaison with Environmental Policy Leadership Committee (EPLC) and City departments**
  - Ongoing review of environmental issues through the EPLC minutes and requests from City departments for input into specific environmental issues related to *The Way We Green*.
- **Liaisons with Councillors (Environmental Portfolio)**
  - Ongoing invitation to Councillor Iveson to attend EAC regular meetings.
- **Site Visit to City Facilities**
  - Undertake tours of City facilities in conjunction with one or two EAC meetings.
- **New EAC Members Orientation**
  - Provide new EAC members with appropriate orientation in order to accelerate full committee participation.

**Specific issues that will be considered include but are not limited to:**

- **Charles Labatiuk Award**
  - EAC member(s) to participate in selection of award recipients.
- **Significant input into the development and implementation of *The Way We Green***
  - EAC will provide input and advice in the transition of the Environmental Strategic Plan to *The Way We Green*, one of six City Strategic Plans.
- **Environmental Advisory Committee - Review of Governance**
  - Provide input into the governance of the Environmental Advisory Committee, specifically with respect to the implementation of *The Way We Green*.
- **Alberta Capital Airshed Alliance**
  - Provide input into the City's participation in the Alberta Capital Airshed Alliance (ACAA) including the implementation of the Census Metropolitan Area Ozone Management Plan and the air quality monitoring review.



- **City Operation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan**
  - Provide input into the finalization of the update to the City Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan.
- **CO<sub>2</sub>RE Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Reduction & Energy Strategy**
  - Provide input into the implementation of the CO<sub>2</sub>RE.
- **Land Use Framework**
  - Provide feedback on the new provincial land use framework and identify any implications to the regional planning process and sustainable planning initiatives.
- **Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan Implementation (The Way We Grow / The Way We Move)**
  - Provide input and advice to Corporate Leadership Team regarding the implementation of these plans as they relate to The Way We Green.
- **Water for Life Strategy**
  - Provide advice regarding opportunities for the City to support the provincial Water for Life Strategy.
- **Urban Biodiversity**
  - Provide input into the development of the Natural Connections Biodiversity Action Plan, in context of The Way We Green.
- **Liaison with other regional municipalities**
  - Receive updates on the Regional Environmental Managers meetings.
- **Food Security**
  - Examine issues surrounding food production in relation to the environmental benefits of local production. Have the Greater Edmonton Alliance present to the Environmental Advisory Committee.

**Attachments:**

1. **Environmental Advisory Committee Terms of Reference**
2. **Environmental Advisory Committee 2010 Biographies**

# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

(November 2002)

### 1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To provide a vehicle for the flow of strategic advice and expertise between the community and officials of the City of Edmonton for the continuing development of the Environmental Strategic Plan, and other environmental issues as they arise.

To facilitate the public perspective on how particular environmental issues impact on the community and other City plans, recognizing that many of the issues are within the context of regional, national or global concern.

### 2.0 MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

2.1 Membership of the Environmental Advisory Committee is as follows:

- 7 Citizens-at-large
- 1 representative from the Alberta Health Services
- 1 representative from Alberta Environment
- 1 representative from Environment Canada
- 1 representative from the University of Alberta
- 1 representative from a post-secondary educational institution (with an environmental program), position to rotate through various educational establishments

2.2 The Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) reports directly to the Senior Management Team (SMT).

2.3 Meetings of the Environmental Advisory Committee are held monthly.

2.4 Citizen-at-large members are expected to serve for a 2-year minimum term.

2.5 Individual EAC representatives may volunteer for specific initiatives that could require additional work beyond that at the regular monthly meetings of the committee-as-a-whole.

2.6 The Asset Management & Public Works Office of the Environment acts as a resource and facilitator for the Environmental Advisory Committee.

### 3.0 ROLE AND FUNCTION

3.1 To review, comment and provide input during the preparation of environmental plans.

- 3.2 To provide a public perspective on:
  - implementation of the Environmental Strategic Plan strategies and initiatives.
  - other emergent issues, as requested by the Senior Management Team and the Environmental Policy Leadership Committee.
- 3.3 To identify additional issues and to prioritize short-term, intermediate and long-term environmental strategic initiatives.
- 3.4 To advise on appropriate consultation between the City, the identified stakeholder groups and the community-at-large concerning environmental matters.
- 3.5 In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee will give due consideration to the balance between environmental, economic and social aspects.
- 3.6 Regular attendance at meetings is expected of EAC members.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2010 MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

### **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

#### **Lina Cosentino**

Lina is a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) with the Workers' Compensation Board - Alberta. Her current role is that of Director of Corporate Services. Her background also includes a Bachelor of Arts Degree majoring in economics through the University of Alberta. Her most recent community service includes chair for the board of directors of the YWCA of Edmonton.

#### **Joy Fraser**

Dr. Joy Fraser is an Associate Professor, Health Administration in the Center for State and Legal Studies at Athabasca University, where she has been a faculty member since 1991. She earned her Bachelor and Master of Nursing and Ph.D. in Educational Administration (Policy Studies) from the University of Alberta. Her research interests include program planning, evaluation, quality assurance, human rights and social justice. Joy is a certified Master Composter-Recycler for the City of Edmonton and is a life-long environmental, human rights and social justice activist. Joy is an international consultant for the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization and a consultant for the Human Rights City Edmonton Project.

#### **Catherine Garvey**

Catherine is a retired school administrator with experience as a classroom teacher, school board consultant and an elementary school principal. She obtained her doctorate in educational administration in 1983. Throughout her educational career, she served on numerous committees, including one on the environment for the school district. In addition, she has participated in many community associations reflecting her interests in human rights and social justice, the environment, civic interests and national policies. She is an active member of the Canadian Federation of University Women and director of the local Amnesty International group in Edmonton. Most recently, she completed a six-year term on the Edmonton Historical Board, serving as chair for the last three years. Catherine supports several environment associations and is active in the local CFUW Environment group.

#### **Lori Hanson**

Dr. Lori Hanson is Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Human Geography at Athabasca University. Her areas of research include rural sustainability, environmental history, the sociology of agriculture, land trusts, cultural studies of the environment and the intersections of space, place, nature and identity. Lori has been an active environmental and social justice activist for over twenty years.

#### **Ansar Qureshi**

Dr. Qureshi is a Scientific Advisor in the Science and Standards Branch of Alberta Environment. Dr Qureshi has over 20 years of scientific and management experience accumulated while working with several public and private sectors organizations. He has managed multidisciplinary projects and published extensively in the areas of environmental monitoring, impact assessment, air and water quality

monitoring and toxicity testing of diverse wastes. He is recognized as a leading expert on environmental microbiology and toxicology and indoor air quality monitoring. Ansar's work experience also includes issues management, strategic planning, business planning and policy development.

### **Paul Wyminga**

Paul currently works for a major financial institution in commercial business markets. He holds an MBA in Business and Sustainability and has degrees in Education and Biology. He has worked at the community level to establish a cooperative developing community based renewable energy projects. As a teacher Paul lived for 4 years in a mid-Arctic community in Nunavut and within his teaching duties supported some research on the effects of air-borne pollution in the Arctic waters. Paul currently resides in Edmonton with his family.

## **DESIGNATED MEMBERS**

### **Alberta Environment:**

#### **Rasel Hossain**

Mr. Rasel Hossain is the Municipal Approvals Team Leader for the Northern Region of Alberta Environment. He is responsible for review of potable water, storm water management, municipal waste water treatment and disposal and solid waste disposal projects for approval under the Alberta Environmental Enhancement and Protection Act.

### **Alberta Health Services**

#### **Ludmilla Rodriguez**

Ms. Ludmilla Rodriguez is the Provincial Air Quality Advisor for Environmental Health Services in Alberta Health Services. She is responsible for the review of health risk assessments and looks after air quality issues in the Province. She is also an Executive Officer under the Alberta Public Health Act.

### **Environment Canada**

#### **Margaret Fairbairn**

Margaret is the Manager of Sector Support, Environmental Protection Operations Division at Environment Canada in Edmonton, Alberta. She has been studying and working in the field of environmental science for the past twenty-five years. She graduated with a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo in 1982 and completed a Master of Science, Water Resources Program from the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Alberta in 1987. She worked with Stanley Associates Engineering until 1993 when she began employment with Environment Canada. As the Manager of Sector Support, Ms. Fairbairn is responsible for the Environment Canada's compliance promotion, contaminated sites, environmental effects monitoring, public and natural sources sector; and the energy, chemical and transportation sector activities in the Prairie and Northern Region (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, NWT and Nunavut).

### **Post-secondary Institution**

**George Watts, The King's University College**

George is an assistant professor of Business at The King's University College and a consultant specializing in strategic marketing and business development. His studies and work have taken him from Canada to the US, Kazakhstan, France and other points in-between. He has worked in humanitarian aid development, multi-national high-tech product marketing for Hewlett-Packard, and information technology business development. He also co-founded a wireless broadband start-up in London, taught English as a foreign language and is now teaching management and is consulting in the Edmonton area.

Mr. Watts holds a BA in History, a MBA from the University of Alberta and a Master of International Business from Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Grenoble.

### **University of Alberta**

#### **Rick Pelletier**

Rick is a Faculty Services Officer II in the Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences. His current research includes the spatial analyses of environmental justice and pollution sources, barren-ground Caribou movements and population dynamics, and distance access issues to health-care facilities and has recently worked on spatial aspects of values-at-risk and economic analysis of health effects from wildfire, on-farm economics of drainage and conservation of wetlands, climate change modeling, and effects of urbanization on ground beetle assemblages. He teaches *Geomatics/Geographical Information Systems in Natural Resource Applications* and *The History and Thought of Environmental Preservation and Conservation*, and manages the Spatial Information Systems Laboratory in the Department of Renewable Resources.