

REPORT NO. 66
of the
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (WECEC)
of its meeting held
November 1, 2012
at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant, 4155 Ojibway Parkway

Members Present at the November 1, 2012 meeting:

Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair
Charlie Wright, Co-Chair
Shahbaz Ahmed
Dean Clevett
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Jesse Costagardner (alternate for Phil Roberts)
Roger Dzugan (alternate for Mark Bartlett)
Evan Freeman-Gibb
John Miller (arrives at 5:55 p.m.)
Phil Roberts
Tamara Stomp (arrives at 5:40 p.m.)

Your Committee submits the following recommendation:

Moved by D. Clevett, seconded by J. Miller,

WHEREAS urban forests have been shown to produce energy cost savings, for example, residents of Peel Region's urban areas save \$2.5 annually in heating and cooling through shading and windbreak provided by trees¹, and;

WHEREAS urban forests have the potential to improve air quality through the removal of air pollutants and the storage and sequestration of carbon. For example, recent studies show that Peel Region's urban forest removes 855 tonnes of air pollution annually, sequesters 19,000 tonnes of carbon annually and stores 400,000 tonnes in total. These services are valued at \$9.1 million, \$550,000 and \$11.5 million respectively¹, and;

WHEREAS methods of green infrastructure such as urban forests have been shown as a cost-effective means to decrease storm water runoff and combined sewer overflows by capturing runoff and retaining it before it can reach the sewer system², and;

WHEREAS an investment in green infrastructure is an investment in biodiversity, a declared priority of both the provincial and national governments, and;

¹Toronto and Region Conservation Authority 2011. Peel Region Forest Strategy. Available at: <http://www.peelregion.ca/planning/climatechange/reports/pdf/peel-urban-forest-strategy-july-25-2011.pdf>

²Natural Resources Defence Council. 2006. Rooftops to Rivers: Green Strategies for Controlling Stormwater and Combined Sewer Overflows. Available at: www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/rooftops/contents.asp

WHEREAS numerous studies indicate that property values increase anywhere from 5 to 30 percent depending on the size and type of green space, the type of housing and the distance from the green space³, and;

WHEREAS urban forest issues can result in high unforeseen costs for municipalities, for example, the City of Windsor spent \$4 million as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer pest issue in Windsor,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City and County Councils urge both the Provincial and the Federal governments to develop and implement Urban Tree Policies which provide municipalities with direction as well as monetary support when dealing with urban tree issues.

Carried.

NOTIFICATION:	
WECEC Committee including resource	On file
Mary Brennan, Director of Council Services/Clerk, County of Essex	mbrennan@countyofessex.on.ca

COUNCILLOR ALAN HALBERSTADT, CO-CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

³Tomalty, R. and B. Komorowski, 2010. The Monetary Value of the Soft Benefits of Green Roofs Final Report. Prepared for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Available at: <http://www.greenroofs.org/resources/Monetaryvalueofsoftbenefitsofgreenroofs.pdf>