

November 9, 2009

Her Worship the Mayor
And Members of City Council

**Re: Emergent Motion for Monday, November 9, 2009 Council Meeting
The Stockholm Appeal on Climate Change**

Moved by Controller Gina Barber, Seconded by Councillor Nancy Branscombe

We would respectfully request that the following motion be considered at the November 9, 2009 Council Meeting as the motion is a question of urgency.

Background

On November 4, 2009 the mayors of the largest cities in Europe (through EUROCITIES) and the United States (through the United States Conference of Mayors) have co-authored a joint appeal, referred to as the 'The Stockholm Appeal on Climate Change.' The purpose of the appeal is to illustrate the desire of the signatories for the COP15 meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark to result in an international climate change agreement.

The goal of the Stockholm Appeal is to provide a powerful statement of intent to the national governments in the run-up to COP15. By stating local government's mutual climate protection and sustainability desires, the goal of the appeal also serve as further incentive for the heads of state at COP15 to reach an agreement.

Evidence is very clear that municipalities are a key part our climate change solutions and also would face enormous environmental, social and economic challenges if action is not taken. This is echoed through two important quotes from the recent news release:

"The battle against climate change will be won or lost in the cities of Europe, where 80 percent of European citizens live. City governments are best placed to find local solutions to this global challenge. Not only are cities leading by example but they are also closest to the citizens and businesses that need to use our planet's resources more efficiently," says Jozias von Aartsen, Mayor of The Hague and President of EUROCITIES.

"U.S. mayors proudly stand with our European counterparts in asking for international recognition of the role of local leaders in climate protection. At the forefront of creative strategies, U.S. mayors have forced our national government to act to combat climate change. To date, one thousand mayors have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging to meet or beat Kyoto goals. Mayoral leadership is a major impetus in climate protection," says Greg Nickels, Mayor of Seattle and President of USCM.

Recommendation

That Municipal Council approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a global reduction in the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and its significant contribution to the creation of greenhouse gases (GHG) is necessary to slow climate change and reduce the risks to our economy, human health, the physical environment and quality of life;

WHEREAS, human activities have caused a dramatic increase in the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the earth's atmosphere. Since the mid 1700s, the concentration of CO₂ has risen from about 280 parts per million (ppm) to reach 387 ppm in 2009. This amount is likely the highest concentration in the atmosphere in the past 20 million years.

WHEREAS, evidence presented in the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) November 2007 report indicates that "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level" and "Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic GHG concentrations. It is likely that there has been significant anthropogenic warming over the past 50 years averaged over each continent (except Antarctica)."

WHEREAS, reducing greenhouse gases makes economic sense. New and improved infrastructure, renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency, energy conservation, waste reduction, building retrofits, transit, walking, cycling, water conservation, better fleet management, more effective wastewater treatment and distribution, etc., can reduce short-term and/or long-term municipal operating costs and help maintain community services, while having a positive impact on the environment;

WHEREAS the impacts of climate change as well as the responsibility for mitigation will fall primarily on the municipalities;

WHEREAS, in December, national governments from around the world will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark to negotiate terms and conditions of a global climate agreement for the period after 2012 (i.e., after the Kyoto Protocol). It is critical that Canada has the support it needs during these negotiations to conclude negotiations;

WHEREAS, mayors and municipal leaders responsible for the well-being of communities across Canada have urged federal and provincial/territorial governments to make climate protection a priority;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the City of London send a strong message to the Federal Government of Canada of the importance to the citizens and businesses of the City of London of a world-wide climate agreement;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we encourage municipalities across Ontario and Canada to join the City of London in requesting the Federal Government to make every effort to reach an international agreement on climate change.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we urge the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to rally the support of its membership and send a strong message to the Federal Government of Canada of the importance to the citizens and businesses of a world-wide climate agreement.

Gina Barber
Controller

Nancy Branscombe
Councillor, Ward 6