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NEW AND EMERGING CLEAN AIR SOLUTIONS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Finance and Administration Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, April 1, 2005, from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Council receive this report for information.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee and Council of the Request for Information process for New and Emerging Clean Air Solutions to be issued in support of the Corporate Clean Air Task Force mandate.

3. BACKGROUND

Regional Council endorsed the Corporate Clean Air Task Force (CCATF) at its meeting on February 20, 2003. The CCATF mission, as stated in the Terms of Reference, “is to minimize the potential harm to human health and the environment in York Region through activities targeted to reduce emissions of harmful pollutants and greenhouse gases, and to ensure that improvements in ambient air quality is a priority for The Regional Municipality of York”. The Corporate Clean Air Task Force will be providing a status report to the Health and Emergency Committee in the fall of 2005. This report will be addressing Task Force activities in terms of the Request for Information process only (RFI).

In early 2005, the CCATF convened several times and set up Working Groups to assist the Task Force in developing a Regional Air Quality Policy and Clean Air Action Plan for York Region. Five topic-based Working Groups comprising Regional staff were formed as follows: Energy; Transportation Fleets; Transportation and Works Planning & Infrastructure; Smog Alert Response; and Natural and Built Environment/Green Procurement.

A representative of the Corporate Services Department (Program Manager, Energy Management) chairs the Energy Working Group and takes a lead role in establishing mechanisms for identifying and evaluating clean air solutions including the Request for Information described herein.

The Working Groups were formed to help the Task Force achieve its two primary goals:

- Identify specific measurable and achievable corporate actions to improve ambient air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Demonstrate leadership in air quality and other environmental health initiatives related to emissions throughout York Region, and encourage area municipalities, York Region residents, industry and other organizations to incorporate such initiatives into their activities and operations.

In order to achieve these goals the Working Groups must cover a wide range of Regional operations, have in-depth expertise in the field and/or invest a significant amount of time in research and analysis. At the second Task Force meeting Corporate Services proposed a RFI process in order to assist the Working Groups in achieving the Task Force goals by eliciting new and emerging clean air solutions from private industry. This idea was endorsed by the Task Force Secretariat and subsequent meetings were held to establish the RFI scope and approach.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The RFI will supplement the Task Force's Working Group efforts and includes the following objectives:

- Identify new and emerging clean air measures and associated costs and benefits (e.g., emission reduction, health and environmental benefits, local economic development, operating savings, return on investment and environmental leadership potential).
- Provide a fair and open mechanism for private industry to offer a clear value proposition for Region consideration.
- Achieve maximum financial leverage through public-private partnerships.

The RFI will be issued in phases, beginning with 'Energy' and potentially followed by other Working Group area(s). The first RFI will act as a test to determine if the RFI approach provides a successful means of achieving the desired result. The RFI will include base information pertinent to each Working Group area in order to render the most accurate response possible for York Region.

The RFI will require proponents to provide a general description of their clean air solution, which could be a technology or a new design/process, as well as approximate cost(s) and environmental benefit(s) (e.g. quantity of emission reduction). Additional criteria will closely follow the information requirements of various grant programs (e.g. innovation/leadership potential, grant eligibility, economic development and other

municipal benefits). This will assist the Region in identifying and systematically reviewing clean air solutions.

The results of the RFI will be incorporated into the Clean Air Action Plans which will then go forward to Committee and Council for further direction. The Task Force will develop evaluation criteria for clean air solutions proposed by both the Working Groups and the RFI. Clean air solutions included in the Clean Air Action Plans will only be specified by “type” and not by any particular vendor.

4.1 Relationship to Vision 2026

The RFI approach will assist the Region in ensuring clean water and air and promoting and supporting innovative technology, which are part of the goals “Enhanced Environment, Heritage and Culture” and “A Vibrant Economy” in Vision 2026.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Municipalities may benefit from measures that will be identified in the RFI process, and in the future as the Task Force aims to encourage area municipalities to incorporate clean air solutions in their jurisdictions.

7. CONCLUSION

The Region is proceeding through a two-pronged approach involving Corporate Clean Air Task Force Working Groups and a Request for Information to assist the Corporate Clean Air Task Force fulfill its mandate to develop a Regional Air Quality Policy and Clean Air Action Plans.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.