

DRAFT: Proposal to use the remainder of annual budget on information session about Green Development Standards

Submitted to the November, 2024 meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee (ESACAC)

Prepared by Brendon Samuels, Chair

Executive summary

This report proposes to use up the remaining \$500 in the ESACAC annual budget to hold an information session with guest speakers in December, 2024 related to Green Development Standards. The advisory committee may request budget expenditures in alignment with the [General Policy for Advisory Committees](#), section 4.11 Expenditures by Advisory Committees, which includes Council-approved events (e.g. speaker's gifts, refreshments, etc. for open houses and workshops).

Background

In January 2024, civic administration [was directed by Council](#) to prepare a report on the feasibility of Green Development Standards (also known as Green Development Guidelines). The motion passed by Council included “*d) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to review the legislative framework and municipal best practices to adopt a bylaw through section 97.1 of the Municipal Act to implement sustainable building construction features, including but not limited to, energy efficiency, water conservation and green roofs, and report back to Council with options and recommendations, including identifying any required Official Plan, Zoning Bylaw and Site Plan Control Bylaw amendments, and “e) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back to Council within Q3 2024 with a short update regarding the scope and timeline of the Green Development Guidelines and Green Parking Lot Guidelines, and the above items.”* The timeline given in clause e) was revised and the report is expected to be presented to the Planning and Environment Committee by the end of the first quarter of 2025.

From a community advisory committee perspective, the quality of advice that we provide to City Council with respect to [our mandate](#) could benefit from the committee's membership improving its understanding of Green Development Standards, including the process for their development and implementation.

Numerous other jurisdictions in Ontario previously created and adopted Green Development Standards. This information will be captured at a high level by the staff report, within the parameters outlined in the above Council motion. For the ESACAC to be able to meaningfully assess the feasibility of measures that may be proposed for London's future Green Development Standards, such as consideration of their affordability, design alternatives and enforceability, it would be helpful to provide members with an opportunity to learn from and ask questions of subject matter experts who are familiar with the ongoing implementation of similar standards in other municipalities.

Justification

I am proposing to use the remainder of the ESACAC annual budget to cover costs associated with hosting an information session in December, 2024 including honoraria for 2 or 3 invited guest speakers. The amounts for the honoraria will be set at \$200 (\$400 total) or \$150 (\$450 total) depending on the number of confirmed speakers. The remaining \$50 or \$100 will be used to purchase refreshments for in-person participants at this session.

I previously corresponded with relevant staff about this proposal, and described it during my delegation as ESACAC Chair at the Civic Works Committee on October 22. No conflicts were raised.

I propose to schedule this session to coincide with the timing of the next scheduled ESACAC meeting on Wednesday December 4, 2024 at 4:30 pm. The 60-90 minute session will be open to the public (as are all ESACAC meetings) as well as invited stakeholders from the local development industry and members of Council. This will appear as the first scheduled item on the committee's agenda. The session will be held using a hybrid format on Zoom following the usual procedure facilitated by the civic administration with speakers participating remotely. Attendance in-person by members of ESACAC is encouraged but not expected. The session will be recorded and shared with the committee afterwards so that it may be circulated more widely in the community and provide an educational reference to support future public consultation opportunities related to Green Development Standards.

I will contact the invited speakers immediately pending the approval of this budget request by the ESACAC, and their honoraria will be confirmed pending approval by Council. I will contact Ontario-based organizations with expertise on Green Development Standards including but not limited to: [Sustainability Solutions Group](#), [The Planning Partnership](#) and [Clean Air Partnership](#). I have already identified suitable contacts at each of these organizations.

Draft motion for consideration

Whereas the ESACAC held a discussion with respect to the remainder of the 2024 committee budget;

Be it resolved that the ESACAC REQUESTS to spend up to \$500 from its budget on speaker's gifts for an information session about Green Development Standards to be held virtually during the December 4 meeting of the committee;

Be it further resolved that the civic administration BE REQUESTED to record this session using Zoom and share the recording afterwards with members of the committee.

Be it further resolved that the civic administration BE REQUESTED to attach this report to the November meeting report from the ESACAC to be submitted to the Civic Works Committee.