
DATE: December 17, 2008

SUBJECT: PEEL REGION OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW (PROPR) - REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT - SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY

FROM: Dan Labrecque, Commissioner of Environment, Transportation and Planning Services

RECOMMENDATION

That pursuant to Section 17(16) of the *Planning Act*, a statutory public open house be scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and a second joint public open house be scheduled with the Town of Caledon on Thursday, February 19, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.;

And further, that a statutory public meeting be scheduled to commence at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2009 prior to the regularly scheduled General Committee meeting, pursuant to Section 17(15) of the *Planning Act* to inform the public and to obtain their input with respect to a proposed amendment to the Regional Official Plan (ROP) as it relates to sustainability and energy policies;

And further, that the draft amendment to the Regional Official Plan (ROP) to update policies related to sustainability and energy be forwarded to appropriate agencies, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga, and the Town of Caledon and all other municipalities adjacent to the Region of Peel for comments;

And further, that a final Regional Official Plan Amendment, which takes into consideration the comments received from the statutory open houses, statutory public meeting and agencies consulted, be presented for adoption at a future Council meeting.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- On September 13, 2007, Regional Council endorsed a work plan to proceed with the review of the Regional Official Plan. The work plan confirmed 15 focus areas, including sustainability and energy.
- Attached as Appendix I is the draft amendment related to sustainability and energy policies that staff is recommending be made formally available for public review and comment. The amendment incorporates the input received to date and is generally supported by key stakeholders including area municipal staff.
- It is recommended that Regional Council hold statutory public open houses and a statutory public meeting to inform the public and to obtain their input with respect to the proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment related to sustainability and energy policies.

PEEL REGION OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW (PROPR) - REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT - SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY

DISCUSSION

1. Background

On February 15, 2007, Regional Council held a Public Meeting to commence review of the Regional Official Plan (ROP) as required by the *Planning Act*. In September 2007, Council endorsed a work plan to proceed with the review through the Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) process. This process addresses a number of legislative and policy directions that have been introduced by the Province since the Regional Official Plan was last reviewed in 2002 through the Regional Official Plan Strategic Update (ROPSU).

The work plan for PROPR identifies 15 focus areas through which the ROP is being reviewed to ensure conformity with the provincial initiatives, including policies on sustainability and energy. This report is the first in a series of draft Regional Official Plan Amendments (ROPAs) expected from the PROPR process during 2009. This particular draft ROPA, which brings together our work on sustainability and energy, will require agency circulation, consultation, statutory open houses and a statutory public meeting prior to consideration by Council.

2. Sustainability Planning Process

The Sustainability Focus Area is a component of PROPR which aims to reposition the ROP to reflect the four pillars of sustainability as the overarching framework for the Plan, while bringing the Plan into conformity with recent Provincial policy. The *Planning and Conservation Land Statute Act, 2006* (Bill 51) expands the list of matters of Provincial interest under the *Planning Act* to include “the promotion of development that is designed to be sustainable, to support public transit and to be oriented to pedestrians.” In order to achieve this, it is proposed, through the draft ROPA, a stronger connection to the four pillars of sustainability be made within the Purpose of the Plan, Themes of the Plan and General Goals of the Plan. Furthermore, specific policies related to green development standard, climate change, and corporate sustainability be included. A summary of the process in developing the policy framework with respect to this ROPA is provided below.

a) Background Research and Analysis

A Sustainability Background Paper was developed in May 2008 based on research and analysis of sustainability. The purpose of the background paper was to discuss sustainability and sustainability planning to address new Provincial directions and inform subsequent future corporate sustainability work. The background paper reviewed: the evolution of the concept of sustainability, the global and local sustainability challenges, sustainability definitions, sustainable development frameworks (quadruple-bottom-line based on environment, economy, social and cultural pillars), the Provincial policy directions related to sustainability, and the applicability of the sustainability framework to the ROP. The background paper is available on the Region’s website at <http://www.peelregion.ca/planning/officialplan/pdfs/sust-paper.pdf>. The background paper assisted in stimulating discussion at a Sustainability Workshop held on June 6, 2008, the results which have been previously reported to Council.

Following further research and analysis, a Sustainability Discussion Paper was developed in September 2008. The paper provides suggested policy directions for the PROPR Sustainability Focus Area as well as possible policy directions for other PROPR focus areas. The discussion paper provided the basis for further input from

PEEL REGION OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW (PROPR) - REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT - SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY

stakeholders. The discussion paper reviewed sustainability directions for effective planning and suggested draft wording for the Themes of the Plan section of the ROP and possible policy directions for other PROPR focus areas. The Sustainability Discussion Paper is available on our website at <http://www.peelregion.ca/planning/officialplan/pdfs/Sustainability-Discussion-Paper.pdf>.

b) Policy Formulation

Consideration of sustainability has a strong history in Planning and is evolving as an overarching policy concern in documents such as Official Plans. While the evolution of sustainability has been furthered by Bill 51 (elevating sustainability as a matter of Provincial interest), it is still a relatively new concept that required significant policy work.

As noted, a Sustainability Background Paper and a Sustainability Discussion Paper were authored as well as a stakeholder workshop was held to consider the ideas in the papers. At the November 24, 2008 Environment Themed Workshop, a sustainability concurrent session was held to discuss draft sustainability policies. Participants suggested that the concept of sustainability be balanced with a greater emphasis on the economic perspective. For example, ideas related to green technology, green business, and transportation were suggested. Comments were also received in support of the green development standards and the need to apply it to the development review process provided direction is established for its applicability and implementation. In addition, it was suggested that there was a need to include a reference to energy within the sustainability policies. Participants were also supportive of sustainability policies related to future work related to climate change and corporate sustainability.

Through analysis, it was determined that the overall framework of the ROP should be repositioned so that sustainability as a concept is paramount. Secondly, policies to ensure future development is guided by green development standards are suggested. The conservation authorities have completed a business planning process which calls for a climate change plan. A policy to this effect is proposed. Finally, the Region's Strategic Plan proposes that the corporation undertake responsible 'environmental management' in its business practices. A corporate sustainability policy to reflect this goal has been incorporated in the draft ROPA.

A first draft of the sustainability policies were circulated to area municipal staff through the Planning Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) (made up of senior level policy staff from the Region and area municipalities) in early-November 2008. While area municipal staff are generally supportive of the policy direction, official comments will be made available prior to the public meeting on this matter.

3. Energy Planning Process

Official Plan policies specifically targeted to energy issues is an evolving area of policy study. The Places to Grow Plan's "Culture of Conservation" policies provide a framework for this work. An Energy Discussion Paper and draft policies are currently in circulation and are posted on the Region's website at www.peelregion.ca/officialplan.

The draft ROPA proposes a focus on energy efficiency through community planning including transportation policy issues. The draft ROPA also proposes a culture of conservation, sustainable development and a move towards more sustainable green energy choices.

PEEL REGION OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW (PROPR) - REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT - SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY**a) Background Research and Analysis**

The purpose of the Energy Discussion Paper was to discuss opportunities for alternative renewable energy systems and to develop policies for energy efficient land use design and development patterns to ensure the long-term sustainability of Peel Region and its communities. The Energy Discussion Paper provided the basis for introducing new energy policies in the ROP.

b) Policy Formulation

As noted above, the draft energy policies were prepared based on feedback on the discussion paper and consultation with key stakeholders. Sustainable energy policies are generally absent from planning documents; however, the increasing importance of energy issues provides an excellent opportunity to entrench the concepts of energy efficiency, conservation and diversity of energy choices into policy. The objective is to incorporate policies into the Official Plan that will guide the goal of conserving energy through energy efficient land use designs and alternative renewable energy systems; and to plan and develop greener, healthier communities across Peel Region. The draft policies were reviewed by key stakeholders for comment and have been revised based on feedback received to date.

At a key environment workshop on November 24, 2008, stakeholders considered the proposed policy direction and provided comments recognizing the increasingly important role the Region could play in public education, alternative energy and expanding energy from waste technologies. Participants also suggested the necessity for integrative, long-term planning to identify multi-functional utility corridors well in advance of development to accommodate load growth resulting from projected growth in the population and the economy. The draft energy policies have been circulated to area municipal staff. While area municipal staff are generally supportive of the policy direction, official comments will be made available prior to the public meeting on this matter. The energy policies when approved will be placed in Chapter 3 'Resources' as a new section in the existing ROP.

4. Draft Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA)

Attached as Appendix I, is the draft ROPA that staff are recommending be made formally available for public review and comment. The draft ROPA proposes to amend and add to the existing introductory Section 1.1 and Section 1.3 of the ROP, as well as introducing new definitions. In addition, the following sections of the ROP are proposed for amendment.

- Chapter 1 Introduction: Section 1.1 – Purpose of the Plan;
- Chapter 1 Introduction: Section 1.3 – Guide to the Plan;
- Chapter 3 Resources: New Section 3.7 – Energy Resources;
- Chapter 7 Implementation: Section 7.6 – Regional Planning Initiatives; and,
- Glossary


PEEL REGION OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW (PROPR) - REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT - SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY

5. Next Steps:

It is recommended that Regional Council direct open houses pursuant to Section 17(16) of the *Planning Act*. A statutory public open house will be scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and a second joint public open house with the Town of Caledon on Thursday, February 19, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

It is also recommended that Regional Council direct that a statutory public meeting be scheduled to commence at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2009 prior to the regularly scheduled General Committee meeting, pursuant to Section 17(15) of the *Planning Act* to inform the public and to obtain their input with respect to a proposed amendment to the Regional Official Plan related to sustainability and energy.

Copies of the draft ROPA will be made available for public review and comment. Staff will then bring forward a final proposed amendment to the Regional Official Plan, which takes into consideration the comments received from the public agency consultation, statutory open house(s) and statutory public meeting and, for Regional Council's adoption.



Dan Labrecque
Commissioner of Environment,
Transportation and Planning Services

Approved for Submission:



D. Swarc, Chief Administrative Officer

For further information regarding this report, please contact Arvin Prasad, Director of Planning Policy and Research at extension 4251 or via email at arvin.prasad@peelregion.ca

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c. Legislative Services

ETP-B2-6

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment – Sustainability and Energy

December 17, 2008

REGION OF PEEL

REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN

REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT
NUMBER 20

- SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY POLICIES

PART A – THE PREAMBLE

1. Purpose of the Amendment

To establish updated sustainability policies in order to provide an overarching framework for the Regional Official Plan and to establish new energy policies for the Regional Official Plan.

2. Location

The amendment applies to the entire Regional Municipality of Peel.

3. Basis

The Province updated the policy and legislative framework for planning by adopting a new Provincial Policy Statement in 2005, Places to Grow Growth Plan in 2006 and the *Planning and Conservation Land Statute Law Amendment Act*, 2006. The Region of Peel is required to bring its Regional Official Plan into conformity with these Provincial policies, plans, and legislation.

To inform public and stakeholders about this work and to obtain input on the scope of the work program, the Region held three public open houses on January 18, 2007, January 22, 2007 and January 31, 2007, and a statutory public meeting on February 15, 2007. Following the above, on September 13, 2007 Regional Council approved a work program to achieve Provincial conformity. The work program addressed 15 focus areas, two of which are sustainability and energy.

Sustainability

The *Planning and Conservation Land Statute Act*, 2006 (Bill 51) expands the list of matters of Provincial interest under the *Planning Act* to include “the promotion of development that is designed to be sustainable, to support public transit and to be oriented to pedestrians.” The *Planning Act* directs decision-makers to ensure all decisions are consistent with this and all matters of Provincial interest. Further, the Places to Grow Growth Plan directs municipalities to plan for complete and sustainable communities. The Provincial Policy Statement (2005) supports this direction by promoting ways to support “strong, liveable and healthy communities, protect the environment and public health and safety, and facilitate economic growth.”

The Region prepared a sustainability background paper in May 2008, a sustainability workshop was held on June 6, 2008 and a sustainability discussion paper released in September 2008. The workshop, attended by over 75 stakeholders, confirmed that sustainability should be the overarching framework for the Regional Official Plan. Stakeholders viewed the establishment of the sustainable development theme as a forward-thinking, responsible, inclusive and comprehensive foundation for the ROP. The papers were posted on the Region’s website in order to provide public access and obtain further input.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment – Sustainability and Energy

December 17, 2008

The Region hosted an Environment Themed Workshop on November 24, 2008, which included a session on sustainability. Draft sustainability policies were discussed by public and stakeholders. Participants expressed support for sustainability as a good overarching theme for the ROP and agreed with the value of incorporating it into the General Goals of the Plan. Further, stakeholders expressed agreement with the specific sustainability policies related to green development standards, climate change and corporate sustainability. Also, the public and stakeholders were informed about the progress of the sustainability component of the Official Plan Review through newsletters and reports to Council.

In summary, the reasons for including sustainability in the purpose and theme of the Regional Official Plan, general goals of the ROP and specific policies are:

- To meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
- To be consistent with Provincial policies, plans and legislation;
- To respond to significant research and analysis as well as evaluation of policy options and consultation;
- Consultation with Peel stakeholders and the public have confirmed the appropriateness of including sustainability as an overarching framework for the Regional Official Plan;
- To achieve sustainability through both policy and the development process. For example, it was suggested that the Region and its area municipalities develop green development standards, to be considered as part of the development review process;
- To address corporate sustainability and climate change to enable the Region to do further necessary work in these areas; and
- To conform to the *Planning and Conservation Land Statute Law Amendment Act* and the Places to Grow Growth Plan.

Energy

The Places to Grow Growth Plan establishes an objective to create a culture of conservation. Municipalities are required to do so by developing and implementing official plan policies on various matters including energy conservation. Specifically, municipal official plan policies must plan for energy conservation within municipal facilities, identify opportunities for alternative energy generation and distribution, plan for managing energy demand and reducing consumption, and land use patterns and urban design standards that encourage and support energy efficient buildings and opportunities for co-generation. The 2005 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) supports this direction by requiring planning authorities to support energy efficiency and improved air quality through land use and development patterns. The PPS also promotes increased energy supply including both renewable and alternative energy systems where feasible. The Region of Peel has adopted an Energy Management Plan, which provides a 25-year vision for how the Region purchases, consumes and manages its energy, including investments in energy efficiency, conservation and securing clean energy sources for its buildings and facilities.

The Region prepared an energy discussion paper in September, 2008 including draft energy policies, which were released in early November, 2008 and was the subject of a session at an environment workshop held on November 24, 2008 at which significant input was

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment – Sustainability and Energy

December 17, 2008

received on the merits of the recommended policies. The discussion paper as well as the draft policies were posted on the Region's website in order to provide and promote public access and obtain further input. In addition, the public and stakeholders were informed through the newsletters and reports to Council.

This Amendment proposes to establish a new section in the Regional Official Plan with policies pertaining specifically to energy efficiency, energy conservation and energy diversity including sustainable energy use.

In summary, the basis for including a new energy section in the Regional Official Plan are:

- To conform to the culture of conservation policies in Section 4.2.4 of the Province's Places to Grow Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe;
- To be consistent with the energy policies contained in Section 1.8 of the Province's Provincial Policy Statement, 2005;
- To meet the sustainability objectives of the Regional Official Plan;
- To support the Region of Peel's Energy Management Plan;
- To respond to emerging issues in the areas of energy conservation, energy efficiency and energy diversity including sustainable energy use by undertaking significant research, developing and analyzing policy options and providing policy direction in these areas; and
- Consultation with Peel stakeholders and the public have confirmed the appropriateness of introducing an energy section in the Regional Official Plan.

PART B – THE AMENDMENT

All of the Amendment entitled PART B – THE AMENDMENT, consisting of the attached policy and glossary constitute ROPA 20 to the Region of Peel Official Plan.

A. Chapter 1: Introduction

Section 1.1: Purpose of the Plan

1. Section 1.1 is hereby amended by adding the following wording as the first bullet after the words "The purpose of this Plan is to:"
 - provide a holistic approach to planning through an overarching sustainable development framework;

B. Chapter 1: Introduction

Section 1.3: Guide to the Plan

Sub-Section 1.3.5: Themes of the Plan

2. Sub-Section 1.3.5 is hereby amended by deleting the current wording in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

The over-arching theme of this Plan is *sustainability*. Regional Council will work towards *sustainability* by applying a *sustainable development* framework which

will provide a holistic approach to planning, action and measurement. The principle of *sustainable development* is important given the need to address impacts of climate change and the role that development can play in working towards a sustainable society. By adopting the framework below, the Plan will guide the Region in its quest to become and remain a sustainable community.

The environmental imperative is to protect, enhance and foster self-sustaining biodiversity while reducing and measuring the impact of development on the ecosystem based on a systems approach. Further, the imperative seeks to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and other pollutants while promoting best practices in *sustainable development* including use of green development standards, energy efficient systems and living within the carrying capacity of Peel's supporting ecosystems.

The social imperative is to create conditions conducive to healthy citizens and healthy communities committed to achieving social harmony and social inclusion so that basic needs are met. The Region will strive to have a society that encourages healthy lifestyles and fosters respect for one another; inclusiveness, kindness and human dignity; that includes newcomers with grace and speed; and that ensures a civil and peaceful society for all people.

The economic imperative is to promote a strong, vibrant and prosperous economy that operates within the *sustainability* theme while encouraging environmentally friendly businesses and business practices, providing for an adequate supply of future employment lands, efficient and effective transportation system, appropriate infrastructure and services to support a diverse and growing economy including local employment and sustainable livelihoods.

The cultural imperative is to promote arts, culture and heritage, and quality of place that will attract and retain talented people, and encourage creativity and entrepreneurship. Also, the imperative seeks to create buildings and public spaces that are beautiful and accessible building on our distinctive human, cultural, historical and natural characteristics, where people take personal responsibility for the success of our community and promote civic engagement and social cohesion, placing value on the many diverse ethnic, religious, cultural groups that make up the rich fabric of Peel's population.

This *sustainable development* framework enables integration of the environmental, social, economic and cultural imperatives throughout the Plan. Each imperative requires planning issues to be approached from a different perspective and has a different primary focus. Also, each imperative has its particular strengths when applied to regional planning for an area like *Peel*. Viewed together, the imperatives provide an integrated and flexible basis for the formulation of policy and decision-making. These four imperatives also reflect the vision in the Council approved Corporate Strategic Plan: Peel will be a healthy, vibrant and safe community that values diversity, and quality of life.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment – Sustainability and Energy

December 17, 2008

Therefore, this Plan contains integrated yet flexible goals and objectives that promote sustainable development.

C. Chapter 1: Introduction

Section 1.3: Guide to the Plan

Sub-Section 1.3.6: General Goals of the Plan

Sub-Section 1.3.6 is hereby amended as follows:

3. Policy 1.3.6.1 is amended by deleting the first line and replacing it with the following:

“To create healthy and sustainable regional communities for those”.

4. Policy 1.3.6.2 is amended by deleting the first and second lines and replacing them with the following:

“To recognize, respect, preserve, restore and enhance the importance of *ecosystem* features, functions and linkages, and enhance the environmental”

5. Policy 1.3.6.3. is amended by adding a comma and the word “competitive” after the word “vital” in the first line.

6. Policy 1.3.6.4 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“To *support* growth and *development* which takes place in a sustainable manner, and which integrates the environmental, social, economic and cultural responsibilities of *the Region* and the Province.”.

7. The last paragraph in section 1.3.6 is amended by deleting the second sentence and replacing it with the following:

“However, both the short and long-term economic, social, cultural and environmental implications of inaction must be seriously considered.”

D. Chapter 3: Resources

Section 3.1: Introduction

Sub-Section 3.1.1: Purpose

8. Sub-Section 3.1.1 is hereby amended by adding a third paragraph as follows:

“Energy efficiency and improved air quality through land use and development patterns are important for the health of Peel’s communities, the long term economic prosperity of the Region and protection of the environment. Energy policies that will enable the Region to reduce its current dependence on fossil-based energy sources to alternative or renewable energy systems are being considered. The Plan recognizes the interdependencies that exist in the built and

natural environments and provides opportunities for energy generation facilities to accommodate current and projected needs, where feasible.”

E. Chapter 3: Resources
New Section 3.7: Energy Resources

9. Section 3 is hereby amended by adding a new Section 3.7 entitled “Energy Resources” with the following preamble, sub-sections, objectives and policies.

3.7 ENERGY RESOURCES

In recognizing the unsustainable and adverse environmental, economic and social effects of conventional energy consumption, municipalities have been examining various options and strategies to support complete communities, build a strong Regional economy and conserve a healthy environment. The Region of Peel is a partner with the area municipalities in efficiently managing our energy resources and creating smart energy solutions to sustain a healthy, prosperous and secure quality of life for the people of Peel Region. Three principles will guide the strategic and policy choices towards achieving these objectives. These are, (i) Efficiency: Promoting energy efficient urban and building designs, energy efficient appliances and facilitating alternative modes of transportation; (ii) Conservation: Promoting energy conservation and sustainable development; and (iii) Diversity: Promoting the use of renewable energy systems and providing a diversity of reliable energy sources.

The Region of Peel is a municipal leader in energy efficiency and encourages initiatives by the area municipalities to promote environmental sustainability by investing in sustainable technologies for energy efficiency and programs for reducing waste and conserving energy. The Region recognizes the importance of supporting policies aimed at reducing energy consumption and reliance on carbon-based fuels for energy, and in creating and maintaining a safe and appealing living environment that is in harmony with nature.

Peel Region is supportive of the use of advanced energy-efficient technologies that are consistent with high energy efficiency standards, design features and construction practices. The Region would support measures by the area municipalities to develop innovative green spaces such as green roof technology and designs that will reduce the urban heat island effect; and initiatives to redevelop large industrial sites, including brownfield sites to ensure high levels of pollution control, and to create opportunities for energy conservation. Measures that maximize passive heating and cooling in an area such as utilizing existing or planted natural shade canopies to reduce summer energy use are also important considerations in local planning decisions.

3.7.1 Objectives

- 3.7.1.1 To conserve energy through energy efficient land use design, and alternative renewable energy systems.
- 3.7.1.2 To plan and develop greener, healthier communities by reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions and improving the air quality in the Region.

3.7.2 Policies

Energy Efficiency Programs

It is the policy of Regional Council to:

- 3.7.2.1 Support the continued development of Regional and area municipal programs to conserve energy and improve energy efficiency across all sectors.
- 3.7.2.2 Work in conjunction with the area municipalities to develop programs to retrofit Regional and area municipal owned facilities and buildings in order to reduce energy consumption and air pollution.
- 3.7.2.3 Support district energy systems such as cogeneration and geothermal systems, where appropriate, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.
- 3.7.2.4 Study jointly with the area municipalities and hydro utilities, the potential of broadening the role of the Region to own and/or operate district energy systems.
- 3.7.2.5 Encourage the increased use of electric, hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles. The local production of bio-fuels, such as bio-diesel or bio-ethanol, and bio-gas should also be encouraged where the production of such fuels uses waste biomass and does not consume land that would otherwise be used for growing food.
- 3.7.2.6 Encourage area municipalities in conjunction with local distribution companies, and other agencies to implement programs that would reward homeowners and businesses for investing in energy efficient technologies and reducing consumption.

Energy Conservation

It is the policy of Regional Council to:

- 3.7.2.7 Develop a culture of conservation that supports energy conservation, reduces emissions from municipal, residential, commercial and industrial sources and protects air quality.
- 3.7.2.8 Work jointly with the area municipalities and the Province to promote local clean energy generation, where feasible.
- 3.7.2.9 Support energy demand management to reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiency through appropriate land use and development patterns, site and building designs that promote energy efficient buildings and opportunities for cogeneration and district heating.
- 3.7.2.10 Require area municipalities to incorporate in their official plans policies on energy efficient building and landscape design and construction practices, including orienting buildings to maximize the use of solar and wind energy, as well as carrying out building energy audits and retrofits.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment – Sustainability and Energy

December 17, 2008

- 3.7.2.11 Support policies that promote the creation of innovative green spaces such as green roofs, white roofs, and the use of urban tree canopy to achieve energy efficiencies.
- 3.7.2.12 Promote public awareness and education initiatives jointly with the area municipalities and other relevant agencies, on matters related to energy conservation.

Energy Diversity

It is the policy of Regional Council to:

- 3.7.2.13 Investigate with the area municipalities the need, feasibility, implications and suitable location for solar, wind and bio-energy power as appropriate.
- 3.7.2.14 Promote individual generating systems as accessory structures in consultation with area municipalities.
- 3.7.2.15 Promote alternative or renewable energy generation facilities in the Prime Agricultural Area, Rural Areas and other suitable areas as determined by the relevant area municipality.
- 3.7.2.16 Encourage the area municipalities to evaluate the suitability of the location and land use compatibility of proposed alternative energy systems and renewable energy systems, and specify standards in their official plans and zoning by-laws.

Location of Utility Corridors and Generation Plants

It is the policy of Regional Council to:

- 3.7.2.17 Work closely with the area municipalities, the Province and other relevant agencies, in planning for the future expansion and location of power supply services and communication systems servicing the Region.
- 3.7.2.18 Identify jointly with the area municipalities and relevant agencies, strategic infrastructure study areas well in advance of development to accommodate load growth resulting from projected growth in the population and the economy.
- 3.7.2.19 Require the area municipalities, in conjunction with the Province and the Region, to identify in their official plans, utility corridors for the transmission of energy, communication and the movement of people and goods to meet current and projected needs.

F. Chapter 7: Implementation
Section 7.6: Regional Planning Initiatives
Sub-Section 7.6.2: Policies

Sub-Section 7.6.2 is hereby amended as follows:

- 10. Addition of bold subheading entitled, “Sustainability”

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment – Sustainability and Energy

December 17, 2008

11. Addition of Policy 7.6.2.1 as follows:

“The Region of Peel will apply best corporate *sustainability* practices in its own operations and corporate decision-making that embodies *sustainability* values and principles.”

12. Addition of Policy 7.6.2.2 as follows:

“The Region of Peel prepare a *sustainability* strategy that provides for the most effective and efficient use of Regional resources. As part of the strategy, the Region will develop a *sustainability* framework to be utilized in reviewing the Region’s programs and services.”

13. Addition of Policy 7.6.2.3 as follows:

“The Region will prepare in consultation with the Conservation Authorities, the area municipalities, and stakeholders, a climate change strategy to address both mitigation and adaptation aspects of climate change, including the establishment of targets, policies and programs, to reduce the effects of climate change and minimize adverse impacts.”

14. Addition of Policy 7.6.2.4 as follows:

“With the goal of promoting *sustainable development*, creating healthy communities and a culture of conservation, the Region will prepare green development standards in consultation with the area municipalities and Conservation Authorities that address Regional interests including the optimum and effective use of Regional infrastructure, human services and transportation, protection and enhancement of natural heritage, water conservation and efficiency measures, waste reduction and recycling and other innovative waste management technologies and practices, the use of advanced energy-efficient technologies for Regionally owned buildings and infrastructure, impacts of climate change, contribution towards health and walkability and working towards a culture of conservation.”

15. Addition of Policy 7.6.2.5 as follows:

“With the goal of creating healthy, sustainable communities and a culture of conservation, the area municipalities be encouraged to prepare green development standards, addressing land use and transportation issues, including stormwater management, energy efficiency and district heating as well as other renewable energy opportunities, innovation in the area of planning for green spaces and addressing issues related to the impacts of climate change.”

16. Addition of Policy 7.6.2.6 as follows:

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment – Sustainability and Energy

December 17, 2008

“In order to address the Region and area municipal green development standards, the Region encourages the area municipalities to require proponents to submit a *sustainability design brief* as part of an application for development or redevelopment.”

17. Section 7.6.2.1 is renumbered as Section 7.6.2.7 and subsequent Sections 7.6.2.2 through 7.6.2.20 are renumbered as sections 7.6.2.8 through 7.6.2.26 respectively.

G. Glossary

18. The definition of “sustainable” to be deleted in its entirety and replaced with a new definition of sustainability as follows:

“Sustainability: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

19. Addition of the definition for “Sustainable Development” as follows:

“Sustainable Development: the pursuit of integrating environmental, social, economic and cultural considerations in decision-making. Applying this framework to policy formulation and analysis favours an integrated approach in which these elements are brought together as a forethought in planning and decision making.”

20. Addition of the definition for “Sustainability Design Brief” as follows:

“Sustainability Design Brief: a report that illustrates how the Region and area municipal green development standards will be addressed as part of the development process in order to achieve sustainability principles.”