

REPORT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
1990 MAY 14

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY
ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND ALDERMEN:

SUBJECT: STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR BURNABY

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve the process for preparing a state of the environment report (SOER) for Burnaby as outlined in this report.

R E P O R T

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting held 1990 May 8 received and adopted the attached staff report outlining a process for preparing a SOER for Burnaby.

The Committee therefore submits for Council's endorsement the report outlining the process involved in preparing a SOER for Burnaby.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman J.M. Sawicki
Chair

Alderman D.P. Drummond
Member

Alderman E. Nikolai
Member

Alderman F.G. Randall
Member

Alderman J. Young
Member

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:--Agenda 1990 May 14
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Director Engineering
Director Recreation and Cultural Services
Purchasing Agent

TO: ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1990 MAY 09

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FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

OUR FILE: 00.486

SUBJECT: STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR BURNABY

PURPOSE: To outline a process for preparing a state of the environment report for Burnaby.

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Environment and Waste Management Committee approve the process for preparing a state of the environment report for Burnaby as outlined in this report.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

State of the environment reporting (SOER) is a way of providing a broad, integrated environmental overview of a region (i.e. municipality, province, country, etc.) and identifying specific environmental issues and concerns in the region. SOERs can serve as a type of "environmental audit" similar in function to financial audits. As local and global environmental concerns multiply and become more pervasive, SOERs or environmental audits will become integral parts of our approach to identifying and solving environmental problems such as financial audits are a standard, integral part of the way we conduct business.

The SOER for Burnaby will provide a comprehensive framework for identifying and addressing environmental issues and concerns in the Municipality. Preparation of the SOER will provide opportunities for Council, staff and the community to work together to address environmental concerns in the Municipality. Information in the SOER will play a critical role in ensuring that various activities in the Municipality are undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner. In addition, the SOER may identify specific environmental concerns which are poorly or incompletely understood and require further attention before they can be properly addressed. The SOER will provide information which will assist in the achievement of goals and objectives outlined in the Official Community Plan (OCP) and also be an important source of information that will be used in updating the OCP. In addition, the SOER will complement initiatives related to sustainable development as outlined in the upcoming Economic Development Strategy.

Environment Week 1990 is an opportune time to announce the beginning of work on the SOER for Burnaby. The week focuses attention on the environment. The SOER can build on this by initiating a process that will involve all interested members of the community in identifying and discussing environmental issues and concerns that will influence the future of Burnaby.

At its meeting of 1990 April 10, the Environment and Waste Management Committee agreed that a state of the environment (SOER) report should be prepared for Burnaby and that plans to undertake the SOER should be announced during Environment Week 1990. A further report outlining the process and timetable for preparing the SOER was requested by the Committee.

2.0 PRINCIPLES

State of the environment reporting is a valuable tool for ensuring that environmental issues and concerns are fully considered in all decisions and activities undertaken by the Municipality. State of the environment reporting is based on the following principles:

- o integration of environmental issues and concerns in all Municipal decisions and activities;
- o commitment to sustainable development and a balance between environment and economy;
- o establishment and maintenance of baseline environmental data for monitoring environmental quality;
- o community participation in environmental decision-making and solving environmental problems.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the SOER for Burnaby are:

- o to identify environmental issues and concerns in Burnaby, especially those related to the effects of human activities on the environment;
- o to conduct an inventory/overview of air, water and land quality, land uses, and municipal operations within Burnaby and document existing/anticipated environmental issues and problems;
- o to identify areas where additional environmental information is required;
- o to develop environmental goals and objectives for land, air, and water quality, land uses, and municipal operations within Burnaby;
- o to develop an Environmental Action Plan for Burnaby for achieving environmental goals and objectives.

4.0 MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF SOER

The Environment and Waste Management Committee is charged with providing Council with advice and recommendations on programs and policies "relating to protection, management, enjoyment and quality of the environment." With this mandate, it would be appropriate for the Environment and Waste Management Committee to act as the Steering Committee for the preparation of the SOER. The Steering Committee's responsibilities would include:

- o finalizing the terms of reference and study process for the SOER;
- o participating in a series of community meetings to discuss environmental issues and concerns in Burnaby;

- o working with staff to develop environmental goals and objectives;
- o providing overall guidance for the preparation of the SOER;
- o commenting on draft documents and materials related to the SOER.

Overall coordination of the day to day aspects of the preparation of the SOER would be the responsibility of the Environmental Planner. This would include:

- o working closely with the Steering Committee during all phases of the SOER;
- o organizing and advertising community meetings and citizen involvement in the SOER;
- o coordinating staff input into the SOER;
- o coordinating the preparation of draft materials and final reports related to the SOER.

5.0 PROCESS

A three phase process is suggested for preparing the SOER. Phase I will focus on identification of environmental issues and concerns affecting Burnaby and on preparation of an inventory/overview of air, water and land quality, land uses, and municipal operations within the Municipality. Phase II will involve setting environmental goals and objectives for the Municipality. Phase III will be the preparation of a draft environmental action plan. The process that will be followed to complete each phase is outlined briefly below.

Phase I - Environmental Issues and Concerns; Inventory/Overview

Environmental issues and concerns will be identified through a series of community meetings hosted by the Steering Committee. The meetings will provide an opportunity for interested individuals to express their concerns in writing and verbally. A number of community meetings held at community centres or libraries is suggested. Prior to the community meetings, panels describing the purpose and process for the SOER will be displayed in Burnaby malls with staff in attendance to answer questions and encourage participation in the community meetings. An article about the SOER will be featured in Information Burnaby. Schools, community groups, clubs, etc. will be contacted and encouraged to participate in the meetings.

Each community meeting will consist of an informal open-house session and a more formal discussion period. Panels explaining the purpose of the SOER and the process that will be used to complete the SOER for Burnaby will be displayed at each meeting. Participants will be encouraged to record their specific concerns during the informal open-house.

The second part of each community meeting will consist of a more formal discussion run by members of the Steering Committee. The Committee will briefly describe the purpose of the SOER for Burnaby and then invite individuals to discuss their concerns.

The inventory/overview of air, water and land quality, land uses, and municipal operations will be prepared by staff from Municipal departments who will be intimately involved in all aspects of the preparation of the SOER. The overviews will describe the existing resources and municipal operations and identify existing and/or anticipated environmental issues and problems.

A Phase I report will document the environmental issues and concerns identified during the community meetings and the inventory/overview of existing resources and municipal operations. Areas where information is lacking or incomplete will be clearly indicated in the report.

Phase II - Environmental Goals and Objectives

During Phase II, the Steering Committee will work with staff to develop environmental goals and objectives for Burnaby. These goals and objectives will be as specific as possible. The material in the Phase I report will serve as background information for defining goals and objectives.

The Phase II report will present draft environmental goals and objectives for Burnaby. The Phase I and Phase II reports will be available for review by Council, staff and the public.

Phase III - Draft Environmental Action Plan

The draft environmental action plan will outline an implementation program for achieving the environmental goals and objectives identified in Phase II. The action plan will identify the specific steps/actions such as policies, procedures, bylaws, practices, research programs, public education, etc. which should be put into place to ensure that the environmental goals and objectives are met.

A series of community meetings hosted by the Steering Committee will be held at the beginning of Phase III to obtain public comment on material in the Phase I and II reports and to seek feedback on the environmental goals and objectives and ideas for the action plan. The complete SOER report will then be forwarded to Council for consideration and approval.

6.0 SCHEDULE

Environment Week 1990 would be an opportune time to officially announce plans to prepare the SOER for Burnaby. This week focuses attention on the environment, and the SOER can build on this by indicating Burnaby's commitment to conducting an environmental overview of the Municipality and developing an integrated environmental framework for the future.

The Phase I inventory/overview should commence soon after the announcement of plans for the SOER. Preparation of information and display materials will occur during the summer, and community meetings will commence immediately after Labour Day.

A detailed schedule for Phases II and III will be developed in discussion with the Steering Committee. Staff tentatively believe that the complete process will take 12 to 15 months.

7.0 BUDGET

Phase I expenses related to the community meetings including preparation of display materials, printing of information brochures, equipment rental (e.g. sound equipment), coffee, janitorial services, newspaper advertising, etc. are estimated to be about \$5,000. Funds are available in the Planning Department's budget to cover these expenses.

The intent of the process described here is to prepare the SOER using existing information and staff expertise. Areas where additional information is required to fully understand environmental concerns will be identified in the SOER, and the environmental action plan will address these information requirements. Should information gaps critical to the completion of the SOER be identified, funds for undertaking those specific studies related to the SOER will be identified at that time.



A.L. Parr
DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

for

SG/jp

cc: Director Engineering
Chief Public Health Inspector
Director Recreation & Cultural Services
Purchasing Agent