

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT WEEK 2010 AND THE 2010 ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARDS PROGRAM CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council approve the approach, as outlined in this report, for the planning of this year's Environment Week, scheduled for 2010 May 31 to June 06.
2. THAT Council approve the call for nominations for the 2010 Environmental Awards Program.
3. THAT Council approve an expenditure of \$3,000 from the Council, Committees and Boards' operating budget, for placement of advertisements for the Environmental Awards call for nominations.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on 2010 February 09, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking approval of the preliminary approach for the planning of Environment Week 2010 and initiating the 2010 Environmental Awards Program call for nominations.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Vice Chair

Councillor A. Kang
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Deputy City Manager Director Planning & Building Director Parks, Recr. & Cult. Services Director Engineering Director Finance Chief Librarian Manager, Environmental Engineering OIC, RCMP Fire Chief President, CUPE Local 23
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE **DATE:** 2010 February 03

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 33000-01
Reference: Environment Week

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT WEEK 2010 AND THE 2010 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

PURPOSE: To seek approval of the preliminary approach for the planning of Environment Week 2010 and to initiate the 2010 Environmental Awards Program call for nominations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council approve the approach, as outlined in this report, for the planning of this year's Environment Week, scheduled for 2010 May 31 to June 6.
2. **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council approve the call for nominations for the 2010 Environmental Awards Program.
3. **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council approve an expenditure of \$3,000, from the Council Committees and Boards' operating budget, for placement of advertisements for the Environmental Awards call for nominations.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

Environment Week is an annual national event held during the first week of June to raise environmental awareness and involve citizens in environmental stewardship initiatives to protect and enhance our environment. In previous years, the City, through the Environment Committee, has coordinated a series of participatory events and activities to mark Environment Week that have involved a variety of community groups, businesses, government agencies, CUPE Local 23 and residents. In addition, the City's Environmental Awards Program, which consists of Environment Awards and Environmental Stars, recognizes environmental works and achievements by members of the community. The Environment Awards and Environmental Stars are presented annually during Environment Week, at a reception hosted by the City.

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The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the preliminary approach for planning for Environment Week 2010, scheduled from Monday, May 31 to Sunday, June 6, and to initiate the call for nominations for the 2010 Environmental Awards Program.

2.0 PROPOSED APPROACH

As in previous years, staff have commenced planning for Environment Week 2010 in liaison with the citizen representatives of the Environment Committee. The proposed theme for Environment Week is “Our Food, Our Future”. The overall objective for this year’s program is to encourage community members to explore local and sustainable food opportunities throughout the City. In addition, many popular, long-standing Environment Week program events are proposed again this year, as well as a mix of other new environmental programs and activities. In pursuing this approach for Environment Week, a number of event suggestions have been identified which are proposed to be developed further, including:

Food and Agriculture-Themed Events:

- *Burnaby Farmers Market*
Given its expanding popularity, Burnaby’s Farmers Market is expected to open earlier this year, on May 1st, and is proposed to be promoted as part of Environment Week. Staff would also propose to work with Artisan Markets, the Farmers Market operator, to display material on City environmental programs at the market during Environment Week.
- *Backyard Beekeeping*
At its meeting of 2009 March 23, Council approved a bylaw to permit beekeeping on residential properties. Environment Week provides an excellent opportunity to educate the community about the new bylaw and the role of honeybees in food production and biodiversity. Staff propose to work with community partners to develop educational material on honeybees and Burnaby’s Beekeeping Bylaw, again with the view to making the materials available at the Farmers Market and other events during Environment Week.
- *Organic Waste Collection for Single & Two Family Homes*
Engineering’s Waste Management division is preparing to roll out an Organic Waste Collection program in the summer of 2010 for single and two family homes. This program will provide pick-up of food and other organic waste from houses throughout the City, and would propose to allow for this waste to be composted rather than deposited in a landfill. Staff will showcase the new Organics collection program during Environment Week.
- *Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens*
Burnaby’s Allotment Gardens are located in the agriculturally productive Big Bend Area and provide 372 large garden plots for use by community members. The City has supported the allotment garden since it was first established in 1974, and continues to lease 14.5 acres of City land Burnaby and Region Allotment Gardens Association

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(BARAGA) for a fixed cost at \$1.00 per year. Staff propose working with BARAGA to host a tour of this unique example of urban agriculture.

- *Greener Burnaby Food Services*
Burnaby Food Services (including Deer Lake Catering and City concessions) has made substantial strides in the areas of waste reduction, and fair trade, ethical and organic food sourcing. Staff propose to share information about more environmentally-friendly food purchasing options and waste reduction measures in line with these initiatives.
- *Richmond Park Community Garden*
A new community garden is proposed for Richmond Park in south Burnaby. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department plans to host a public consultation program and ideas charette to coincide with Environment Week.

Other Environment Week Events:

- *Ecosculpture Planting Event*
The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department plans to host a community Eco-Sculpture planting event in Central Park as part of Environment Week
- *Commuter Challenge and Bike to Work Week*
City of Burnaby staff will once again participate in the annual Clean Air Day Commuter Challenge and Bike to Work Week. Promotion of this event will also take place throughout the community through Environment Week advertising.
- *Barnet Beach Evening Paddle*
This free guided trip by kayak, organized by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department, will allow Burnaby residents to explore nature from the water while paddling along Burrard Inlet.
- *Garage Sale/Swap Meet*
Staff are exploring options to facilitate a Burnaby swap-meet or garage sale program during Environment Week to promote reuse of household goods.
- *Still Creek Recycling Depot Open House*
This popular annual event will show-case the recycling services available in Burnaby, and the new organic waste program.
- *Other opportunities*
Other week-long activities to engage the community may include a book exhibit by the Burnaby Library, naturalist presentations, creek clean-ups, invasive species removal and native planting opportunities. Details of these events will follow in the Proposed Environment Week Program report to be submitted in the spring.

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A number of community environmental groups, businesses and agencies also typically plan events for Environment Week, including Burnaby Streamkeepers, Evergreen, school groups, and BCIT. The City has assisted these groups by advertising their events and providing the support and coordination often required for community stewardship events (provision of refuse containers, pickup and removal of large trash items, etc.). It is proposed that staff continue to work with our community partners to include their events in the Environment Week 2010 program.

Promotion for Environment Week 2010 will take place through advertisements in local and regional newspapers, through postings at civic facilities and on the City's web page.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM

The City's Environmental Awards, first presented in 1996, recognize outstanding environmental achievements in six categories: Communications, Community Stewardship, Planning and Development, Youth, Business Stewardship, and more recently, Green Choices.

Through the Environmental Awards Program, the Communications award honours people who increase understanding of an environmental issue in Burnaby; the Planning and Development award highlights exemplary environmentally-friendly developments; the Community Stewardship award identifies Burnaby citizens who are dedicated to environmental stewardship; the Youth award recognizes the contribution of children or teenagers to the environment; and the Business Stewardship category identifies local businesses who have made exemplary environmental achievements. The new Green Choices category, introduced in 2009, honours people who have made an extraordinary commitment to reducing their impact on the natural environment.

As a preliminary step to the presentation of the 2010 Environmental Awards during Environment Week, a call for nominations will be placed in the local newspapers, local libraries, recreation centres, and on the City's web page. Memorandums will also be circulated to stewardship groups and other key community contacts throughout the City. All nominations will be due by 2010 April 9.

It is proposed that the Environmental Awards and Environmental Stars be announced at the regular Council meeting of 2010 May 17. It is also proposed that the awards be presented at a special reception, hosted by Council on 2010 June 6. Past award recipients will be invited to attend, thus providing an opportunity for participants to network and meet others involved in similar activities in their community.

The cost associated with the placement of the advertisements for the call for nominations is approximately \$3,000. As in previous years, the funds are proposed to be drawn from the Council Committees and Boards' operating budget. This report seeks Council approval for the required expenditure from the Council Committees and Boards' operating budget.

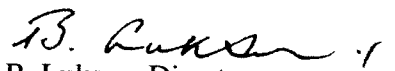
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4.0 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

Corporate sponsorship has been sought in the past for various events, and there is a desire to pursue such support again. Sponsorship provides a valuable opportunity for local, regional and national businesses to actively support community stewardship efforts. As events are designed and coordinated, various businesses would be approached to sponsor specific events or components thereof. With the Committee and Council's concurrence, staff will pursue the possibility of corporate sponsorship, particularly for the Environment Awards reception.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This report outlines an approach for the planning and implementation of Environment Week 2010 (May 31 to June 6). It is recommended that Committee seek Council approval for the proposed approach for this years' Environment Week, based on the theme of "Our Food, Our Future". It is also recommended that Council be requested to approve the call for nominations for the City's Environmental Awards Program. Council's approval for the expenditure of funds in the amount of \$3,000 from the Council Committees and Boards' operating budget would be used to cover the costs associated with advertising the Environmental Awards Program. A detailed report outlining the confirmed Environment Week program of events and associated advertising costs will be presented to the Committee and Council later this spring.


B. Luksun, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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- Copied to:
- City Manager
 - Deputy City Manager
 - Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
 - Director Engineering
 - Director Finance
 - Chief Librarian
 - Manager, Environmental Engineering
 - Officer In Charge, RCMP
 - Fire Chief
 - President, CUPE Local 23