

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: 2011 ENVIRONMENT WEEK AND ENVIRONMENT AWARDS
PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council approve the approach for the planning of Environment Week scheduled for June 05 to June 11, as outlined in this report.
2. THAT Council approve the call for nominations for the 2011 Environment Awards Program, as outlined in this report.
3. THAT Council approve an expenditure of \$4,300 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions' operating budget for the Environment Awards call for nominations' advertisements.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on 2011 February 15, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking approval of the preliminary approach for the planning of the 2011 Environment Week and the Environment 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 Managers (2) Director Parks, Recr. & Cult. Services Director Engineering Director Finance Director Planning & Building Chief Librarian Manager, Environmental Engineering OIC, RCMP Fire Chief President, CUPE Local 23
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2011 February 16

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 33000-01
Reference: Environment Week

SUBJECT: **2011 ENVIRONMENT WEEK AND ENVIRONMENT AWARDS PROGRAM**

PURPOSE: To seek approval of the preliminary approach for the planning of the 2011 Environment Week and the Environment Awards Program call for nominations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council approve the approach for the planning of Environment Week scheduled, for June 5 to June 11, as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council approve the call for nominations for the 2011 Environment Awards Program, as outlined in this report.
3. **THAT** the Committee recommend that Council approve an expenditure of \$4,300 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions' operating budget for the Environment Awards call for nominations' advertisements.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

Burnaby Environment Week is an annual program that promotes environmental awareness by acknowledging and celebrating the significance of Burnaby's environment. As part of this program, the City, through the Environment Committee, coordinates a diverse group of environmental events and activities involving community organizations, businesses, government agencies, CUPE Local 23 and residents. Typically held in the first week of June, Environment Week is scheduled this year from Sunday June 5 to Saturday June 11.

This year will also mark Burnaby's 16th annual Environment Awards. Held in concurrence with Environment Week, this program recognises individuals and organisations that have demonstrated significant contributions to the environment. The program consists of six categories and identifies two designations; Environment Awards and Environmental Stars. Both Environment Award and Environmental Star recipients are recommended by the citizen representatives of the Environment Committee for consideration by the Committee and Council and are formally acknowledged at a reception hosted by the City.

This purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the preliminary plans for 2011 Environment Week and initiation of the 2011 Environment Awards Program call for nominations.

2.0 PROPOSED APPROACH

2011 Burnaby Environment Week provides an opportunity for the public to gain greater awareness of Burnaby's environment by participating in a diverse selection of environmental events and activities in the community. City staff have initiated preparations for 2011 Environment Week including input from the citizen representatives of the Environment Committee. In recognition of the importance of Burnaby's local waste reduction programs, this year's theme is proposed to be 'Waste Reduction – making a difference'. The goal will be to focus on providing greater awareness on the topic of recycling options in the City.

Scheduled activities and events include the Environment Awards reception, community swap-meets, energy conservation events, hiking tours, the Environment Festival and library displays. Other activities may include watercourse clean-ups, invasive plant species removals, habitat restoration events, nature tours and sustainable transportation displays.

A city-sponsored Garage Sale Program is also proposed. To encourage the reuse of household items and reduction of waste, this community-wide program will invite Burnaby residents to host a garage sale on one particular day in concurrence with Burnaby Environment Week. Residents will register their garage sales with the City with staff then promoting all individual sales in the community by listing these registered sales in two local newspaper advertisements, on City webpages and at civic facilities. Accompanying information material on recycling, garage sale tips and participant responsibilities will be provided to residents registering to host a garage sale on their property. City staff are currently reviewing development of this program with an event date tentatively scheduled for Saturday June 11.

The Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Culture Services Department will also be hosting three Environment Week Swap-Meets to promote the reuse of household items in the community. Events are planned for Saturday June 4 at Eastburn Community Centre (Flea Market), Sunday June 5 at Bonsor Community Centre (Flea Market) and Saturday June 11 at Bill Copeland Sports Centre (Car Trunk Sale).

The following outlines preliminary Environment Week activities and events:

- *Burnaby Environment Awards Reception*
The date of the reception will be determined to ensure there is no conflict with members of Council's attendance at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference. This notable awards reception event at Burnaby Lake Pavilion will acknowledge individuals and organizations in the community that have demonstrated a commitment to Burnaby's environment.
- *Burnaby Environment Festival*
This one-day public event will include recycling and environmental information displays, live music and a barbeque. City staff will participate through displays of City environmental program information with a focus on waste reduction options.
- *Burnaby Public Library*
The Burnaby Public Library will also host information displays on this year's theme and provide a venue for a guest speaker.
- *Burnaby Commuter Challenge*
City staff will be invited to car-pool, bike ride, or walk to work on Clean Air Day, Wednesday June 8.

- *Bike to Work Week*
City staff will be encouraged to participate in the Vancouver Area Cycling Association's (VACA) Bike to Work Week (May 30 – June 5). Registrants can record their distances and compare their stats with others. Three coffee stations are expected to be arranged in Burnaby for cycling commuters by the VACA.
- *City-sponsored Garage Sale Program*
A city-sponsored community-wide garage sale program is proposed this year for Saturday 2011 June 11. Participants would be invited by the City to register their garage sale for publication in 2 local newspapers, on City webpages and at civic facilities.
- *Community Swap-Meets*
The Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Culture Services Department will be hosting 3 public Environment Week Swap-Meet events to promote the reuse of household items in the community. Events are planned for Saturday June 4 at Eastburn Community Centre (Flea Market), Sunday June 5 at Bonsor Community Centre (Flea Market) and Saturday June 11 at Bill Copeland Sports Centre (Car Trunk Sale).
- *Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area Hikes*
Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Culture Services Department will be coordinating two guided hiking tours of Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area for the public.
- *Burnaby Employee Energy Conservation Program*
Up to three events organized with City staff will introduce a pilot project for promoting energy conservation including information on Burnaby's recent civic facility energy efficiency improvements.
- *Other Events*
Other activities may also include creek clean-ups, invasive species removal, habitat restoration, energy conservation events and sustainable transportation displays.

Several additional activities for Environment Week include a possible Burnaby Environmental Film Festival that the Green Ideas Network organization has expressed interest in organizing this year. Films would be shown during Environment Week with a focus on this year's waste reduction theme. It is also noted that Hats-Off Day in Burnaby Heights is scheduled for Saturday June 4.

3.0 THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS PROGRAM

Since 1996, the City's Environment Awards Program has acknowledged individuals and organizations that contribute to Burnaby's environmental achievements. The program consists of two designations; Environment Awards and Environmental Stars. Six categories are also identified this year for the program; Business Stewardship, Communications, Community Stewardship, Green Choices, Planning and Development and Youth.

The Business Stewardship category recognizes Burnaby businesses that endorse sustainability in the workplace. The Communication category identifies presentations that assist in increasing the understanding of environmental issues in Burnaby. The Community Stewardship category acknowledges citizens of Burnaby who have been significantly involved in advancing environmental stewardship, expanding public awareness, or have improved the City's environment. The Green Choices category recognizes residents who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to environmentally sensitive choices.

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From: Director Planning and Building
Re: 2011 Environment Week and Environment Awards Program Call for Nominations
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The Planning and Development category identifies commendable environmentally sustainable development and the Youth category acknowledges children or teenagers who have made important environmental contributions.

As an initial part of the Awards program schedule, a call for nominations for the 2011 Awards is proposed to be promoted throughout the City including placement in two local newspapers, on City webpages and at civic facilities. Information will also be circulated to environmental organizations and other community contacts. With the approval of Council, nominations for the Environment Awards will be due Friday 2011 April 15 and award recipients would be announced publicly at the regularly scheduled Council meeting on Monday 2011 May 30. Approval is sought for the expenditure of \$4,300 for the placement of two advertisements each in two local newspapers for the call for nominations. Sufficient funds are available in the Boards, Committees and Commissions' operating budget for this purpose.

4.0 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

Corporate sponsorship has been sought previously by City staff and is anticipated to continue this year with Committee and Council approval. Sponsored events and activities provide opportunities for corporations to participate in community environmental stewardship for the benefit of Burnaby citizens. Last year, Honeywell, Tim Hortons and NorthgateArinso amiably contributed to the Environment Week program and Environment Awards reception. Staff hope for similar involvement again this year.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Environment Week Program recognizes and celebrates Burnaby's environment through the coordination and promotion of environmental activities and events, developed in conjunction with City representatives, for the benefit of Burnaby citizens. This year's theme is 'Waste Reduction - making a difference' with the goal to enhance public awareness of waste reduction options in the City. Further information on this year's Environment Week Program schedule and associated activities will be presented in a further report to Committee this spring.

It is recommended that the Committee seek Council approval for this preliminary approach for 2011 Environment Week and the 2011 Environment Awards Program call for nominations, as outlined in this report.

B. Luksun, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

GB/sla/sa
Copied to: City Manager
Deputy City Managers
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