



BOARD REPORT

REPORT No.: 2022-63

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2022

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 2022-63 (Corporate Services Division) we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board approve the development of a comprehensive environmental sustainability strategy with related financial resources, to be included in the 2023 Budget for consideration.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with information on the development of a comprehensive environmental sustainability strategy.

BACKGROUND

A report has been presented to the Board outlining the green energy initiatives and potential energy savings related to the housing portfolio. In addition, and with a view to expanding the scope of environmental stewardship to all areas of the organization, TBDSSAB has continued to view various operational items through that environmental stewardship lens.

At its November 17, 2021, meeting, the Board requested a report relative to the development of a Net Zero Strategy for TBDSSAB.

A First Report was provided to the Board at its May 19, 2022 meeting identifying a development process for the net zero strategy, as well as options for implementation of a net zero Strategy.

COMMENTS

Subsequent to the May 2022 First Report, Administration continued research into considerations for development of a net zero strategy.

The concept of “net zero” refers to a state in which the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are balanced by removal out of the atmosphere. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded the need for net zero by the year 2050 to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C.

There are 3 scopes to be considered in a net zero strategy:

- Scope 1 – direct owned or controlled emissions occurring at source
- Scope 2 – emissions associated with the production of energy consumed by an organization
- Scope 3 – indirect emissions associated with company activities from sources not owned or controlled by an organization

Currently, Administration informally weighs environmental factors in its operating and capital decision-making. Developing a comprehensive environmental sustainability strategy will require a significant commitment of financial and human resources. The following options were previously provided for consideration, and have been updated with further comments:

Option	Comments
1. Continue with current environmental stewardship strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option would continue to be implemented as/where appropriate, however, does not provide sufficient resources to develop a comprehensive environmental sustainability strategy.
2. Develop a comprehensive environmental sustainability strategy using internal and external resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To coordinate the complex development process for a comprehensive environmental sustainability strategy, additional internal resources are required; • Skills would include research into best practices, project management, process management, data collection and reporting, and environmental stewardship; • Based on the advancement of the comprehensive environmental sustainability strategy, further technical expertise, would also be required as the plan proceeds; • Considering the complexity of environmental stewardship strategies, external resources may need to be available; • External funding opportunities may be available to support initiatives, depending on the criteria/outcomes.

Administration recommends developing a comprehensive environmental sustainability strategy through the addition of internal resources. In addition, these additional resources align with the trajectory of the Environmental Risk now having moved into the *Immediate Focus/ Action Required* category as identified within the Enterprise Risk

Management Framework Update provided at the September 15, 2022, Board Meeting. (Report No. 2022-56 – CS- Enterprise Risk Management – Annual Update).

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

The Practical Vision of the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan included Green, Environmentally-Friendly Housing within the Optimized Housing strategy, which has been further expanded to focus on environmental stewardship across the organization.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The addition of a full-time permanent position would include salary, benefits, technology, professional development, etc. The required costs are estimated at \$110,000 for 2023 and would be included in proposed annual operating budgets.



Subsequent additional resources that may be required would be included in future budgets as appropriate.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that a comprehensive environmental sustainability strategy should be developed with dedicated financial and human resources to be included in the 2023 Budget for consideration.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

None.

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