




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	May 8, 2024
SUBJECT:	Green Building Standards
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Urban Areas - City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Anita Fabac Acting Director, Planning and Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to provide Council with an update on the next round of engagement on the Green Building Standards project. The Green Building Standards, once implemented, will be applied to all applicable residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional development applications within the urban area which will include an assessment tool (Guidebook and checklist tool) to form part of the submission requirements for planning applications.

The proposed Bill 185 currently proposes making pre-application consultation voluntary at the discretion of the applicant and allows an applicant to challenge complete application requirements to the Ontario Land Tribunal at any time. Planning staff will continue to monitor the status of Bill 185 and the effects on implementation of the Green Building Standards.

The Green Building Standards will aid in evaluating development applications through the lens of sustainability, energy and climate resilience by providing performance requirements across a range of Impact Categories. The development of the building standards was influenced by City of Hamilton's current sustainability initiatives and priorities, engagement with interested parties, and provincial policies and regulations.

The Green Building Standards are entering the final phase of engagement. The purpose of the upcoming engagement is to inform the public of the work done to date, while collecting valuable feedback on the draft Green Building Standards, Impact Categories and Performance Requirements.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Summary of Community Outreach and Engagement

The following engagement has been completed for the Green Building Standards project:

Focus Group #1 (October 18, 2023)

Twenty City staff from a range of departments across the city, including Planning, Building, Climate Change, and Public Works participated in Focus Group #1. The purpose of Focus Group #1 was to engage City staff on the project and obtain feedback on the preliminary topic areas for the Green Building Standards.

Focus Group #2 (December 12, 2023)

The following participated in Focus Group #2:

- Staff from Zoning, Development Planning, Development Engineering, Site Plan, Policy Planning, Heritage, Building, Water and Wastewater Systems, Urban Design, Public Health, and the Office of Climate Change;
- External parties such as representatives from Birdsong Hamilton, the West End Home Builders' Association, and Environment Hamilton; and,
- Other interested parties, such as staff from McMaster University and Indwell.

Over 20 participants attended Focus Group #2. Additional interested parties who were invited but unable to attend provided written feedback to the Project Team via email. The purpose of Focus Group #2 was to receive feedback from interested parties on the preliminary performance requirements for the Green Building Standards. Input and feedback received during and after Focus Group #2 was used by the Project Team to inform Performance Requirements and Metrics in the Green Building Standards. Input received also identified the need for subsequent follow-up discussions with City staff to further refine Performance Requirements and Metrics.

Implementation Workshop (February 15, 2024)

The purpose of the Implementation Workshop was to facilitate a discussion with staff to understand opportunities, challenges and gaps that may result from implementation of the Green Building Standards. The approximately 20 participants included City staff who had previously been invited to and participated in Focus Group #1 and Focus Group #2. Additional City staff members were invited to participate based on their area of expertise. The Implementation Workshop was an important opportunity to discuss with staff the Green Building Standards including areas such as updating and reviewing

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internal planning processes, communicating the Green Building Standards to interested parties, training staff and applicants, and/or resourcing third-party review.
One on One meetings with City Staff (December 2023 – March 2024)

Focused meetings with various internal departments and with different subject matter expertise, including staff from Planning, Economic Development, Sustainable Mobility Planning, Water Resources, Infrastructure Planning, and Office of Climate Change Initiatives were held throughout the drafting of the Green Building Standards to ensure alignment with other City initiatives and policies.

Future Engagement Opportunities

Upcoming engagement events include:

Development Industry Workshop (April 24, 2024)

The purpose of this Workshop is to receive feedback on the Performance Requirements and Metrics. Members from various groups within the Development Industry have been invited including but not limited to the Development Industry Liaison Group, Hamilton is Home, and Indigenous non-profit housing providers.

Public Open House (Virtual) (April 25, 2024)

The purpose of the public open house is to inform residents of the work done to date and engage on the Performance Requirements and Impact Categories within the draft Green Building Standards. Residents will be asked for their opinions on what is important to prioritize in addressing climate change and the ways we get there.
Project and Engage Hamilton Webpage and Survey

The City of Hamilton launched the Engage Green Building Standards webpage on April 10, 2024. The Green Building Standards Engage page contains important project related information, including the project phases, timing, important contact information to ask questions and submit comments, and a public survey. The page includes a project timeline and information about past and upcoming consultation and engagement events.

Social Media

The city will be launching the Green Building Standards project to the City's various social media platforms in April 2024. These social media posts will promote and inform the public about the Green Building Standards project and communication and engagement activities. The posts will provide a link to the Green Building Standards Engage page and invite the public to complete the survey.

Next Steps

City staff continue to be available to meet one-on-one with Councillors to review details of the proposed Draft Green Building Standards. A full summary of all engagement carried out for the Green Building Standards project will be incorporated into and appended to a report to Council presenting the proposed Green Building Standards targeted for Q3 2024. An implementation report is targeted for Q4 2024.

Please contact Emily Coe, Acting Manager of Zoning & Committee of Adjustment with any questions or comments or to set up a meeting to discuss the Green Building Standards project at Emily.Coe@hamilton.ca or (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2575.

SCHEDULES AND APPENDICES ATTACHED

Not applicable.