

STAFF REPORT: Planning



REPORT TO: Mayor & Members of Council
MEETING DATE: March 05, 2007
REPORT NO.: PL.07.23
SUBJECT: Renewable Energy
PREPARED BY: Peter Tollefsen, Director of Planning
Elizabeth Bieniek, GIS Coordinator

A. Recommendations

THAT Council does receive Planning Staff Report #PL.07.23, "Renewable Energy" for information purposes.

B. Background

As a result of a series of public meetings in the Fall of 2005, a Policy Options Report was prepared by Jones Consulting and forwarded to Council in January, 2006. On February 27, 2006 Council authorized the preparation of planning policies and provisions to regulate land use impacts for wind, bio-mass and small scale co-generation renewable energy projects and the policies to also address visual impact for a future public meeting.

On October 02, 2006 Council authorized staff and Jones Consulting to conduct a Constraint Analysis and report back to Council prior to preparing Official Plan Policy.

At the February 05, 2007 Council meeting staff gave an update on the Renewable Energy Review Program plus outlined the steps required to complete the work.

The purpose of this report is to give another update to Council of the work done so far on the GIS Constraint Mapping. A presentation of the attached maps will be made to Council on March 05, 2007.

- Map 1: Settlement Boundaries
- Map 2: Topography
- Map 3: Natural Heritage
- Map 4: Niagara Escarpment Plan
- Map 5a: Wind Speed at 80 m. above ground level
- Map 5b: Wind Speed at 30 m. above ground level
- Map 6: Road Setbacks
- Map 7: Residential and Settlement Buffer

Map 8: Trails and Pathways
Map 9: Special Agriculture

Next Steps:

- check data (ground truthing) refinement of maps;
 - analysis of data (what should be a constraint, what not) (what degree of constraint: threshold primary, technical secondary);
 - prepare summary (consolidated) map – overlay of Maps 1 to 9.
1. Report back to Council with the Constraint Analysis
 2. Public Information Session
 3. Prepare Policy for Official Plan and approach implementation tools
 4. Report to Council
 5. Public Information Session
 6. Statutory Public Meeting
 7. Adoption of Official Plan Amendment by Council
 8. County approval.

C. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Two goals of the Strategic Plan are:

“Managing growth to ensure the ongoing health and prosperity of the community”.

- and –

“Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community”.

These are the primary goals of the Renewable Energy Work Plan.

D. Budget Impact

Currently on budget.

E. Attachment

1. Constraint Maps 1 to 9

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Tollefsen, Director of Planning