

Motion Tabled For Council November 13, 2023

Moved by Councillor Schaefer
Seconded by Councillor Asselstine

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario adopted greenhouse gas reduction targets of 30% by 2030, and emissions from buildings represented 22% of the Province's 2017 emissions; and,

WHEREAS buildings with better energy performance provide owners and occupants with lower energy bills, improved building comfort, and resilience from power disruptions that are expected to be more common in a changing climate, tackling both inequality and energy poverty; and

WHEREAS ensuring that all new buildings in the Province of Ontario are built to the highest energy efficiency means that they will not need expensive retrofits in the future and the cost of heating and cooling these buildings will be reduced from the moment they are first occupied; and

WHEREAS Township of King has endeavored to reduce the greenhouse emissions of new private developments in the municipality by creating green development standards to be applied through the site plan approval process to encourage new buildings to have higher standards than current Ontario Building Code mandatory requirements; and

WHEREAS the Township of King is updating its Thinking Green: Sustainable Development program which has the Built Environment as one of its principles which encourages a sustainable built form for a wide diverse range of land uses; and

WHEREAS King has demonstrated commitment to reducing our carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from built structures by building its own facilities to a higher standard including its Municipal Centre opened in 2018 with geothermal and its new Township Wide Recreation Centre with a pool and two hockey rinks to be opened in 2024 as a near zero carbon facility; and

WHEREAS future development within the Township of King would benefit from mandatory energy performance standards that can be economically incorporated into future residential construction and not add substantial costs to projects as to hinder the addition of housing units within the Township; and

WHEREAS the Province stated in February, 2022 that it planned to transition certain green building standards related to building construction (which are currently being implemented through the site plan process) into the Ontario Building Code by the summer of 2023; and

WHEREAS the Province has consulted on advancing harmonization of energy efficiency requirements in buildings by aligning Ontario's Building Code with selected National Code tiers as minimum energy efficiency requirements in the next edition of the Code in 2024; and

WHEREAS that aspects of green standards that are not brought into Ontario's Building Code because they do not involve building construction (including green infrastructure, cool paving, biodiversity, tree plantings, etc) will continue to be optional standards that can be required through municipal by-law and implemented through site plan control; and

WHEREAS during the transition period, until the green standards are authorized in the Building Code the Province anticipates that municipalities will continue to use site plan control to address green standards to the extent possible; and

WHEREAS the Building Code has not yet been amended to authorize these green standards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That the Province of Ontario expedite energy performance green building standard amendments to the Ontario Building Code to provide meaningful energy efficient improvements, in a cost-effective manner, for all future buildings; and
2. That the Township Clerk send a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.