



Regular Meeting of Council  
Addendum

**Date:** November 2, 2023  
**Time:** 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Hybrid meeting- virtual and Council Chambers, City Hall

Council meetings are hybrid, allowing members of Council, city Staff and the public the option of participating remotely, or in person. The meeting is live streamed, and posted to the city's website. For further information please contact [clerks@burlington.ca](mailto:clerks@burlington.ca)

Pages

**5. Delegations:**

- 5.1 *Anne and Dave Marsden will speak regarding Mayors Budget 2024 (MO-02-23)*
- 5.2 *Amy Schnurr representing Burlington Green will speak regarding Mayors Budget 2024 (MO-02-23)*
- 5.3 *Lydia Thomas will speak regarding Mayors Budget 2024 (MO-02-23)*
- 5.4 *Eric Stern will speak regarding Mayors Budget 2024 (MO-02-23)*

**11. Motion to Receive and File Information Items:**

Receive and file Information items, having been considered by Council:

- |      |  |         |
|------|--|---------|
| 11.1 | <i>Delegation notes from Amy Schnurr regarding Mayors Budget 2024 (MO-02-23)</i>                   | 1 - 9   |
| 11.2 | <i>Delegation notes from Lydia Thomas regarding Mayors Budget 2024 (MO-02-23)</i>                  | 10 - 11 |
| 11.3 | <i>Correspondence regarding Mayors Budget 2024 from Bay Area Climate Change Council (MO-02-23)</i> | 12 - 13 |
| 11.4 | <i>Correspondence from Heather Alexander regarding Mayors Budget 2024 (MO-02-23)</i>               | 14 - 14 |



November 1, 2023

Dear Mayor Meed Ward and Members of Council

BurlingtonGreen respectfully requests your consideration of a multi-year funding contribution of \$50,000 annually for services provided to the City, and the Burlington community, for the 2024-27 period.

Our long-established collaboration with the City, with proven results successfully executing a variety of projects, events and initiatives, positions us both well to formalize an extended partnership, providing for increased efficiencies, value-added opportunities and cost savings. With escalating pressures on the environment alongside a growing community, uniting to advance a mutually-beneficial longer-term Agreement could not be more important and timely.

Throughout BurlingtonGreen's 15-year journey, we have successfully managed to secure required funding from a diversity of funding sources, not relying on City contributions (until 2023). However, the funding landscape has shifted, with traditional core funding from other levels of government insufficient to support our ability to provide essential services, keep pace with the steadily growing demands placed on our organization, and to meet established community expectations.

Like all of you, BurlingtonGreen cares deeply about respecting community tax dollars and we firmly believe that the scope and scale of the impactful services our organization provides is more cost efficient than if the City was to comparably deliver. Additionally, unlike the City's support for Regional or Hamilton based agencies, by investing in BurlingtonGreen, the City will have confidence that 100% of the work carried out **will directly support the local Burlington environment and community.**

The proposed annual contribution from the City is not considered to be a *grant* to fund BurlingtonGreen's general operations, instead, all of the funds will be directed to the required human resources, promotions and supply costs **to facilitate clearly defined deliverables with associated KPIs.** The funding will be allocated across 6 community programming areas (page 5), and will **not** be applied to BurlingtonGreen's advocacy work, as we believe it important to respect this arms-length aspect of our partnership.

Providing the largest presence of environment-related programming, services and impact in the City of Burlington, we hope you will recognize our proven track record and the far-reaching value of our vital work by choosing to invest in the following mutually-beneficial service-delivery opportunity.



# Strategic Alignment

Our community engagement and action participation services directly support the City's Vision 2040 strategic directions:

- A City that Grows
- A City that Moves
- A Healthy and Greener City
- An Engaging City

BurlingtonGreen advances **climate mitigation, adaptation and environmental health priorities** through educational programming, outreach engagement, events, partnerships, consultation, and environmental services directly aligned to key plans and priorities of various City departments, across the following areas:





# Proposed Annual Services

## ECO-Hub

The BurlingtonGreen Eco-Hub at the beach serves as the year-round headquarters for our team of staff and volunteers and home to a variety of seasonal programming opportunities promoting environmental education and sustainability.

### **Programming & Events**

- City-wide Community Clean Up (March thru October) including April Earth Day Kick Off Celebration, supply depot services and provision of clean up supply bundles to vulnerable community members via the Burlington Food Bank
- Climate Action Events (1 Transportation & 1 Home Energy) plus web resources and social media campaigns
- Take Action Burlington year-round social media promotions
- Green Up Tree Planting & Care Events (1 Spring & 1 Fall)
- Urban Forest Education & Appreciation Events (Ask An Arborist Webinar and/or Guided Hike + BG's Annual Tree Photo Contest)
- Zero and Eco-Waste Community Collection events (1 Spring & 1 Fall) plus Terracycle Community Collection Hub services
- Healthy Habitat Invasive Removal Stewardship workshops (2-4 workshops Spring & Fall)
- Green Up at Home tips, resources and registration of home stewardship tree planting/care, invasive removals, pollinator projects, plus native plant seed giveaways
- Community volunteer hub and youth drop in centre for eco-action activities (Year-round) community events
- Nature Friendly Burlington – across ages – programming and resources for vulnerable/isolated aging adults in Burlington



## Outreach & Resources

- Visitor services, educational programming at the beach for all ages & community sectors including nature-based experiential learning such as guided waterfront walks, trash art contests, teaching garden and theme presentations
- Provision of informative displays about the Burlington Beach Regional Waterfront Park Master Plan and Lake Ontario protection
- Extensive year-round web and social media tips, resources and promotions pertaining to a variety of locally-focused environmental issues including Get Involved Burlington engagement opportunities



## Environmental Services

- Regular waterfront litter retrieval including sorting to optimize waste diversion
- Collaboration with stewardship partner organizations to execute habitat restoration activities
- Lakefront monitoring for pollutants/hazards



## Climate Action Demonstration Features

Programming will also continue to educate the community about various city climate action initiatives featured at the BG Eco Hub:

- EV Charging Infrastructure
- Air Source Heat Pump
- Cycling/Repair Station
- Multi-use active transportation





# Measuring & Reporting Success

Our community programming and environmental services directly support the advancement of the City's Vision 2040 strategic directions, Burlington's Climate Action Plan, Climate Resilient Burlington, the Urban Forest Master Plan, and the Integrated Mobility Plan.

Progress will be measured across all Service Agreement deliverables including various qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods such as:

- # trees planted and projected carbon absorption values
- # tree species planted (to support canopy diversity)
- # Green Up event participants
- # TLC (Tree Loving Care) stewardship project actions
- # of community volunteer hours / \$value
- # and location of Burlington locations cleaned of litter
- # participants per sector ( residents, schools, businesses, and organizations)
- # educational climate action event(s) participants

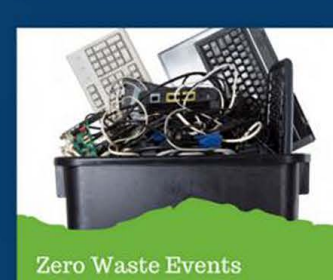


**GHG Impact**



**Participation**

...etc. for each of the 6 program areas below:

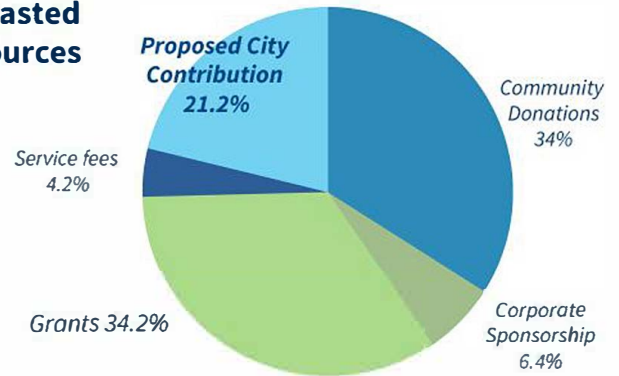


A comprehensive impact report capturing service agreement outcomes will be produced annually, with proposed quarterly touch points with City staff to discuss the ongoing progress of key measurables.

# Financial Snapshot

Grant funding traditionally comprised 65-85% of BurlingtonGreen's operating budget. Reduced Provincial grant funding opportunities that are increasingly competitive, have heightened the need for municipal funding.

## 2024 Forecasted Funding Sources



## 2024 BurlingtonGreen Preliminary Budget Forecast



<b>Annual Carrying Costs:</b>	(rent, insurance, telecommunications, annual audit, bookkeeping, bank charges, HST, website, HR services, post box, Assoc. fees, fundraising)	\$39,000 <b>BG pays annual rent to the City of \$11,664</b>
<b>Environmental Programming/Events/ Services:</b>	(staff, supplies, equipment, marketing) for BG's 3 strategic priority focus areas: 1/low carbon living/complete communities, 2/nature based programming, 3/zero waste/circular economy)	\$250,000
	<b>Projected 2024 Budget Expenses:</b>	<b>\$289,000</b>
	Total Actual/Committed Income:	\$100000
	Total Projected Income:	\$85500
	Proposed <b>City Funding Contribution (per year):</b>	<b>\$50000</b>
	<b>2024 Revenue Forecast:</b>	<b>\$235,500</b>
	Shortfall:	<b>-53,500 *</b>

\* BG diligently pursues additional funding opportunities to close the projected funding gap, and extend impact.

# Our Strategic Plan

While our next 5-year Strategic Plan is currently being developed with a target completion of January, 2024, we've identified that our work to address the escalating climate and ecological crises locally, is likely to continue to focus on the following three environmental priorities, with emphasis on deeper impact:

1. The acceleration of complete communities and low-carbon living with a focus on transportation.
2. The protection of nature, and strengthening local biodiversity.
3. The reduction of waste production through circular economy and zero waste strategies and actions.

The 5-year plan will include financial forecasting, and a human resource succession plan to ensure the Strategy is sufficiently resourced to effectively achieve the annual targets.

We will maintain our long established, effective Awareness, Advocacy & Action approach to advance our mission.

## OUR MISSION

Together with the community, we work to protect the environment, mitigate climate change and create a healthier, more environmentally responsible city.

## FUTURE FOCUS





# Appendix: Our Impact

Some of the accomplishments we have achieved that reflect our demonstrated and measurable impact include the following:

- We have successfully leveraged in excess of \$1.7 million in grant funding to directly benefit the City of Burlington, the health of the environment, green infrastructure, and all sectors of the community.
- We have provided rewarding career opportunities to a diversity of community members, and meaningful skill-building experiences to thousands of local volunteers.
- We have successfully managed more than 100 inclusive projects, events and programs throughout Burlington, consistently on time and on budget.
- We have worked extensively to become recognized as a respected household name in Burlington and as referenced by City Manager, Tim Commisso, our established brand and contributions to the community are *'impossible to duplicate.'*
- We have advocated for environmental justice for more than 155 important local issues, become recognized as the 'go to' organization for local election resources /candidate debates, and we actively serve on various stakeholder groups and organizations such as the City's Climate Action Plan stakeholder group, the Bay Area Climate Change Council, Bird Friendly Hamilton/Burlington, and more.
- We've strengthened Burlington's shrinking tree canopy and improved local biodiversity with the planting of over 72,000 trees and plants, the removal of thousands of invasive species from local habitats, and through Nature Friendly Burlington education programming, events and resources.
- We've tackled large-scale litter prevention, clean up and landfill diversion through the execution of 13 annual city-wide Community Clean Up events, with 130,000+ participants to date; the provision of event greening services at 80+ local festivals and events; and through the introduction of extensive live green resources and the first Shop Local Buy Green Directory.
- We established the first public community garden in the City and have grown and donated almost 9000 pounds of fresh produce to local community members.
- We established the award-winning BG Youth Network and changed lives engaging more than 14,000 children and youth, to help grow the next generation of eco-leaders right here in Burlington.



↳ We proudly brought world-renowned eco-heros such as Dr. Jane Goodall, David Suzuki and Robert Bateman to the Burlington stage for sold out events to inspire and empower thousands of attending youth and community members.

↳ We established the innovative Burlington Transit Youth Ambassador initiative in partnership with the City, and we researched and produced a community-focused E-Mobility Strategy for Burlington.

## BG At The Beach



↳ We secured \$76,000 of provincial funds to directly improve the health of the local environment through the leadership of six major habitat restoration projects at the Burlington beach from 2013 to 2016.

↳ Strengthened local biodiversity and the stabilization of the dune environment by planting 26,000 native plants, shrubs and trees at the beach.

↳ Researched, designed and produced permanent interpretive signs located at the area.

↳ Facilitated hands-on, educational and fun programming for children and youth including nature walks, litter art crafts and recycling relays.

↳ Coordinated extensive litter clean ups along the shoreline for 12 years, and facilitated corporate stewardship workshops.

↳ Produced community outreach displays and locally-focused resources about lake and shoreline protection and stewardship.

↳ Successfully launched a new home at the historic Pump House at Burlington Beach mobilizing more of the community to learn about, protect and care for the environment, while improving the interior and exterior of the building, where it now doubles as a climate action demonstration area.





Good afternoon Mayor Meed-Ward, Chair and Members of the Committee. My name is Lydia Thomas and I live on Filman place in Aldershot Burlington. I am recently retired and am going to speak from the perspective of a senior Burlington resident.

I love Burlington, the location, the parks, the people- ALL the people, including those less fortunate. Over the last 2 years, I have sadly seen an increase in homeless people on corners looking for help from the community. Twice in the last 6 months, I have personally witnessed homeless theft at Maplevue Mall, with people running out of the mall with coats, shirts and even cleaning supplies in their arms. It is heartbreaking and something I have not seen in this lifetime. We are failing them.

Did you know that from 2019 to 2022, the Burlington Food Bank has seen a staggering 94% increase in total visits? That is almost double over the last 4 years. And if that does not shock and motivate us to do better, let's look at benchmarks published by the Food Bank - this 94% Burlington increase in Food bank visits is more than double that of Ontario (43%) and almost triple that of Canada (35%).

And unlike other cities, the Burlington Food bank isn't just supplying food to pocket communities with food insecurities or specific neighbourhoods that are considered poorer than average. No, according to our food bank, Burlington is unique - because our poverty is well hidden and it is found in EVERY demographic. It is every age, every ethnicity, virtually every neighbourhood and every gender and it is caused by financial instability.

Seniors are one of our most vulnerable groups that need support and our highest consideration and we are failing them. In 2022, there was a 312% increase in seniors visits to the Burlington Food Bank compared to 2018. Seniors are a group in our community whose income doesn't change very often, but their living costs have continued to climb. They are forced to tap into resources that they hadn't planned to use or look to sources of money that they should not be accessing. On paper they may look fine but they are struggling and an invisible casualty because their income resources are being slowly tapped out. These tax increases are debilitating for them and could land them on our streets.

My family is one of the lucky ones- we have a beautiful home and enough food such that we do not need to visit the Food Bank. But we are a senior's family facing the same challenges. Our income has remained the same while costs have gone dramatically up. Our retirement plan that we meticulously laid out is out the window. Why ? Because we did not plan for mortgage rates to go up so quickly. We did not plan for food prices to go through the roof despite our efforts to shop at boxed stores and shop the flyers. We did not plan for utility costs to skyrocket despite our best efforts to cut our daily usage. We did not plan for gas prices to go up so quickly forcing us to make do with 1 car. We did not plan for our savings and investments to be eroded due to a slumping economy. And we certainly did not expect the city to kick us when we are down by increasing our property taxes over 7% last year.

And the solution is not to subsidize low income seniors. Because ALL seniors are struggling. ALL seniors have a fixed income while costs have skyrocketed meaning they can't maintain their standard of living. All seniors need help controlling cost increases.

A friend in Oakville was shocked when I mentioned our tax increases in Burlington. Last year his Oakville tax increase was 1.5% and 3.8% this year. Based on those Oakville figures, last year's 7% City of Burlington increase should cover us off with no increases for the next 3 years.

Instead, you are doubling down with another similar increase over 7% this year. Really? Is this the best that the City Council can do for the citizens of Burlington? We the residents of Burlington did not sign up for this. We cannot live like this. We deserve better. We love Burlington but we don't love being forced from our now unaffordable homes. We don't love being forced to make unplanned decisions to uproot our families from the communities and schools and friends we love, to move to a cheaper part of the city or out of the city altogether.

Please prove to us that those that are struggling are not invisible and that you care. **Hold every new spend or inefficiency up against the face of homelessness and the face of those people heading to the Food Bank lines.** Visit these people, take a picture and post it on your office wall. Find another way.

Find a way to self fund projects by: cutting costs, eliminating redundant jobs, finding and correcting inefficiencies, cutting process steps, setting a hiring freeze, negotiating contracted cost reductions, and maintaining rather than increasing salaries particularly for those that are earning over \$100 000.  
Utilize volunteers and good corporate citizens.  
Commit to a Zero tax rate increase for 2024.

Find the way or we will surely be seeing more homeless people on the streets and more neighbours and seniors visiting the Food Bank.

Is this really the vision that you have for Burlington?

Is this really the best that you, our elected officials can do for us?

Thank-you.





Bay Area  
Climate Change  
Council

Bay Area Climate Change Council

**Bayareaclimate.ca**

[info@bayareaclimate.ca](mailto:info@bayareaclimate.ca)

November 1, 2023

Dear Members of Council,

## **RE: Funding for BurlingtonGreen**

The Bay Area Climate Change Council ("BACCC") submits this letter in support of BurlingtonGreen's request for funding. We ask that the City of Burlington make a multi-year financial commitment in support of BurlingtonGreen's impactful environmental work.

BACCC is a multi-sector collective of organizations across Hamilton and Burlington who have come together to catalyze climate action in our communities. Members of BACCC and our implementation teams represent organizations in the municipal, non-profit, education and private sectors, and include citizen and Indigenous representatives. BACCC works to develop and advocate for climate change policies that reduce emissions in buildings, transportation networks, and local industry within the Hamilton and Burlington Bay Area region, in order to reach net zero carbon by 2050.

BurlingtonGreen is the "go-to" grassroots environmental organization in Burlington, with more than 15 years of extensive, impactful, community-based work advancing Burlington's climate and other environmental goals. BurlingtonGreen provides tremendous value to the City of Burlington and its residents through community-engagement and a unique awareness, advocacy, and action approach.

Together, BurlingtonGreen and BACCC collaborate to advance the City of Burlington's ambitious and critically important Climate Action Plan priorities. BurlingtonGreen and BACCC work together to amplify the efforts of our individual organizations, achieving a greater impact than we could acting alone. As a founding member of BACCC, BurlingtonGreen also offers invaluable advisory support to our organization, shaping our mission, function, strategy, and impact.

BACCC fully supports BurlingtonGreen's request for multi-year municipal funding. Funding for environmental organizations like BACCC and BurlingtonGreen is needed now more than ever as the window to act closes, and our communities face the escalating impacts of climate change. The City of Burlington has set ambitious and important climate targets, and our organizations are needed to ensure that we reach our target of net zero carbon by 2050.



Bay Area  
Climate Change Council

[baccc.ca](http://baccc.ca) | [info@bayareaclimate.ca](mailto:info@bayareaclimate.ca)



Bay Area  
Climate Change  
Council

Bay Area Climate Change Council  
**Bayareaclimate.ca**  
[info@bayareaclimate.ca](mailto:info@bayareaclimate.ca)

We thank the Council for its consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further information.

Sincerely,

**Jesse Elders**  
**Manager, Bay Area Climate Change Council**  
[jesse.elders@mohawkcollege.ca](mailto:jesse.elders@mohawkcollege.ca)  
437-290-4825

**Richard Koroscil**  
**Chair, Bay Area Climate Change Council**  
[rk@korlon.ca](mailto:rk@korlon.ca)  
905-531-1900



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Mailbox, Clerks](#)  
**Subject:** Regular Meeting of Council, November 2, 2023 1pm, item#8.1  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 1:38:22 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Regular Meeting of Council, November 2, 2023, item#8.1.

Hello,

This is my written submission.

I do understand that Council's vision includes looking to the future. We all must think of the future. I may live another 20 years so I do realize that the decisions I make today will impact my future.

Unfortunately, Council only seems to be focused on their "vision". For me, Council's attitude is unacceptable. I have no sense that Council is listening. Council's attitude seems to be "my way or the highway".

I am running out of words to try to explain that Council's spending must be in alignment with affordability.

The Mayor's office included in an email to me that the Mayor did not want to be "penny wise, pound foolish". The time has come to update this saying to "Penny wise, Pound wise". That is the fiscally prudent path forward!

Bleeding us dry will not lead to a better future!

Burlington Today's Monday October 30, 2023 article says the proposed tax increase of 7.61% is "not set in stone". I sincerely hope that you are truly considering the Citizen's of Burlington not just your "vision".

Regards,

Heather Alexander  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone