The City of Pickering's Integrated Sustainable Design Standards Project

Public Workshop #1 Summary Report

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For

City of
PICKERING

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Overview

The City of Pickering is developing a revised set of Integrated Sustainable Design Standards (ISDS) for all new developments in the city. This will replace the existing 2007 Sustainable Development Guidelines to reflect the most recent practices and technologies for addressing climate change, water conservation, energy efficiency and other green initiatives for sustainable community building.

Over the course of developing the ISDS, the City is engaging with City Council, a Building Advisory Panel, the development community, agencies, community groups and the public through a series of surveys and workshops to collect input. These engagements will help support the development of the ISDS.

On February 15, 2022, the City and Urban Equation (UE) hosted the first public workshop. During the workshop, UE shared a presentation which introduced the ISDS project. The agenda included the need and benefit of sustainable design standards, an overview of similar standards from The Toronto Green Standard and The Whitby Green Standard, as well as the One Planet Living (OPL) Principles to be used as the framework for the project.

UE also shared key findings of a public survey that ran from January 6 to 24, 2022. More details of the project are available on the "Let's Talk Pickering" website.

This report summarizes the public workshop.

Date, Location, Attendance

The Public workshop took place on February 15, 2022, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, virtually through Zoom. The participants included members of the public and the City's ISDS Project Team.

The Urban Equation team facilitated the session with the help of the City's ISDS Project Team (Grant McGregor, Project Manager, Chantal Whitaker, Manager, Sustainability & Strategic Environmental Initiatives, Kristy Kilbourne, Principal Planner, Sustainability, Melanie Edmond, Coordinator, Sustainability, and Nicole Hann, Public Affairs Assistant).

Key Highlights

- Greenspaces, community gardens, and pedestrian-friendly walkways were highly desired features for living in a sustainable community
- Strong preference towards mandatory versus voluntary standards to ensure developers comply
- Improving navigation and traffic flow for roads especially for new suburbs in Durham Region
- Consideration for different methods of engagement when using virtual platforms for promoting a more inclusive workshop experience

Following the presentation, UE facilitated a Q&A period. The topics from the Q&A session are detailed below:

Greenspaces, Community Gardens & Pedestrian-Friendly Walkways	Participants expressed their desire for more greenspaces, community gardens and pedestrian friendly walkways to be included into development projects. A participant had referenced the Durham Live site, which is currently under development and wanted to know if greenspaces would be included in the project.
Preference for Mandatory Standards	There was preference for a mandatory-tiered approach of green development standards. Participants stated they felt it was very important for action to be taken to address climate change and support further sustainability in communities.
Grid Layout	A participant asked if the City was looking into a grid layout for new developments in the suburbs. The concern was on navigation and traffic flow.
More Inclusive Workshop Space	There was an inquiry to have different features available for engagement in supporting a more inclusive workshop experience. A participant had stated it was difficult to utilize the chat function to post their questions and feedback to the organizers. They wanted other options to support their input.