

Climate Change Town Hall 2011 – Water

Key Points

1. Measures on own property
 - website + information
 - infiltrate storm water – LID
 - Rain water barrels – disconnect– downspouts
 - New developments should require – LID and rain barrels
 - Main source of information and water action
 - Conserve water use
2. Need better data + more education + more policies to manage water e.g. flooding
3. Costs of water
 - Flooding central issue
 - Cost to clean & convey water – true cost accounting (where you live)
4. Need long-term view on the future & need to “connect the dots” save cost in the long-term but savings may not be realized immediately

Discussion

What do you think we, as a community , could do to deal with water and climate change?

- Asphalt and concrete (Mac – used permeable paving)
 - No approved surface: seen on Locke St. (Real Estate Office)
 - Residential permeable paving instead of asphalt
- Solve problem of combined sewer / water
 - Sewer overflows tanks
- Lack of information – need resources (Mississauga has a website)
- Brampton uses permeable pavement on green space
- Discovery centre has swales between parking spaces – biofilters
- Acceleration - 50 years rain events , getting worse – we don't know how much water we're handling (e.g. Into Red Hill Creek)
- More policy on mitigation
 - Storage aspect make owe we store water
 - Hamilton = v. quick system – goes to lake
 - Storm water management
 - Better design
 - Urban design made to insufficient info (e.g. discharge / creek flows)

- Air quality – not taught at planning school - contaminants released to fast flow
 - Toilets – need low flush
 - Are some high rises using them here?
 - Showers + Baths = need training programs
 - Incorporation into planning – energy efficient devices in Portland Oregon required to get have expansion permits
- Cost of low flow toilets = surprisingly low
- Need education
 - Composting toilets
- What's happening in Hamilton on water and climate change?
- CSO tanks: combined sewer / rain (e.g Red Hill Cathedral Park)
 - Some reach capacity and then rain storms hit so get flooding
- Downspouts – there was a program to promote but no longer in place
- Rain barrel program – needed – promote this in schools
- Education piece – website like the waste department building
- Competition (e.g. for gold boxes) through schools
- Moving forward: Educate – website / facebook
- Dedicated to climate change resources at city
- Water Cycle
 - Impacts
 - Usage (treatment)
- Storm water – “Polluter Pays” (owners with large parking lots)
- Ensure proper maintenance of storm water management
- Storm water management

How should we move forward and what do we need to have in place?

- Credit system to address unfair billing (pay actual cost for services i.e. it costs more to live in some parts of the City for example if you need pumped water above the escarpment)
- Better manage severe weather (water issues or flooding)
- New development fee
 - Balance cost of pumping water
- Green roofs – incentives & low impact development
- Infrastructure upgrade
- OPERATIONAL & ADAPTATION
- Divert water for storm events
- Financial incentives programs – rain barrels green roofs
- Rate structure for water, wastewater + storm review to reward efficient use
- Land use planning –sprawl area rating for water + sewer charges
- Full cost accounting – user pay
- Education – carry message of conservation and sustainability to the schools

- Take a long term review on issues
- North American expectations respecting water, electricity + resources in general need to be changed
- More long term thinking holistic view