

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE**Renewal Energy in The City of Toronto****Moved by: Councillor Paul Ainslie** _____**Seconded by: Councillor Brian Ashton** _____**SUMMARY:**

The Province of Ontario has enacted the Green Energy Act, 2009 with the stated goals of building a stronger, greener economy, creating well-paying green jobs, better protecting our environment, combating climate change and creating a healthier future.

A persistent and growing number of Ontarians have expressed serious and numerous concerns regarding the impacts of Industrial Wind Turbines on their health, lifestyle, the operation of their businesses and on their property values.

More than 50 municipalities throughout Ontario have passed resolutions expressing significant concerns that the goals of the Green Energy Act, 2009 to provide safe, economic and environmentally responsible renewable energy may not be achieved through the deployment of Industrial Wind Turbine technology.

The Green Energy Act, 2009 has excluded these municipalities from acting in any direct way to address concerns relating to the public interests in comprehensive municipal planning, public health, infrastructure expansion and environmental assessment and thereby limiting their ability to manage the impacts of wind power projects on their communities.

The Province is in the early stages of deploying Industrial Wind Turbine Technology which, at present is contributing a limited benefit to Ontario's total renewable energy needs and as such is at an opportune point to pause further deployment to investigate these public concerns. Any potential loss of green house gas emission reductions can be realized through existing zero emission generating capacity.

The Act now places the onus on concerned Ontarians to demonstrate the validity and the severity of their concerns rather than on the Province or the applicant in matters of appeal. The Province has shown limited acknowledgment of these concerns through the long term funding of a research chair to monitor and research possible health impacts of renewable energy.

The County of Simcoe has passed a resolution in support of a moratorium on wind energy projects until a health study has been completed by an independent third party. It would be a responsible route for the City of Toronto to take and support.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The City of Toronto urges the Province of Ontario to place a moratorium on any new industrial Wind Turbine agreements and on the issuance of new permits to operate Industrial Wind Turbine facilities until a comprehensive, public, science-based study of the adverse health effects now being reported by Ontarians can be evaluated and their potential harmful health effects fully understood.
2. The necessary regulations be put in place to ensure no Ontarians is further subjected to determined harmful health hazards in the proximity of Industrial Wind Turbine installations including but not limited to such mitigating measure as mandatory, precautionary setbacks.
3. The City of Toronto consider how best to open timely communication with the Province of Ontario on IWT's to ensure that its Ministries acknowledge the seriousness of the concerns expressed herein and that serious consideration be given to the need for a moratorium.
4. This resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Premier of Ontario, the various involved ministries and Agencies of the Province of Ontario, the office of the Prime Minister of Canada, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, The Rural Ontario Municipal Association, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, local MP's and MPP's and area municipalities.

Date: March 31, 2010

According to Chapter 27, Council Procedures:

Fiscal Impact Statement provided	
Should have Fiscal Impact Statement prior to debate Requires two-thirds to waive requirement if Council wishes to debate	*
Should be referred to Committee/Community Council Requires two-thirds vote to consider at this meeting	
Motion Recommendations are Urgent – (e.g. Health and Safety)	

* Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to advise.

Members should discuss their Motions with appropriate City staff to ensure the correct information is included.