

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2564



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2023-INFO-75
Date: September 1, 2023

Subject:

Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee Pollinator Distribution Project,
File: A01-37

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's (DECAC) Pollinator Distribution Project that took place in Spring 2023.

2. Background

2.1 The role of DECAC is to provide advice to the Region on environmental and climate-related matters. The Committee also has a role in implementing and participating in community outreach programs and stewardship that support environmental awareness and appreciation, as outlined in the 2023 DECAC Workplan.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

3.1 In June 2023, Council considered DECAC's 2023 Annual Report and Terms of Reference through Report #[2023-P-17](#).

- 3.2 In January 2023, Council considered DECAC's 2022 Annual Report through Report [#2023-P-3](#).

4. Pollinator Distribution Project

- 4.1 The Pollinator Distribution Project is intended to raise awareness and protect pollinator health and the important role they play in supporting ecosystems, global food production and sustainability. This is the second year of DECAC's Pollinator Distribution Project.
- 4.2 Pollinator seeds were distributed to residents attending the Durham Region Compost Giveaway events organized by the Regional Works Department. These events took place during April and May in all eight municipalities across Durham.
- 4.3 DECAC members and staff from the Planning Division distributed seed packets to residents of approximately 2,400 households who attended the following events:
- a. Town of Ajax (April 29th, 2023);
 - b. Municipality of Clarington (April 29th, 2023);
 - c. Township of Brock (May 6th, 2023);
 - d. City of Oshawa (May 6th, 2023);
 - e. Township of Scugog (May 13th, 2023);
 - f. Town of Whitby (May 13th, 2023);
 - g. City of Pickering (May 27th, 2023); and
 - h. Township of Uxbridge (May 27th, 2023).
- 4.4 The seed packets included a wildflower mix of annual and perennial native, pollen-producing plant species that are attractive to bees. Bulk seeds were obtained from a local Ontario seed supplier and assembled into individual packets by DECAC members and volunteers.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Goal 1: Environmental Sustainability's objective: To protect the environment for the future by demonstrating leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Following a positive response from residents attending the events in 2022, DECAC was pleased to proceed once again in 2023, doubling the number of seed packets distributed. Many residents expressed excitement in receiving seeds and learning about the importance of pollinators. Some who received seeds in 2022 provided positive feedback on their quality and effectiveness in attracting pollinator populations.
- 6.2 Nearly 2,200 of the 4,215 households attending the Regional Compost Day events across the Region in 2023 received pollinator seeds. Given the success of this project, DECAC looks forward to undertaking the initiative again in 2024.
- 6.3 DECAC members Jay Cuthbertson, Richard Dickinson, Gwen Layton, Keiko Lui, Kim Murray, Muaz Nasir, Shlok Panchal and Councillor Wilma Wotten are to be commended for the time and commitment they invested in organizing the project, assembling seed packets, and attending events to distribute seeds to residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development