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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: #2024-INFO-42  
Date: June 28, 2024

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**Subject:**

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

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information.

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**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 Giveaway Project that took place in Spring 2024. The Project is in its third year.

**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 2024 DECAC Workplan.

**3. Previous Reports and Decisions**

3.1 In January 2024, Council considered DECAC's 2023 Annual Report, 2024 Workplan and Terms of Reference through Report [#2024-P-2](#).

#### **4. Pollinator Giveaway Project**

- 4.1 The Pollinator Giveaway Project is intended to raise awareness and protect pollinator health and the important role they play in supporting ecosystems, global food production and sustainability.
- 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, May, and June in all eight municipalities across Durham.
- 4.3 DECAC members and staff from the Planning Division distributed seed packets to residents of approximately 2,200 households who attended the following events:
- a. Town of Ajax (April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024);
  - b. City of Oshawa (April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024);
  - c. Township of Brock (May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024);
  - d. City of Pickering (May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024);
  - e. Municipality of Clarington (May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023);
  - f. Town of Whitby (June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024);
  - g. Township of Uxbridge (June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024); and
  - h. Township of Scugog (June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024).
- 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, staff, 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 events in 2022 and 2023, DECAC was pleased to proceed once again in 2024. Many residents expressed excitement in receiving seeds and learning about the importance of pollinators.

Some who received seeds in previous years provided positive feedback on their quality and effectiveness in attracting pollinator populations.

- 6.2 Nearly 2,200 of the approximately 3,939 households attending the Regional Compost Day events across the Region in 2024 received pollinator seeds. Given the success of this project, DECAC looks forward to continuing the initiative again in 2025.
- 6.3 DECAC members Jay Cuthbertson, Kim Murray, Luke Nguyen, and Councillor Wilma Wotten as well as regional staff and volunteers 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

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