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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development
Report: #2025-INFO-47
Date: May 30, 2025

Subject:

Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee Spring 2025 Pollinator Seed Giveaway Project

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Spring 2025 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Pollinator Seed Giveaway Project.

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 [2025 DECAC Workplan](#).
- 2.2 The annual Pollinator Seed Giveaway Project is intended to raise awareness about the important role that pollinators (e.g., bees and butterflies) play in supporting ecosystems, global food production, and sustainability.

- 2.3 Since the inception of the Pollinator Giveaway Project in 2022, seed packets were distributed to residents attending the Region's Spring Compost Giveaway events for the past three years.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 Regional Council considered DECAC's 2025 Workplan and Terms of Reference through [Report #2025-CG-2](#).
- 3.2 An overview of the 2024 Pollinator Giveaway Project was provided through [Report #2024-INFO-42](#).

4. Pollinator Giveaway Project

- 4.1 For this year, DECAC wanted to reach the Region's youngest "green thumbs" by engaging Durham educators at school boards across the region, including:
- a. Durham Catholic District School Board;
 - b. Durham District School Board;
 - c. Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board;
 - d. Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board;
 - e. Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir; and
 - f. Conseil scolaire Viamonde.
- 4.2 Throughout the months of April and May, seed packets were delivered to educators across Durham for use in classroom lesson plans, pollinator garden planting on school property, and to send home with students to plant at home.
- 4.3 An online form was developed for educators to request seed packets and outreach was conducted to school board communications staff. In less than one week, DECAC's inventory of 2,700 seed packets had been claimed by over 80 teachers and school administrators.
- 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.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with the following Strategic Directions and Pathways in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
 - E5. Respect the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, and agricultural lands.
- b. Healthy People, Caring Communities
 - H1. Implement preventive strategies to support community health, including food security.
- c. Resilient Local Economies
 - R4. Protect and strengthen the local agriculture sector and food supply chains.
- d. Strong Relationships
 - S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.

5.2 This report aligns with the following Foundation in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. People: Making the Region of Durham a great place to work, attracting, and retaining talent.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Due to the success of this year's distribution, DECAC plans to continue to offer the Pollinator Giveaway Project to Durham educators in 2026.

6.2 For additional information, contact: Colleen Goodchild, Director of Community Growth at 905-668-7711, extension 2580.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Chief Administrative Officer