

## Executive Summary

In 2018 Brampton completed a visioning exercise, engaging tens of thousands of city residents, businesses, employees and experts. The message was clear; we all want a bold new look for our city and we want our city to be green and environmentally sustainable as it grows.

Achieving the Vision requires substantive changes to the current city trajectory. The vision document recommends creating institutions to take on the role of change agents. The Institute for Sustainable Brampton is one of those organizations. In summer of 2018, members of the Grow Green Network created a task force to look at options for creating the ISB. The task force produced a discussion paper outlining the urgent need for the ISB and the approach for how it would be created and operated.

The importance and urgency associated with creating the ISB is twofold. First, for many Brampton residents and stakeholders, sustainability and the environment is their number one priority as reflected the “geohub brampton” survey that was posted on the City’s website. Second, the journey towards one-planet living represents a significant undertaking that will fundamentally change many aspects of this growing city. Twenty forty is twenty years away and that will pass in a heart-beat. Every moment that goes by potentially moves us farther away from our intended path and makes it more work and significantly more expensive for us to catch up.

To make this journey palatable and realistic the ISB will combine mandates with the proposed Institute for Brampton Enterprise. At over \$4T, the green economy already is bigger than the fossil fuel sector world-wide and growing at more than twice its rate. It is creating high paying jobs and attracting loads of capital. The ISB will help make Brampton a significant player in the Green Economy and create the conditions that will bring green jobs and investments to this City.

Moreover the ISB will help foster the Circular Economy in the City. The Circular Economy makes the most efficient use of raw materials, thereby reducing environmental damage due to extraction and minimizing environmental degradation from waste materials and disposal processes. Fostering the Circular Economy in Brampton would not only create jobs, it would help the City and the Region to achieve its 75% waste diversion target and help create a market for locally recycled materials. It would become the steroidal version of the repair café.

Brampton must differentiate itself from other potential players if it is to be successful attracting green businesses and jobs to this City. An effective way of doing that is for the City to become a ‘Sustainable Communities’ leader and be recognized as such. The role of the Environment Education Centre as part of the ISB will be to help Brampton foster and build that reputation. As part of the City’s Innovation Hub the EEC will be a place where hot topics, critical thinkers and innovative minds come together. It will also be a place where big ideas are conceived, planned and supported.

Completing all of the projects necessary to achieve one-planet living will likely take 20 years. Along the way, it will provide this city with a point of focus, a point of pride and a point of positive reputation. It

will give this City a way to achieve the economic growth that we desperately need without compromising the liveability values that many of us in this City hold so dear.

It also opens the door to funding sources such as the Ontario Carbon Trust and the Federal Low Carbon Economy Challenge Partnership stream that may not otherwise be available to municipal governments the size of Brampton.

It is urgent that we start now. Bold visions call for bold actions. Despite lack of global initiative, many cities around the world have already responded to the environmental challenge in their own way. Some are responding by taking aggressive actions that will help mitigate or adapt to the threat. They may achieve their targets, but they may miss the opportunity for economic development.

Other cities are using the looming environmental crisis as an opportunity to create economic development while reducing environmental risk and improving overall quality of life for its citizens.

Supporting the creation of the ISB puts Brampton firmly in the opportunity camp and in the company of some of the best managed innovative thinking cities in the world.