

CSL council Kyoto resolution not in the cards:

The Chronicle West End Edition *Article online since February 20 2007*

Côte St. Luc city council isn't planning on passing any resolutions soon referring to the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, but would rather take concrete actions to help reduce greenhouse emissions.

Answering questions in council last week on whether Côte St. Luc will eventually be addressing the Kyoto issue given the growing public interest in global warming, Mayor Anthony Housefather told Baily Road resident Avrom Shtern that the City would like to use more than just words when responding.

According to Housefather, Côte St. Luc wants to "to keep promoting programs" that actively encourage ecologically friendly habits by residents, rather than passing Kyoto resolutions "that are essentially meaningless."

He pointed out that Côte St. Luc will be expanding its recycling program to all

residents this year, starting a door-to-door composting project, and that three members of the eight-person council are known for their environmentally-friendly views.

In terms of Kyoto, Shtern, who is a member of Montreal's Green Coalition environmental group, noted that U.S. president George Bush and Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper have "qualifyingly accepted the fact that there are human influences on our climate."

Responding, Housefather said the City of Montreal adopted a Kyoto resolution some years back, although he had doubts that Côte Saint Luc ought to do the same. "I don't know that Côte Saint Luc at this point in time needs to take a stand one way or another on Kyoto," he said, adding the whole climate change question remains controversial.

"I'm not sure that Kyoto's the answer, rather than a commitment to reducing greenhouse emissions. Certainly the City will do whatever we can within our powers to promote a proper green environment."

In an interview, Shtern said he didn't agree completely with Housefather's

contention that a Kyoto resolution would be meaningless. "It will show the upper levels of government, i.e. the Province and the feds, that there are governments in Canada that are serious about global climate change and the environment in general," he said.

"The Green Coalition, for one, believes that if numerous or hundreds of municipalities or town in Canada would pass such

resolutions — and they have in other parts of the country — that the city or town itself will find that they wish to follow more

environmentally-friendly standards, and that it'll show the public as well as senior levels of government that this is serious business," Shtern added.