



A local network of businesses and organizations
leading the way in sustainability

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

May, 31, 2017

www.climatewise.ca

@ClimateWiseBN

York Region, Ontario Canada



ClimateWise Business Network Launch Event — Aw,Shucks! Oyster Bar & Bistro in Aurora Ontario, September 20, 2016

CLIMATEWISE LAUNCHES

Support for business in the transition to the low-carbon economy

ClimateWise Business Network celebrated its official launch in September 2016, after over two years of program development and community consultations.

In attendance were the newly hired ClimateWise team, friends of Windfall Ecology Centre and four Founding Members of ClimateWise: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, the City of Vaughan, PowerStream (now Alectra) and York Region.

**Harvard
Business
Review**



Sustainability should be a touchstone for all innovation...
In the future, only companies that make sustainability a
goal will achieve competitive advantage.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is with great pride that I write this introduction to the First Annual Report of our ClimateWise Business Network. A project that has been several years in the making and one that has been collaboratively shaped, beginning with the creative team at Windfall Ecology Centre and joined by our generous stakeholder groups, founding members, community partners, and our friends at Sustainability CoLab. We are moving forward with confidence in pursuit of our vision of healthy communities, where economic, social, and environmental needs achieve balance through social innovation, community partnership, and from this point forward for ClimateWise... community action.

Global scientific consensus is that runaway Climate Change will have calamitous outcomes for humanity. Ontario's Environmental Commissioner recently reported it is already affecting Ontario's communities...something that has become painfully obvious to many observers as long predicted climatic events break records for frequency, ferocity, loss of life, and destruction of property.

As someone who became engaged in the Climate Change discussion in the mid eighties and later upended my career path midlife to establish an NGO dedicated to demonstrating climate solutions, I can say that I have never been more hopeful for a happy conclusion to this global challenge than I am today.

The good news is that there are clear pathways forward to slow and potentially reverse atmospheric damage largely caused by humans burning fossil fuels in accelerating volume for more than 150 years. My optimism begins with the knowledge that technical solutions are being cost effectively deployed today and that global, national, and provincial policy seem more aligned than ever before.

Canada ratified the Paris Agreement in October 2016 joining a worldwide community of 196 nations committing to climate action. Canada followed up with the release of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change and Clean Growth, an ambitious set of policies and measures designed to achieve our commitments under the Paris Agreement. Sub-national governments have played an important role in inspiring action and taking action on climate change and Ontario stands out in the crowd with its own comprehensive Climate Action Plan designed to get Ontario on track to meet its long-term GHG emission reduction target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

It is with that goal in mind that the ClimateWise Business Network was born.

Together, with our business members, their employees, and our many delivery partners, the ClimateWise project builds the business case for sustainability and works to shift how business resource users operate by making sustainability the norm.

– Brent Kopperson, Executive Director, Windfall Ecology Centre



MEMBER OF SUSTAINABILITY COLAB

Across Ontario

8 COLAB NETWORKS **OVER 200** PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES and ORGANIZATIONS

TOGETHER, WE'RE DEMONSTRATING A MORE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY IS POSSIBLE

ClimateWise Business Network is one of 8 social enterprises across Ontario convening networks of businesses setting sustainability targets with the support of Sustainability CoLab. Together we're demonstrating that a more sustainable economy is possible.

“ One aspect of leadership is a willingness to take a risk, to start a conversation. To say something ought to be a priority and lay out a vision for why this is in all our best interest.



This is exactly what Windfall Ecology Centre is doing with ClimateWise Business Network, as they invite forward-thinking organizations to join a sustainability movement in York Region.

In this first year, leading organizations have responded to their invitation - to drive and thrive in Ontario's burgeoning low-carbon economy. These organizations have joined over 200 others across Ontario changing 'business as usual' and demonstrating that a more sustainable economy is possible.

At CoLab, we're keen to continue supporting ClimateWise Business Network, and to share the many success stories to come from York Region and from across the province.

– Mike Morrice, Executive Director, Sustainability CoLab



Maximizing the Benefits of Going Green

ClimateWise Business Network is the premier target-based sustainability program in York Region, developed to provide local businesses with resources and expertise to maximize the benefits of going green. Working with local organizations, ClimateWise is creating a network of business leaders sharing best practices for reducing carbon emissions and increasing profitability.

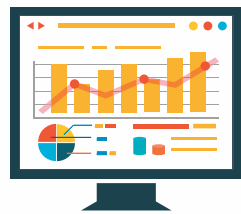
ADAPTING to a Changing Business Climate

LOCALLY-LED

BUSINESS-FOCUSED

TARGET-DRIVEN

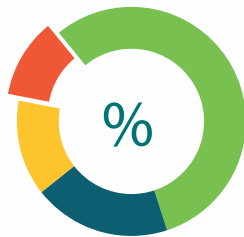
“ In business, we can not manage what we do not measure



MEASURE
Emissions



MANAGE
Emissions



REDUCE
Emissions

THRIVING in a Changing Economy

WHY JOIN CLIMATEWISE

Members of ClimateWise Business Network are supported in evaluating their current baselines, finding areas of greatest need and strategically evaluating projects. Plugging into a local network allows for the exchange of ideas and expertise with the ClimateWise team and industry peers, while progress and success are celebrated for realizing the benefits of going green.

- ✓ One on one coaching and support
- ✓ Learning and networking workshops
- ✓ Premium resources and tools
- ✓ Access to a network of industry leaders and proven solutions
- ✓ Public recognition

ClimateWise has the tools, support and expertise to help you determine:

- What can going green do for my business?
- How can I realize those benefits?
- Where should I start?

**SAVE ON
ENERGY COSTS**

**INCREASE
PROFITABILITY**



**ENHANCE
Your Brand**

PROFITS

EMISSIONS

CLIMATEWISE TIMELINE



2015

2016



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority



Program structure and core services are developed with market research and input from stakeholder workshops

Receive funding from Sustainability CoLab and TD Bank

Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority joins as Founding Member

PowerStream joins as a Founding Member

Municipality of York Region joins as a Founding Member

APRIL

APRIL

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

Secure \$422,500 Grow Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation



The City of Vaughan joins as a Founding Member

Ontario Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario.
Relève du gouvernement de l'Ontario.



York Region Ontario

2017



Official launch of ClimateWise Business Network with four Founding Members

Unveil York Region Business Energy and Emissions Profile, first of its kind in Eastern Canada



Hosts first technical and educational workshops

KPMG joins as a Platinum Event Sponsor

Release first Annual Report

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

JANUARY

APRIL

MAY



Host first ever ClimateWise Evening of Recognition

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR FIRST 8 MONTHS

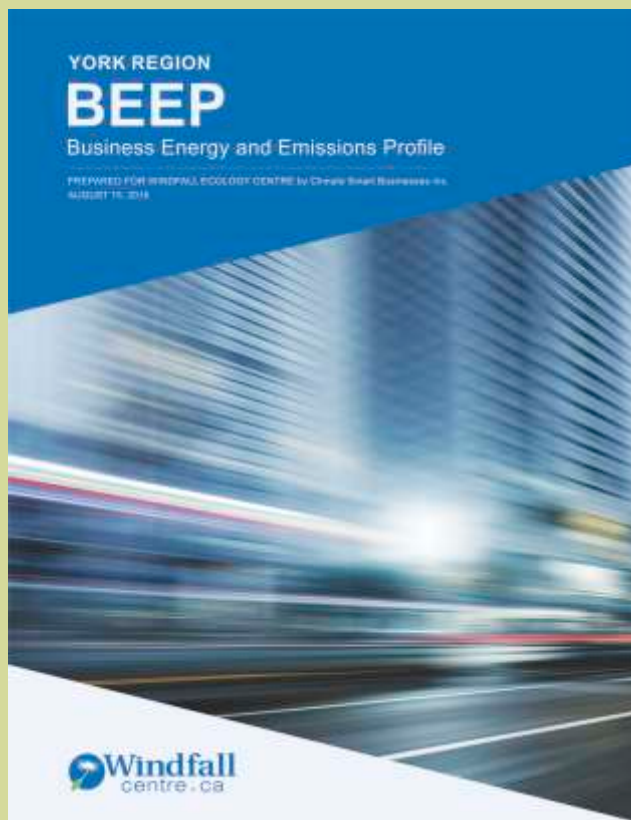
GROWING THE CLIMATEWISE TEAM

ClimateWise officially hired a Program Manager and Communications Coordinator in the summer of 2016 to continue growing and strengthening the Program. New staff members joined the existing team of managers and coordinators dedicated to helping expand the ClimateWise program to businesses across York Region.

CLIMATEWISE HOSTS FIRST EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

ClimateWise hosted the first of its regular technical and educational workshops. Focused on the areas of upcoming regulations and their impact on the business community, the webinars and networking events attracted business leaders looking to learn best practices and connect with experts.

CLIMATEWISE AND WINDFALL CENTRE RELEASE THE YORK REGION BEEP

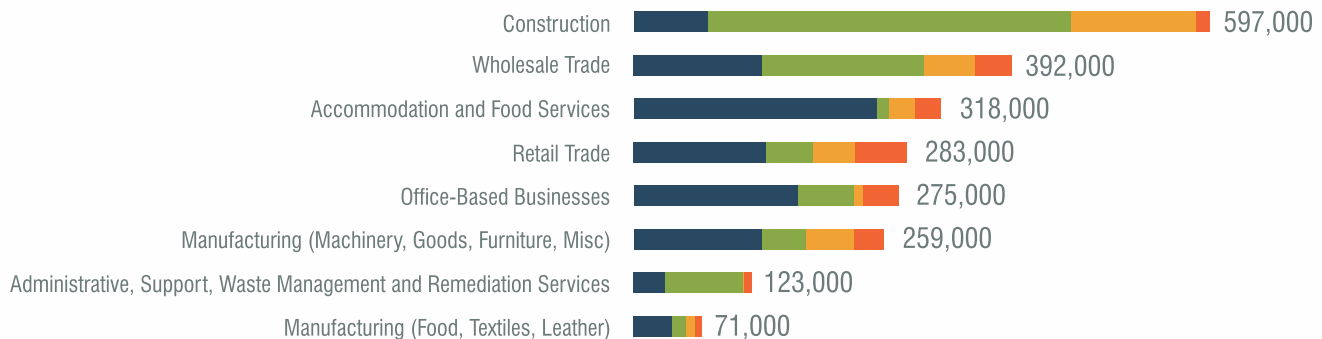


First of it's Kind in Eastern Canada

ClimateWise and Windfall Ecology Centre commissioned a Business Energy and Emissions Profile, or BEEP, to display an analysis of GHG emissions from York Region's business sector. Presenting emissions by industry type, location or business size, the BEEP provides insight and help engage businesses in developing baselines and benchmarks across the region.

York Region Business Energy and Emissions Profile

Total Emissions Breakdown tonnes CO₂e



Emissions by NAICS sector tonnes CO₂e



View the On-line Interactive Dashboard and Download the Full Report:

www.climatewise.ca/beep



“ Attending the educational workshops and technical seminars has allowed Alectra employees to gain a better understanding how upcoming regulations, industry trends and funding opportunities will impact our organization and how to best take advantage of upcoming opportunities.



Almost **35,000 businesses**
are based in York Region.



Almost **500,000 employees**
work within York Region.

The **largest business sectors** in York Region are
office-based businesses, construction,
and **retail.**

Total business emissions
in York Region:
over **3.86 MT** of **C02e**
every year



BEEP

Business Energy and Emissions Profile



**The two largest sources of emissions for
York Region's business community are
natural gas and transportation**

www.climatewise.ca/beep



FOUNDING MEMBERS

Organisations that support ClimateWise Business Network with one-time initial project funding to create a strong foundation for network growth.



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority



Discover the possibilities

MEMBERS

Local organisations who participate in setting a reduction target, measuring their progress and being recognised for their work.





**Reaching over 17,600 employees
in York Region and surrounding areas**

ClimateWise Reduction Framework

The ClimateWise Reduction Framework is a carbon target-setting framework based on the global standard Green House Gas Protocol and lays out the emissions reduction criteria for ClimateWise members.

Simple

An Emissions Reduction Framework that is straight forward and easy to understand.

Accessible

Ensuring the program is accessible to as many organizations as possible.

Credible

Establishing meaningful and verifiable Greenhouse Gas reductions.

www.climatewise.ca/reduction-framework

CLIMATEWISE MEMBERS: LEADING THE WAY IN YORK REGION

Leaving a smaller carbon footprint — for others to follow



SAVED 16,000 kg of CO₂

Alectra focused on reducing idling in vehicles at service centres, and have reduced over 16,000 kg of CO₂, with an annual savings of almost \$5000.



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority

REDUCED
40%



Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority launched a campaign to reduce paper consumption across their operations, and saw a 40% reduction in paper use over just four months.

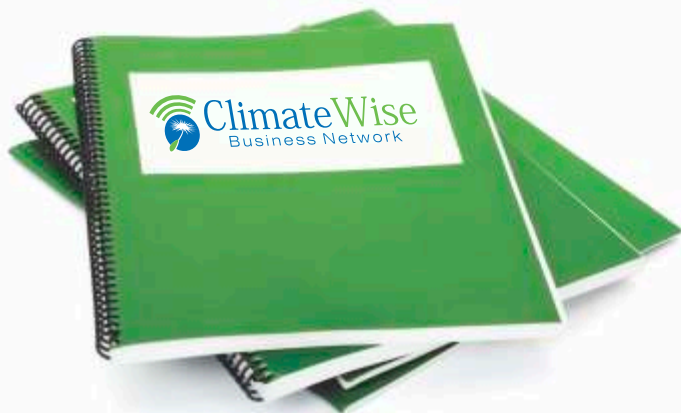


GOING SOLAR

The Regional Municipality of York has installed 3 FIT and 16 microFIT solar rooftop installations, with an objective to double installed capacity of solar rooftop arrays over the next 5 years.



The City of Vaughan has saved over \$130,000 and reduced GHG emissions by 20 tonnes with robust energy efficiency programs.



The Regional Municipality of York (York Region) stretches north from Toronto to Lake Simcoe and includes over 2000 hectares of regional forests and greenbelt lands. York Region's diversity is evident in their nine local municipalities, geography, economic development and population. York Region works to provide residents and businesses access to a broad selection of services and resources.

Highlights

- ✓ Supporting the development in select municipalities for requirements of LEED certification for all future developments, while simultaneously providing incentives for high density LEED development in centres and corridors.
- ✓ Strong legacy as a leader and active participant in SmartCommute programs and events, dedicated to providing and encouraging regional carpool services for employees and staff.
- ✓ Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre which is LEED Platinum certified and was built to meet the Living Building Challenge of having a positive environmental footprint, making it one of eight such buildings around the world.
- ✓ Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan which is a roadmap to achieving the Region's Vision 2051 goal of achieving zero carbon emissions by 2051.
- ✓ Electric bus pilot that will meet transit needs with zero bus emissions.



Why is sustainability important to York Region?

York Region's sustainability strategy is a commitment to creating a sustainable future for current and future residents of York Region. The region focuses on leaving a healthy environment for future generations by evaluating the community, environmental and economic effects of all actions taken. With a focus upon making smarter decisions about lifestyle, community design and infrastructure, York Region hopes to help communities prosper for years to come.

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) is responsible for monitoring and protecting the waters, wildlife, and plants within the Lake Simcoe watershed. The authority's mission is to work with the community to protect and restore the Lake Simcoe watershed by leading research, policy and action. They work year round with community partners to provide scientific investigations into the health of the watershed, and to establish programs to ensure its protection and restoration.

Highlights

- ✓ Implementation of new storm water management program across Lake Simcoe watershed that serves to mitigate flooding risk and increase the health of waterways and infrastructure using bio-mimetic design elements.
- ✓ Launch of new website that provides visitors and community members with interactive tools to educate and advocate for ecological conservation.



What are LSRCA's top future sustainability goals?

The 2016-2018 Strategic Plan identifies priority action areas, which includes continued commitment to greening business operations and implementing a corporate carbon reduction program while publicly reporting progress. The tools and support provided by ClimateWise will help our staff accomplish these objectives.

The City of Vaughan is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Canada. With a population of more than 325,000 people, Vaughan continues to be the place for families and businesses to thrive. Vaughan has a rich history and strong civic pride, and continues to grow into a city all its residents and businesses can take pride in.

Highlights

- ✓ The City of Vaughan has 57 municipal buildings and offices in total, with 11% of all buildings holding green building certifications, including three LEED Gold Certified facilities.
- ✓ Green Directions Vaughan, the City's Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan, identifies over 85 actions to incorporate sustainability into regulatory and operational functions.
- ✓ In 2016, the Mayor and Members of Council adopted the City's Municipal Energy Plan (MEP). Since its approval, the City of Vaughan has installed 2 electric vehicle charging stations to enhance electric mobility and has initiated a collaborative working group with partner utilities to educate residents and businesses on energy incentive programs.



What are your sustainability objectives moving forward?

Execute an LED retrofit of all streetlights as a key component of energy conservation and GHG emissions reduction of City assets. The project will convert over 31,000 exterior lights across the city to LED.

Update the Transportation Master Plan with an increased focus on public and active transportation, including a focus on investing capital to build multi-modal transportation networks in support of carbon reduction goals.

Re-establishing the urban tree canopy is a Term of Council Priority, with over 6,200 trees planted in 2016 alone.

Alectra is a founding member of ClimateWise through one of its four legacy utilities, PowerStream

Alectra's family of energy companies distributes electricity to nearly one million customers in Ontario's Greater Golden Horseshoe Area and provides innovative energy solutions to these and thousands more across Ontario. The family of companies includes Alectra Inc. (Mississauga), Alectra Utilities Corporation (Hamilton) and Alectra Energy Solutions (Vaughan).

Highlights

- ✓ Named one of Canada's Greenest Employers for the third consecutive year.
- ✓ Named as a finalist for Nature Inspiration Awards.



What are the greatest benefits of membership in ClimateWise?

Attending the educational workshops and technical seminars has allowed Alectra employees to gain a better understanding how upcoming regulations, industry trends and funding opportunities will impact our organization and how to best take advantage of upcoming opportunities.

How will ClimateWise be helping your organization moving forward?

The expertise and knowledge taken from ClimateWise will be used to establish and enhance corporate sustainability measures at Alectra.



MEMBERS

SRS Consultants

SRS is a multi-faceted engineering and consulting company, focusing on the core areas of sustainability, energy, carbon, commissioning and intelligent building design. By offering sophisticated engineering, management and analysis and modeling services in each core area, SRS is able to maintain their extensive portfolio of green building development projects.

Why is sustainability important to your organization?

SRS' core values are rooted in global sustainability, hence the commitment to providing clients with solutions that are sustainable, renewable and smart. As a LEED Consulting services provider for leading developers of condominiums, their passion for green building is demonstrated throughout their work.

HiGarden Inc.

HiGarden is a green building design and consulting company that constructs and installs vertical, water-based aquaponic and permaculture systems in indoor office environments. By applying design that utilize the principles of closed-loop ecosystems, HiGarden seeks to maximize social good by providing users with resilient and renewable designs.

What is your vision of the future?

HiGarden's vision is indoor environments that pair reducing the impacts of built structures with the introduction of innovative design elements that invigorate indoor spaces.

What are HiGarden's core values?

The focus upon transforming interior and green building design serves to educate professional designers and the public about how to create healthy and natural indoor spaces.

Nature Harmony Institute

The Nature Harmony Institute is a non-profit organization committed to promoting, facilitating and empowering youth and students to take climate action. With an objective of transforming communities, Nature Harmony Institute offers educational workshops and seminars, community services and student design challenges focused on increasing the sustainability of man-made environments.

What are the guiding principles of the Nature Harmony Institute?

- Reduce the consumption of energy and water resources
- Rebuild ecological resources
- Revive indoor air quality
- Rethink the treatment of waste
- Reinvent interior design



Located in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), York Region is home to 1.2 million residents, 9 cities and towns, 600,000 jobs, 51,000 business establishments and Canada's highest concentration of technology companies. As the fastest growing among Ontario's largest municipalities York Region is a top destination in Canada for business, talent, and investment.

THANK YOU

ClimateWise Business Network's technical working group were fundamental to program design and provided insight in the early days:

Caroline Karvonen

PowerStream Inc.

Cristina Santapaga

IKEA Vaughan

Gabriella Kalapos

Clean Air Partnership

Graham Seaman

City of Markham

Ian McVey

Ontario Climate Consortium,
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Kailyn Smith

City of Vaughan

Theresa MacIntyre-Morris

York Region

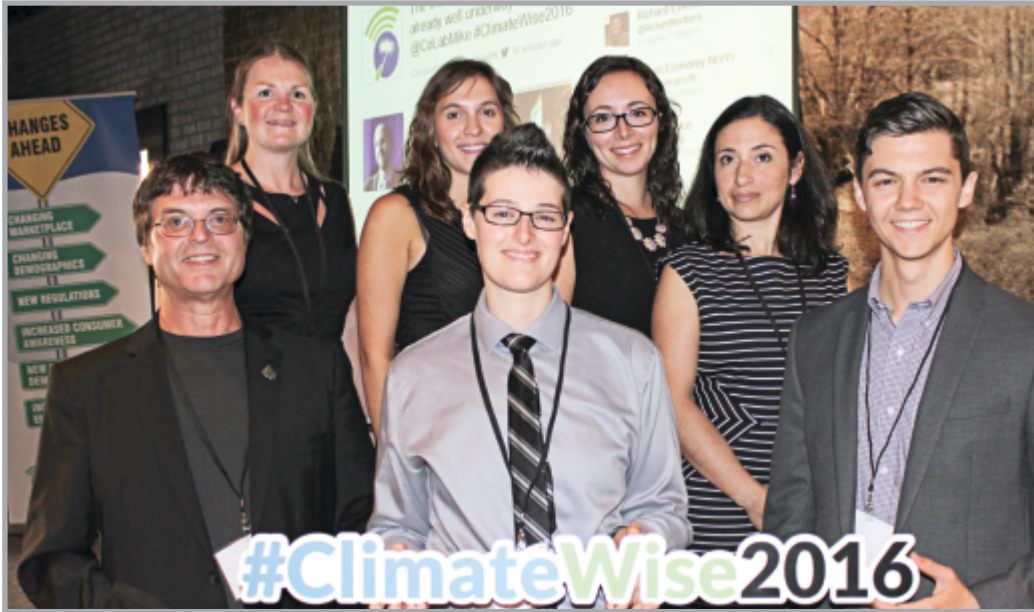
A special thank you to John Taylor, Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor,
Town of Newmarket, for your guidance and support in our first year.

Community Partners



An agency of the Government of Ontario.
Relève du gouvernement de l'Ontario.





Thank you for all your support from the ClimateWise and Windfall Centre team

from left to right:

Brent Kopperson, Executive Director • Jen Atkinson, Managing Director
 Iris Tufa, Program Manager • Stacey Lazette, Program Development Volunteer • Andrea Fallone, Program Manager
 Jodi Cain, Financial Administrator • John McNally, Communications and Business Development Coordinator

Evening of Recognition Event Sponsors

Platinum Sponsor



THIS EVENT IS





WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR PROGRAM

ClimateWise is thrilled with the results of our first year. The incredible support from our Founding members, community partners and CoLab network have set the tone for what the network represents: a collective of public and private sector leaders and influencers at the forefront of the low carbon economy here in York Region. Municipal and corporate partners have helped establish ClimateWise Business Network and have set the stage for the growth of the network with their commitment to sustainable practices.

ClimateWise looks forward to fulfilling our mandate to support organizations of all sectors across the region realize the benefits of sustainability. We celebrate our partners in the community and look forward to growing the network for years to come.



ClimateWise is a program of Windfall Ecology Centre, a non-profit social enterprise inspired by a vision of healthy communities where environmental, economic and social needs achieve balance through social innovation, community partnerships and community action.



ClimateWise Business Network

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