

Edgar Filing: CORNING INC /NY - Form DEFA14A

CORNING INC /NY
Form DEFA14A
March 26, 2007

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant: X

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- X Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to ss.240.14a-12

Corning Incorporated

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

N/A

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- X No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Edgar Filing: CORNING INC /NY - Form DEFA14A

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

- (1) Amount Previously Paid:
- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
- (3) Filing Party:
- (4) Date Filed:

Persons who are to respond to the collection of information obtained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

[The following is being provided by Corning Incorporated to certain institutional holders of CityplaceCorning common stock beginning March 26, 2007.]

March 26, 2007

Dear Shareholder:

We are soliciting your support in opposing a classified board stockholder proposal to be voted on at placeCityCorning's Annual Meeting on April 26, 2007, as well as your support for nominees for election to the board of directors. We wanted to summarize the following items as you consider your vote:

- o Overview of our Strategy
- o Classified Board Proposal
- o Compensation (CD&A)

Corporate Strategy

Corning has a distinctive identity.

- o Corning is the world leader in specialty glass and ceramics.
- o We create and make keystone components that enable high-technology systems in multiple markets.
- o We succeed through sustained investment in R&D, over 150 years of materials science and process engineering knowledge, and a distinctive collaborative culture.

Corporate Strategy

Framework.

Edgar Filing: CORNING INC /NY - Form DEFA14A

- o We grow through global innovation.
- o We understand the implications of this growth strategy:
 - Requires deep scientific and technical talent.
 - Long product development cycles.
 - High capital investment and operating leverage.
 - Growth surges driven by substitution curves of new systems.
- o So we proactively seek to provide balance and stability.
 - Align our financial strategy with our growth strategy.
- o While always Living our Values.

Corporate Strategy

We've aligned our culture and leadership approach.

- o Deliver near-term performance while investing for future growth.
 - Drive operational excellence across all businesses and functions.
 - Nurture early stage research and innovation.
 - Select and pace promising projects ... knowing that not all will succeed.
 - Decide when to place "big bets" on product and process development.
- o Consistent leadership with deep understanding of our innovation recipe and business model.
- o The Board of Directors is an important part of this leadership approach.

Corporate Strategy

The Board is an important part of our leadership approach.

- o What's important?
 - Consistency over time.
 - Diverse knowledge and experiences.
 - Commitment to understanding Corning's technology.
 - Judgment to make and support "big bets".
- o Both our Board and management believe a classified board structure is well aligned with our corporate strategy.

Classified Board Proposal

- o 2006 shareholder proposal.
 - Results: 72.5% yes/no votes cast in favor; 55.6% of outstanding shares.
- o Board reconsideration.
 - Continue to believe classified board is best for Corning.

Classified Board

- o 12 independent (external) directors (year-end 2006).
- o Five directors' terms expire every 3 years.
- o Enhances Board's ability to develop and execute long-term strategy.
- o Ensures ongoing independence of the company.

Classified Board

- o Major innovation requires consistent and patient R&D funding.
- o Our "innovation recipe" requires:
 - Attracting and retaining the best scientific talent.
 - Persistent nurturing of the discovery process.
 - Investing significant capital for manufacturing.
- o A stable BOD helps foster consistency necessary for innovation over

Edgar Filing: CORNING INC /NY - Form DEFA14A

relatively long development cycles.

- Example: LCD glass.

Classified Board

Other Benefits

- o Reduces vulnerability to certain hostile and abusive takeover tactics.
- o Encourages potential acquirers to initiate arms-length negotiations with management and seasoned directors.
- o Prevents quick turnover without paying fair value.
- o Provides directors time and leverage needed to evaluate any takeover proposal and consider all options for maximizing shareholder value.

Classified Board

Corning's Board and management are not stagnant / entrenched.

- o Board acted in 2002 to change CEO.
- o New external directors added:
 - 1999 (1); 2001 (1); 2002 (1); 2004 (1); 2005 (1); 2006 (1).
 - Likely to add 2 in 2007.
- o External directors stepping down/retiring:
 - 2000 (2); 2001 (1); 2003 (1); 2007 (1).
- o Scheduled external retirements will require new directors:
 - 2008 (2); 2009 (1); 2010 (2); 2011 (2).

Our Proxy Statement also contains the new required Compensation Discussion and Analysis (CD&A). The following highlights the structure of compensation for named executives.

Compensation

Corning compensates named executives through:

- o Base salary.
- o Annual cash bonus.
 - Target EPS.
- o Performance restricted shares.
 - Target EPS and operating cash flow.
 - 2 year vesting post earned.
- o Stock options.
 - Granted same time every year.
- o Benefits = All other USA employees.
- o Perquisites.

Compensation

- o CEO targeted at median of peer comparison group.
 - Peer companies will be listed in the new CD&A.
- o Named executives:
 - Target ~70% in equity (options and performance shares).
 - Target ~50% on annual performance (bonus + performance shares).

I hope you will join our Board in opposing the shareholder proposal that seeks to eliminate our classified board, and in electing the nominees to the Board of Directors.

Edgar Filing: CORNING INC /NY - Form DEFA14A

Very truly yours,

/s/ James B. Flaws

James B. Flaws
Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer