



AGENDA
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on Thursday, December 6th, 2012
Meeting at 5:30p.m.
At LOU ROMANO WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

4. **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held November 1st, 2012-attached.

5. **PRESENTATION**

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

6.1 WECEC meeting schedule and attendance - attached.

6.2 Results of meeting with the Parks Department regarding surplus parks

7. **COORDINATORS REPORT**

WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report - attached.

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

8.1 Air

8.2 Transportation

8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

8.4 Water Quality

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Trip to the Detroit Wildlife Reserve

10. **COMMUNICATIONS**

10.1 Article from the Windsor Star dated November 21, 2012 entitled "Climate Change will cost us here, report reveals" - attached.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be January 10, 2013 at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Windsor Essex County Environment Committee (WECEC) Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the WECEC is to provide advice on environmental issues to the City of Windsor, County of Essex and its area municipalities.

Mandate

- WECEC was established as a volunteer advisory committee through resolutions of Windsor City Council and the County of Essex within the meaning of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2005, c.25 (the 'Act')

- WECEC receives referrals to address specific environmental concerns from the City of Windsor, County of Essex and its area municipalities, as well as,

WECEC is proactive and will advise on matters identified through its own initiative.

Scope of Activities

The scope of WECEC will include activities of primary responsibility for which an annual work plan will be developed, such as:

- developing policies for consideration by the City and County regarding ongoing environmental concerns,
- develop responses related to Federal and Provincial actions in public and private undertakings affecting the ecosystem to be forward to City and County Councils,
- identify and examine issues and new alternatives of an ecological nature that may affect the natural environment of the region and to advise City and County Councils on such matters,
- review and provide advice regarding the environmental implications of studies, plans, proposals and other documents as may be referred to the Committee,
- to advise on and recommend studies that could assist in increasing awareness of environmental concerns; solutions to environmental problems and/or enhance environmental conditions in the region,
- report annually on the state of the regional environment, and provide the report to City and County Council,
- liaise with other organizations, committees, and agencies with similar interest in protecting and preserving the natural environment of Windsor and the County of Essex, coordinate partnership funding by collecting funds from organizations, committees and agencies to further collaborative environmental projects and events for Windsor and Essex County,
- participate in other committees where WECEC is required or suggested by the City of Windsor and County of Essex and its area municipalities, and,
- conduct an annual performance evaluation of the WECEC Coordinator

The scope of WECEC may include activities of secondary responsibility that will be conducted in partnership with other organizations, committees and agencies, such as:

- identify and implement community outreach activities which support the growth of environmental awareness and appreciation, provide advice on regional environmental resources,
- provide advice on regional environmental data,

Composition and Selection of Members

WECEC will be comprised of sixteen (16) members of which two (2) members will be from County Council and two (2) members will be from City Council. The remaining 12 members will be from organizations within the following sectors:

Sectors	Number of Members
Health	1
Education	2
Post-secondary students	1
Labour	2
Industry	2
Environment (includes one position for ERCA)	3
Business or Agriculture	1

Operation of the Committee

Meetings will be held monthly and are open to the public. Additional meetings can be called by the Chair.

- In camera discussions will only be held in strict compliance with procedural by-laws.
- Quorum will be established when 9 members are present (50% + 1).
- WECEC will see to achieve consensus on decisions. Recommendations are "carried" if supported by a majority. Only resolutions as they appear in the adopted minutes may be considered as officially representing the position of WECEC.
- WECEC will advise respective staff of the City of Windsor and County of Essex by resolution on matters that were referred to them.

Resources to the Committee

- The Committee will have an annual budget comprised of contributions from the City of Windsor and the County of Essex.
Administrative Support will be assigned through the City of Windsor, Council Services.

Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the establishment of the annual work plan. Any changes will be put forward as recommendations to City and County Council for approval.



- NOVEMBER 2012 -

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee

The subcommittee will speak as a delegate to City Council on Monday, December 3rd when the airport woodlots and open space designation report is brought forward. We will provide an update at the December WECEC meeting.

2. Renewable Energy Media Campaign with Generator Design

This group is in the process of introducing our campaign to potential partners and meeting with interested organizations. Several meetings will be taking place during the beginning of December, and we hope to have a few distinct partners on board before the middle of January. Throughout January, we will continue to reach out to many organizations and companies championing energy conservation.

3. Water Quality Subcommittee

The blue green algae educational video is currently on YouTube and has been watched by over 250 residents. Copies of the video have been distributed to Cogeco as well as some schools. This education initiative will continue to be ongoing.

The subcommittee continues to work on educating residents about the harm phosphorous is causing to our lakes and rivers and plans to begin a community phosphorous campaign. This would build on the blue green algae video by educating residents about how to read product labels such as fertilizer and laundry soap and compare the phosphorous content for various products. The group has talked of getting permission to use phosphorous free lawn signs on city parks as well as handing them out to homeowners to encourage and educate others. Another short video about how to read labels and make informed decisions would be of great benefit to this upcoming campaign.

4. Meeting with the Parks Department regarding surplus municipal parks

A few WECEC members as well as a member of the Windsor Essex Community Garden Collective met with City of Windsor Parks and Recreation staff on November 20th to discuss plans for surplus parks in Windsor. The Parks department presented their approach to consolidate park space in Windsor as currently there are many small parks that have a high maintenance but low functionality.

Any funding from the sale of park space is automatically placed in a reserve account that can only be spent on the acquisition of more park land. The parks department is continually looking for and acquiring property throughout Windsor with the goal of increasing and improving City of Windsor parks. The parks department is aware of and has provided insight into the City of Windsor's Climate Change Adaptation Plan as well as our Urban Heat Island Study. They are also interested in working with the Community Garden Collective to identify parks which would best be suited for community gardens (ie. accessible, access to water, etc.)

WECEC has been added as a stakeholder and will be invited to give input through the public consultation process which will occur for each surplus park. There will be two parks per year that will be put through the public consultation process. The consultation processes for Long Park and South Tilston Park are in progress.

- November, 2012 -

5. WECEC Budget - Summary

201 Budget		
Expense	Credit	Expenditure
2012 Budget	\$8,300.00	
Elizabeth May		\$855.00
Gord Miller		\$875.00
Jim McKenzie		\$81.56
Brochure printing		\$451.00
Earth Day		\$80.00
Website Updates		\$661.00
Website domain renewal		\$76.27
Pat on the Back		\$2,181.55
Airport bills		\$102.00
Enviro Expo Reimbursement	\$409.63	
Water Quality PSA		\$1,497.00
Conservation Campaign		\$1,017.00
Promotion		\$300.00
Phosphorous PSA		\$500.00
Totals	\$8,709.63	\$8,677.38
TOTAL		\$32.25

*Yet to be spent
*Yet to be spent

2013 Budaet	
Expense	Expenditure
Green Speakers Series	\$3,000.00
Pat on the Back Awards	\$2,500.00
Earth Dav	\$200.00
Website Maintenance	\$800.00
Energy Conservation Campaian	\$1,800.00
TOTAL	\$8,300.00
<i>CITY OF WINDSOR</i>	<i>\$4,150.00</i>
<i>COUNTY OF ESSEX</i>	<i>\$4,150.00</i>

*Budget subject to City/County Council approval

Climate change will cost us here, report reveals

More flooding, heat illnesses

CHRIS THOMPSON
The Windsor Star

Washed-out roads, overburdened sewers and a spike in heat-related illness are in Windsor's future and the city

needs to take pre-emptive action in anticipation of damage from climate change, a new report on the subject released Tuesday finds.

The sobering Climate Change Adaptation Plan, approved by city council Monday night, outlines the stark realities in numerical terms - such as a 1 C increase in the city's temperature since 1940 - of how earth's changing climate

affecting the city.

"Some of the climate change data it seems so high-level and global, so sometimes a lot of people just think it's a global issue, it doesn't really mean that much for me or for



Averil Parent

Windsor," said Averil Parent, the city's environment and sustainability co-ordinator.

"So this is a warning to bring it down to a municipal level and actually say this is the actual data related to Windsor, and this is weather events that have happened right here in the city and this is the consequences, or this is the heat, and these are the predictions of increasing heat for Windsor over time. It really

once you put it in a whole more local perspective, it gets a whole lot of people's attention."

Windsor is the second city in Canada to adopt such a plan; Toronto was the first.

Scientists predict that by 2050 the average annual temperature in Ontario will increase by 2.5 C to 3.7 C from the baseline average between 1961 and 1990.

See CLIMATE, A4

A4 Wednesday, November 21, 2012

Climate Recommendations I

CONTINUED FROM A1

Heat-related illnesses place a strain on our health care services and energy used to cool our buildings is expensive," the report states.

"In addition, this shift in the average weather for the region allows for the survival of invasive species and the expansion or introduction of insect vectors that carry disease."

The plan recommends a number of measures to deal with five main impacts from climate change, which are:

- Increased operating and maintenance demands to deal with climate extremes;
 - An increased chance of flooding to basements, roads and other infrastructure;
 - An increase in demand to all areas of operations to respond to severe storms, both during and after;
 - An increase in public health risks due to extreme heat;
 - Implementation of development policies that were created in the absence of climate change considerations.
- It's prompted by kind of a shift in thinking from mitigation of climate change to OK, we're actually seeing the effects of climate change happening on our city, so we need to continue mitigating but we can't just mitigate, we have to actually have to adapt the way we plan our cities because climate change is already happening, said Parent.



Windsor Star, 1/15/12

The Climate Change Adaptation Plan notes that as air temperature increases, so does its capacity to hold water. This can lead to more intense rainfall," as experienced in November 2011 in the 1900 block of Buckingham Drive.

The report notes that as the air temperature increases, so does its capacity to hold water:

"This can lead to more intense rainfall events, which Windsor has already experienced directly including events in 2007 and 2010 which caused severe flooding," the report states.

"In 2011, Windsor experienced the wettest year on record, measuring 1,568 millimetres of rain compared to the average annual rainfall of 844 millimetres.

Increased temperature and intense

rainfall events are two climate change impacts that have resulted in direct costs to Windsor residents through basement flooding and heat-related illnesses.

The plan recommends specific action items for city departments such as the mandatory downspout disconnection program, which is already underway, green roofs, rain gardens, permeable pavement policies, tree planting and sewer use education for residents.

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