



CITY OF WINDSOR
**Environment & Climate Change
Advisory Committee**

Meeting held February 19, 2026

A meeting of the Environment & Climate Change Advisory Committee (ECCAC) is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 140, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Kieran McKenzie, Chair
Councillor Angelo Marignani
Frank Butler
Michael Schneider
Jennifer Nantais
Maria Boada

Regrets received from:

Mike Fisher

Guest in attendance:

Phillippa von Zeigenweidt
Giovanni Abati

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Brana Cesljarov, Supervisor Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change
Amy Nevills, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Councillor Kieran McKenzie, Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:30 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Minutes

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Maria Boada,
That the minutes of the Environment & Climate Change Advisory Committee of
its meeting held October 2, 2025, **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

Confirm & Ratify E-mail Poll

That the results of the e-mail poll conducted on December 30, 2025, approving
the following recommendation **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED**:

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded Frank Butler,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an allocation of ECCAC funds toward the following
undertakings:

1. Up to \$3,500 for Branding Asset and Swag including a New Logo appropriate for a variety of formats and a promotional banner and tablecloth.
2. \$2,000 for WIFF for a 2025 Film Screening Event.
3. \$2,000 to ERCA for a tree planting initiative to be undertaken in partnership with the Committee and the City of Windsor Forestry Department in 2025.
4. \$2,000 for Bike Windsor Essex to support their 2024/2025 Winter Wheels Program.

Carried.

4.1 Allocating Budget for World Migratory Bird Day Event at Ojibway Nature Centre

Jennifer Nantais suggests the purchase of t-shirts with the Bird Friendly Windsor Logo, stickers, and bird friendly window kits (to mitigate window collisions). Discussion ensues regarding the cost of t-shirts and the difficulty to ensure that various sizes are available.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Jennifer Nantais,

That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to allocate funding in the amount of \$1,500 for the purchase of stickers and window kits for use at the Earth Day and the Birds of Anishinaabe Aki Events in 2026.

Carried.

4.2 Environmental Perspectives Survey Results

Amy Nevills, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator provides an overview of the Environmental Perspectives Survey Results as follows:

- The survey is conducted every four years to supplement and strengthen the City's Report on the State of the Environment and ensure ongoing community input informs environmental reporting
- Survey was open from September 17 – October 31, 2025, with 291 responses.
- Respondents were well distributed across all wards.
- The most critical environmental issue that Windsor is facing today is resource usage, i.e. waste, recycling, landfill diversion and single use plastics.
- The City of Windsor residents would like the focus to be on expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.
- The summary of the survey results identified the following:
- Natural areas were identified as the most critical issue that Windsor is facing today.
- Natural areas were identified as the highest priority for the City to focus on.
- Majority (56.7%) of participants are somewhat aware of the City of Windsor's environmental initiatives.
- Majority (54.6%) of participants are somewhat aware of community led environmental initiatives.
- Most of the participants are aware of rebate and incentive programs but majority (55%) of the participant have not used or participated in these programs because they did not think it applied to them, didn't know they existed or too expensive and time consuming.
- Ratings of the environment tended to cluster in the mid-range with 44% selecting fair and 29% selecting poor. Smaller shares rated it positively, including 16.5% as good and one respondent (0.3%) as excellent, while 9% were neutral or unsure.
- Most participants hear about environmental programs through local news, media and social media. Community organizations and word of mouth are moderately common sources while fewer people rely on City of Windsor and other sources.
- Additional Climate Mitigation & Adaptation Projects include:
- Municipal energy retrofits (LED conversions, HVAC updates and ongoing energy management improvements)
- Fleet transitions including hybrid/EV procurement and charging infrastructure at municipal facilities.
- Stormwater and low impact development being implemented through capital projects and development approvals.

- Tree planting and urban canopy initiatives (Urban Forestry Management Plan).
- External climate related funding to support energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction.

In response to question asked by Frank Butler regarding tree planting, as of 2025, the city will be planting 5,000 trees annually. He also suggests planting fruit trees. It is noted that approximately 1,000 old trees are removed annually, which are then replaced with new plantings. As of 2019, the city's tree canopy coverage is 19%.

Maria Boada asks if there are local collaborations with colleges and universities. Amy Nevills responds the city is currently working with schools and presentations at the Alzheimer's Society have been provided.

Michael Schneider applauds the Town of Tecumseh for driving electric buses. At a previous meeting, he requested a report from Transit Windsor as it relates to electric buses. He suggests the use of smaller buses as opposed to 40-foot buses, and electrification.

Councillor Angelo Marignani asks in terms of biodiversity i.e. animals, insects and birds as well as plant types that act as flood mitigation, how do we educate the public. Jennifer Nantais suggests connecting the climate team with the parks team.

The Chair expresses concern that the highest-ranking issue of environmental importance is 3.23 on a scale from 1 to 5. Amy Nevills responds that when you see 3.23 as the average rank, she notes that everything was scattered between different parties but the natural areas was the one that ranked the highest.

Moved by Councillor Kieran McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,
That City Council **BE REQUESTED** to consider ways to increase resources to environmental issues city-wide and further, that resources for other environmental issues **BE INCREASED** in the 2027 budget.
Carried.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Maria Boada,
That the City of Windsor **BE REQUESTED** to undertake work to increase awareness on environmental initiatives, programs and services offered by the City of Windsor.
Carried.

5. Subcommittee Reports

- 5.1 Jennifer Nantais, Chair provided an overview of the Bird Team Subcommittee under Item 4.1 - Allocating Budget for World Migratory Bird Day Event at Ojibway Nature Centre.

5.2 Planning and Environment Subcommittee

Councillor Angelo Marignani, Chair advises there is no report at this time.

5.3 Public Education and Engagement Subcommittee

Maria Boada, Chair reports the Subcommittee is looking to holding some events in late March 2026. She requests funding from ECCAC for refreshments at speed network events. She also requests funding for events such as Earth Day and Open Streets as well as for climate fresks – impacts and solutions.

The Chair proposes that various groups be invited to come before the subcommittees to discuss matters of importance to them.

The Chair asks Brana Cesljarov in which capacity can this invitation be supported by ESCC Team. Brana Cesljarov advises that the process for inviting external groups and organizations to appear before ECCAC, as well as the role of Administration in facilitating such invitations.

Moved by Maria Boada, seconded by Jennifer Nantais,
That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to report back on the processes required to invite environmental organizations to the Environmental Climate Change Advisory Committee.
Carried.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Maria Boada,
That expenditures in the upset amount of \$500. for events to be held by the Public Education and Engagement Subcommittee **BE APPROVED:**

- Speed Network Event
- Earth Day and Open Streets Events
- Climate Fresks

Carried.

5.5 Budget Subcommittee

Frank Butler reports he conducted a “Year End Review & Assessment” and identified a number of obstacles that they had or unfinished files. The Subcommittee looked at recommendations to make them more structurally fluid and viable.

He provides an overview of the protocol for holding meetings including quorum, holding meetings without quorum, holding additional meetings, cancellation of meetings,

rescheduling of meetings, sending out minutes, e-mail polls and the unavailability of the Chair for a meeting. He expresses concern that Legal has not returned to ECCAC to provide an update on a previous matter

Moved by Frank Butler, seconded by Michael Schneider,
That the Chair of ECCAC **BE DIRECTED** to bring forward the Legal Department, and Windsor Police to the Environment & Climate Change Advisory Committee.
Carried.

Moved by Frank Butler, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,

That the Budget Subcommittee recommends:

- That funding to reach 22% be budgeted for tree planting by Parks at a minimum and reviewed early to increase the urban canopy significantly.
- That only native species be planted as part of the overall plan; and
- That the city website be more accessible and user friendly on this program and all other plans.

Carried.

6. New Business

The Chair refers to Earth Day to be held on April 26, 2026, at Malden Park. He adds that swag will be provided at the event. Maria Boada will be available at an information table.

Moved by Michael Schneider, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,
That the Chair proposes that Transit Windsor **BE REQUESTED** to provide a report on the fleet strategy.
Carried.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 7:45 p.m.