

Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee

Meeting held March 19, 2024

A meeting of the Environment & Climate Change Advisory Committee is held this day commencing at 5:00 o'clock p.m. in Room 140, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Kieran McKenzie, and Councillor Angelo Marignani arrive at 5:55 o'clock p.m. (following the Orientation Training)

Glory Aimufua
Frank Butler
Mike Fisher
Masoumeh Mazandarani
Jennifer Nantais
Maria Boada
Kiemia Rezagian

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Karina Richters, Supervisor Environment Sustainability & Climate Change
Barbara Lamoure, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Committee Coordinator calls the meeting to order at 5:55 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.

3.1 Training for Newly Appointed Committee Members

Brett Bulmer, Occupational Health & Safety Advisory provides a Presentation entitled "Occupational Health & Safety Orientation".

3.2 Orientation and Governance Training

Anna Ciacelli, Deputy City Clerk provides an overview of the governance structure for the new members of the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee. The document entitled “Welcome – New Members of Advisory Committees, Working Groups and Expert Panels” is provided to the Members of the Advisory Committee.

4. Election of Chair

The Committee Coordinator calls for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair. Councillor Angelo Marignani nominates Councillor Kieran Mckenzie, seconded by Maria Boada. The Committee Coordinator asks Councillor Kieran McKenzie if he accepts. Councillor Kieran McKenzie accepts and assumes the Chair.

Moved by Councillor Angelo, seconded by Maria Boada,
That Councillor Kieran McKenzie **BE ELECTED** Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee.
Carried.

5. Business Items

5.1 Round Table Introduction

Barbara Lamoure, Environment and Sustainability Coordinator invites the Members to introduce themselves including their names and the organization they represent. The Presentation entitled “Round Table Introduction” is **attached** as Appendix “A” and the following remarks are provided:

The following question is asked – **“What environmental event or issue most impacted you”** and the following responses are provided:

- Water treatment because water is essential for life.
- Conservation of natural areas
- Biodiversity loss and habitat loss
- Waterfront and Little River Watershed, Peche Island – We are here to be stewards of the environment
- Water issues, public transportation, energy and being at the Council table for decision making
- Passionate about aligning with international and regional agreements to ensure targets are met. Wants to ensure that the City of Windsor helps to bring us to that 1.5 degree goal per the Paris Agreement and the sustainable development goals which is a great framework.
- Is impacted by every environmental issue as the environment allows us to breathe, eat and drink.

- The Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee Mandate is reviewed along with the Committee's Duties and Responsibilities.
- Examples of previous initiatives under the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee – Climate Change Emergency, Green Speaker Series, Community outreach events – Earth Day at Malden Park.
- Discussion ensues regarding a new Logo for the Environment & Climate Change Committee and various ideas are provided, including a Request for Proposals or to collaborate with schools.
- Proposal to have strategic subcommittees to work on different initiatives.
- Suggestion for members to review the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee Agendas to be aware of pending environmental discussions to be heard at the Standing Committee and City Council meetings.

5.2 & 5.3 Brainstorming Session: and Discussion regarding Earth Day

Councillor Kieran McKenzie proposes that the Committee's 2024 Operating Budget and potential events/projects be discussed at the next meeting. He advises that some of the events undertaken by the previous committee included tree planting, Pat on the Back Awards and the Green Speaker Series.

In terms of Earth Day, Councillor Kieran McKenzie offers to contact staff in the Planning/Engineering Department to request a large map of the City of Windsor so people can identify where they live (using post it notes) and to indicate what is important to them.

Barbara Lamoure, passes out sticky notes and asks the members to answer the question ***“What are your environmental concerns?”*** The following remarks are provided:

What are your environmental concerns?

- Walkability/active transport
 - Promote active transportation
 - Minimizing vehicle use
 - Uptake of active transportation
- Air pollution
- Capacity building of council & staff on environmental issues
- Checklist of how policy actions impact certain SDGs/environmental issues
- Extreme temperatures
- Climate aligned finance/budgets
- Open government – environmental access to information

- Meeting city climate change goals – GHG reduction
- Increase in green energy in the area
- Changing our energy supply – cleaner/more efficient
- Community energy plan
- Other environmental related projects
- Reducing carbon footprint

- Global warming – Windsor’s season changing, results of change (drought/forest fires, etc.)

- Climate justice
- Environmental justice – access to cooling centres

- Building capacity to environmental issues & its intersection with other topics
- Plastic pollution reduction
- Environmental education and outreach
- Light pollution
- Green development standards

- Embracing sustainable practices of companies in the area

- Changes in federal and provincial legislation

- Indigenous stewardship
- Indigenous engagement and reconciliation

- Water quality in Little River and the Detroit River shoreline
- Water contamination/pollution
- Stormwater financing

- 4 seasons public outdoor places for disabled people
- Children’s playgrounds and their satisfaction, especially during the summer
- Urban heat islands and increasing the amount of greenery
- Sustainable urban development
- Outdoor thermal comfort

- Trees
- Move forward to implementation City Urban Forest Master Plan
- Access to green space
- Use of native plants in future planning
- Land use planning & conserving natural areas
- Habitat protection
- Habitat restoration

- Increase of green spaces & green buffers
- Proper disposal of wastes in garbage & recycling respectively (what percentage of potentially recyclable material ends up in the landfill?)
- Litter
- Biodiversity loss
- Biodiversity protection
- Species at risk
- Bird friendly city initiatives (windows, cats, education)

What can the Committee do to move the needle?

- Climate alliance finance budgets – Senator in Canada – Act to ensure that all budgets and all financial institutions will align with climate commitments. The Committee could request that Council ensure that all budgets are aligned with climate.
- Environmental training for staff and Council.
- When policy motions are put forward, create a checklist that indicates how it aligns to a certain environmental issue.

In response to a question asked by Kiemia Rezagian regarding if the committee can encourage the community to participate in a debate at Council, Councillor Kieran McKenzie responds affirmatively.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie suggests that Old Business, and New Business agenda items be added to future agendas.

Mike Fisher asks if a reading list can be provided to the Committee. Councillor Kieran McKenzie responds there are several Environmental Master Plan documents and adds that the relevant Master Plan documents will be circulated to the Committee.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 5:00 o'clock p.m.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:05 o'clock p.m.

Round Table Introduction

2-3 minutes per person

Introduce yourself – name and organization

Answer - what environmental event or issue most impacted you?

Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee Mandate

The ECC receives referrals from City Administration to address specific environmental and climate change concerns from the City of Windsor. In addition, the ECC is proactive and will advise on environmental and climate change matters identified through its own initiative and will provide community education and outreach on environmental and climate change issues.

ECC will support the development of subcommittees (e.g. Youth Committee, Bird Friendly City, etc), which may include experts external to the ECC, as needed to address specific environmental and climate change initiatives.

The Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee will report to the Environment Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee and City Council.

ECC Duties and Responsibilities

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

- Identify and provide expertise and input on emerging issues and where appropriate, make recommendations to Council for consideration regarding ongoing environmental/climate change concerns;
- Develop responses related to Federal and Provincial actions in public and private undertakings affecting the ecosystem to be forwarded to City Council for consideration and action;
- Discuss new, relevant, or unexplored environmental or climate change issues and propose new alternatives that may benefit the region on such matters;
- Review and provide input on the environmental and climate change implications of studies, plans, proposals and other documents as may be referred to the Committee;
- Consider long-term environmental/climate change issues and acknowledge social and intergenerational equity implications;
- Identify where studies could assist in increasing awareness of concerns and developing solutions to environmental/climate change problems;
- ECC has a delegation policy and can respond to delegate requests or issues accordingly;
- Collaborate with other organizations, committees, and agencies with similar interest in protecting and preserving the natural environment;
- Identify sponsors and partnership opportunities to support events and educational campaigns to further collaborative environmental/climate change projects;
- Champion and participate in municipal initiatives and community activities to further the City's objectives; and
- Flag municipal best practices and federal/provincial policies that may support the City's environmental/climate change objectives.

Examples of previous initiatives under WECEC

- Climate Change Emergency Declaration (2019) and other Reports to Council
- Green Speaker Series – previous speakers include: Dr. David Suzuki, Elizabeth May, and Charles Montgomery
- Pat on the back awards
- Community outreach events – upcoming Earth Day at Malden Park



Windsor Essex County
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE



Earth Day 2024

Looking for volunteers to run the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee booth

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

The theme this year is sustainable mobility

EARTH DAY 2024
Join us at Malden Park!
 Sunday, April 21st, 2024 / 10 am to 3 pm
 4200 Malden Road in Windsor

Come celebrate with us!

- Fun and festivities for all ages - FREE event
- Environmental exhibits / food vendors (food for purchase)
- Scienstational Snakes - our special guests
- Interactive games, free play, and a theatre presentation
- Prizes and giveaways - win a cool sustainability kit or a free bike
- Join us for some learning, laughing and maybe a little bit of treehugging
- Onsite Hydration Station: Bring Your Own Water Bottle




The Earth Day 2024 event is brought to you by



For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/3mr7qAz>

For Future Consideration



New logo:  Suggestions for next meeting

The image shows a placeholder for a new logo. It features the text "New logo:" followed by a large, orange question mark icon. To the right of the question mark, the text "Suggestions for next meeting" is written in a black, sans-serif font.

Brainstorming session

What are your environmental concerns ?

This information will be used to bring forward a list of 2024 priorities for consideration at the next meeting.

Brainstorming session

What can this committee do to move the needle?

This information will be used to bring forward a list of 2024 priorities for consideration at the next meeting.

Thank you for attending!

Bring any questions or suggestions to:

Barbara Lamoure – Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Economic Development and Climate Change

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