



Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee (E&E) was held on September 5, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

Committee Members Present: Councillor Larry McCabe – Chair Presiding, Ken Clarke, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach, Craig Merkley, Anita Jacobsen, Geoff Krauter, Vanni Azzano

Staff Present: Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Sadaf Ghalib – Manager of Climate Change Programs, Emily Skelding – Supervisor of Waste Operations, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Zach Kritzer

Regrets: Sharon Collingwood, Felicity Sutcliffe

1. Call to Order

Councillor McCabe, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgment and a moment of silent reflection.

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Policy.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes – July 18, 2024

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the minutes from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting dated July 18, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Working Group Updates: Ecological, I.C.I. Waste Reduction and Carbon Reduction

Ecological:

Craig Merkley provided the following updates from the Ecological Working Group:

- The main focus of the working group has been on the invasive species management plan, which has now been approved by City Council. They look forward to working with staff to support the management plan;
- There have been many weed pulls over the summer in the Old Grove and along the North Shore. Invasive species in the Shakespearean Gardens have been sprayed and an assessment of the Old Grove has also been completed to plan for additional spraying in that area. Statistics will be provided at year end to report on the amount of invasive species pulled;
- The Invasive Species Council has provided funding for a community engagement project to bring awareness to the invasive species management plan for the City and how citizens can report invasive species. Vanni Azzano will inform members the date of the planned session;
- They are developing a “living with natural areas” brochure for people who live close to TJ Dolan;
- Felicity Sutcliffe has been weeding and maintaining the native grass plantings along TJ Dolan Drive and the area is looking very good;
- The boardwalks for TJ Dolan will be completed later this fall;
- The white line along the native grass plantings will be completed later this fall;

Councillor Burbach inquired about the John Street Weir being placed back in the water and why they decided to put it back in. Craig Merkley stated that he was not aware they were going to put it back in. Councillor Burbach suggested that the E&E Committee could send a letter to the UTRCA to request an update.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Anita Jacobsen

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee requests an update from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority on the progress of the John Street Weir removal. Carried

Vicky Trotter will draft a letter to the UTRCA to inquire about the weir.

Ken Clarke inquired about all the vegetation being cut down along the Avon River. Members speculated that perhaps it had been cut down for viewing of the upcoming Dragon Boat races. Vicky Trotter will inquire with staff as to why the vegetation has been cut down.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction:

No new updates at this time.

Carbon Reduction:

No new updates at this time.

5. Climate Change Program Manager Update

Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Program Manager provided the following updates:

- The Community Climate Action Plan was approved by Council on August 12, 2024 and is posted on the climate action page on the City's website. The management report and the plan are both available on the website. The plan is also posted on the Engage Stratford website;
- Staff has been conducting building audits on (16) city facilities. Seven additional buildings have been approved for FCM funds to conduct feasibility studies and others have retrofits that will be presented in the 2025 budget and subject to Council approval;
- Staff is actively working towards procuring hybrid vehicles;
- Staff is considering adding an emergency management plan from a climate perspective to the 2025 budget. The plan will likely focus on adaptation initiatives such as extreme weather events, heat waves, smoke from wildfires, etc. and how to adapt to these occurrences. Other cities have similar protocols in place and Stratford is considering how to bridge the gap and include this initiative moving forward;
- The EV charging stations project is ongoing and staff hope to have all the new stations installed by the end of November;
- The 2025 budget process has included a climate lens on all aspects;

6. Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) Update

No new updates to report.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

7.1 Update on Remaining 2024 Projects and Budget

- Vicky Trotter reported that the boardwalk project for the TJ Dolan area will be getting underway now that the students are back to school (\$5,000.00);
- the boot brushes for the entrances/exits to TJ Dolan will be ordered once it is determined how much of the budget is remaining;
- there is an amount remaining in the native grass planting budget line for consideration (approximately \$1,500.00).

8. New Business

8.1 2025 E&E Budget Request for Council – Vicky Trotter

Committee members considered various projects and events for 2025 and the funds required to accomplish them.

Motion by Vanni Azzano

Seconded by Anita Jacobsen

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee requests a 2025 budgetary figure of \$17,500.00 from the City of Stratford. Carried.

Community Projects & Initiatives - TJ Dolan improvements, working group projects, invasive species action	\$10,000.00
Naturalization Projects - Shoreline, plantings	\$ 5,000.00
Community Education & Engagement	<u>\$ 2,500.00</u>
	\$17,500.00

9. Upcoming Events

- Climate Conversation Series:
 - Stratford's Community Climate Action Plan – September 26, 2024
 - Transportation in Stratford – October 24, 2024
 - Buildings, Land Use and Adaptation – November 28, 2024(All events to be held in the Auditorium at Stratford City Hall at 7:00 p.m.)

- Household Hazardous Waste Days – September 7, 2024 & October 26, 2024

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road, W., Stratford ON

11. Adjournment

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Geoff Krauter

THAT the September 5, 2024, Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:06 P.M.