



## Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee (E&E) was held on April 3, 2025 at 4:00 p.m., City Hall Auditorium, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford ON

**Committee Members Present:** Mike Sullivan – Chair Presiding, Felicity Sutcliffe, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach, Zach Kritzer, Anna Stratton, Linda Wakenhut, Craig Merkley, Ken Clarke, Julia Schneider, Vanni Azzano, Anita Jacobsen

**Staff Present:** Emily Skelding – Supervisor of Waste Operations, Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Councillor Larry McCabe, Sadaf Ghalib – Manager of Climate Change Programs, Geoff Krauter

#### 1. Call to Order

Mike Sullivan, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

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

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Conduct Statement

#### 2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

#### 3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

**Motion by** Anna Stratton

**Seconded by** Zach Kritzer

**THAT the minutes from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting dated March 6, 2025 be adopted as printed. Carried**

#### **4. Working Group Updates:**

##### **Ecological:**

Craig Merkley provided the following update from the Ecological working group:

- members are continuing to work with City staff and the UTRCA on the entrance signage at T.J. Dolan;
- "Stay on Trail" signage has arrived, locations to be determined and then installed along the T.J. Dolan trail this spring;
- four boardwalk sections and two ramps have been fabricated for the T.J. Dolan trail and four more sections will be fabricated by SDSS students and installed later this fall;
- a community event for invasive species is planned the week of April 13, 2025. They will be targeting Multiflora Rose near the old rail trail as well as various locations around Lake Victoria;
- members have suggested holding a possible open house in May or June for residents who live along the nature areas, specifically T.J. Dolan;
- the large Norway Maple in T.J. Dolan will be taken down this spring;
- members are hoping the white lines can be painted along the multi-use trail this year to protect the native grasses;
- Craig Merkley has been approached by Communities in Bloom to speak about invasive species at their National Symposium, which is being held in Stratford in October 2025.

The invoice for this year's native grass plugs has been received by staff. The final total exceeded the original quote.

**Motion by** Julia Schneider

**Seconded by** Anita Jacobsen

**THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee spends an additional \$200.00 to cover the cost of this year's native grass plugs. Carried**

Julia Schneider is no longer present at the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

## **5. Supervisor of Waste Operations Update**

Emily Skelding, Supervisor of Waste Operations, reported that they received 1034 responses for the waste survey. An RFP for the 2026-2033 waste collection contract will be going out soon.

Staff has started the amendment process to update permits for receiving household hazardous waste as the landfill that will allow them to accept hazardous waste on more days than just Saturdays. The next scheduled household hazardous waste day is being held on Saturday, April 26, 2025 at the landfill, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The transition to the new blue box program continues. The Recycle Coach app will continue to be used by the producers moving forward with the new program. There is no new update on the recycling depot remaining at the landfill at this time.

Four large multi-residential buildings are scheduled to be included in the green bin program in the next two weeks.

## **6. Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) Update**

Vicky Trotter reported on the following from the March 26, 2025 ATAC Meeting:

- members passed a motion requesting Council direct staff to investigate options for a pedestrian crossover in the area of Douro/Downie/Waterloo Streets;
- staff investigated the cost of purchasing bike lockers for a location downtown. Unfortunately, the cost came back at approximately \$5,000.00 and only holds two bicycles. The committee is reviewing alternative options for bike storage, such as downtown businesses lending space;
- members will be working with the BIA for the annual Car-Free Friday program for the month of June;

## **7. SDSS Eco Club Update**

Zach Kritzer provided the following updates from the Eco Club:

- In late February, the Eco Club received the Inspiration Award from the UTRCA;

Councillor Burbach is now preset at the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

- they are planning Earth Week events, such as a Where's Bruno section, various speakers, arranging for a booth at the Earth Day street party and working on a presentation for the Rotary Club;
- planning for a youth Ted Talk, not only with the Eco Club, but other partners such as other student clubs at SDSS and St. Michaels. The tentative date scheduled for the Talk is June 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
- The Eco Club started the urban farm last year and this year they are planning to install raised beds in conjunction with CBEAC. The urban farm is located near Smith Street and O'Loane Avenue. Work on the raised beds will begin on Saturday, April 12, 2025. Students and local residents have volunteered to water and tend to the garden over the summer.

## **8. E&E Committee Motions Update**

Vicky Trotter provided the committee with a list of outstanding motions.

For the Green Development Standards management report, Ms. Trotter reached out to Planning staff to inquire how this gets built into what staff is already working on for the Official Plan review and has included the response in the list sent to members. There will be policy discussion papers completed as part of the O.P. review and the key paper of sustainable city would facilitate the development of green standards. At this point, the City is already looking at green development standards, therefore there is no need to proceed with a management report requesting the standards, as it is already underway and staff is also aware of the E&E recommendation.

## **9. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

### **9.1 Climate Conversations Update**

Felicity Sutcliffe reported that the recent Climate Conversation regarding waste with Emily Skelding was excellent. Ms. Skelding provided great information and is so knowledgeable about waste and programs in Stratford. There were approximately 45 people in attendance, despite the bad weather. Julia Schneider also wrote a follow-up article for the Stratford Times.

Information and documents regarding the events will be listed on the Climate Momentum website. Ms. Sutcliffe thanked the E&E Committee and City staff for their support with the Climate Conversations.

The next Climate Conversation event will address green tourism and will be held on April 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Ken Clarke inquired about the Invasive Species Management Plan being posted on the City's website. Staff confirmed that the Plan is posted on the E&E Committee page. Ms. Trotter will also inquire about it being posted on the Climate page as well.

## **9.2 Reforming of Working Groups**

Ken Clarke inquired about the ICI Waste Reduction and Carbon Reduction working groups that E&E previously had. Mike Sullivan noted that most of the members who were on those working groups are no longer on the E&E Committee. Working groups were previously informed that the working groups were meant to be made up of a small group of E&E members who met outside of regular E&E Committee meetings to work on projects. The working groups are to consist of E&E members only and members can reach out to anyone as a resource to discuss and gather information regarding their project. The working group then reports back to the E&E Committee as a whole with their findings and a plan to move a project forward. Emily Skelding noted that in the past, when she was a member of the working groups, they did not always have a specific project that they were working towards which made it difficult to reach an end goal.

Mike Sullivan suggested that perhaps Sadaf Ghalib could give direction to either of these working groups on goals that they would assist with and work towards completing. Vicky Trotter stated that for the CCAP, staff will reach out to the E&E Committee when there is a specific project that they require assistance on. This would be an opportunity for the working groups to step in. In the meantime, the E&E Committee can continue assisting with community education.

Felicity Sutcliffe stated that it is important that the working groups have specific projects to work towards competing and not just meeting to discuss various items. People are interested in joining working groups to complete tasks.

Anita Jacobsen suggested that a couple of items that the working groups could work on could be how to inform property owners how to better insulate their homes, in turn using less energy to heat their homes. After such a severe winter and a great deal of snow and ice damage, this issue will be fresh in

people's minds. A second project suggestion could be a way to encourage property owners to switch out their gas-powered lawn equipment for electric ones.

Anna Stratton suggested that perhaps a Community Engagement Working Group could be formed in the future. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting to inquire if members would like to volunteer for this working group.

### **9.3 Home & Leisure Show Update**

- Vicky Trotter will follow up with staff to inquire about the CCAP slide deck to post at the show, as well as check to see if there is any current anti-idling bylaw information available;
- Emily Skelding will supply rodent clips, waste and recycling calendars, a green bin and kitchen catcher for display;
- Vanni Azzano will order a tree from the UTRCA for E&E to give away;
- Anna Stratton suggested that members could assist people at the booth with using the carbon calculator that is on the City's website;
- Vicky Trotter will confirm the badges for members volunteering at the booth and make arrangements for pick up;
- Anna Stratton will circulate the volunteer sign-up sheet.

Craig Merkley is no longer present at the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

### **9.4 E&E Article**

Linda Wakenhut circulated the invasive species article that she has completed for feedback from the committee. Ms. Wakenhut will also e-mail members the article. Comments and feedback are to be provided to Ms. Wakenhut as soon as possible.

Anita Jacobsen suggested removing any mention of using herbicides as an option for removing invasives, and alternatively suggesting smothering options.

Once feedback and comments have been received, Vicky Trotter instructed Ms. Wakenhut to forward the final draft to have it reviewed by staff prior to publishing.

Mr. Wakenhut will aim to publish an article every two months.

## **10. New Business**

### **10.1 Earth Day Steet Party**

Mike Sullivan stated that the E&E Committee has been invited to participate in the Earth Day Street Party. There will be a table provided for members to have a display and hand out information.

Felicity Sutcliffe volunteered to represent E&E at the event and will bring the invasive species display and resources that were used at the Home & Leisure Show.

## **11. Upcoming Events**

- Stratford Home & Leisure Show – April 12-13, 2025
- Climate Conversation: Walking the Talk of a Green City – Apr. 24, 2025 @ 7 pm
- Tree Power Event – Saturday, April 26, 2025 (8-10 a.m. - dog park parking lot)
- Earth Day Street Party – Sunday, April 27, 2025 – 11:30-2:00 p.m.
- Climate Conversation: Industry & Circular Economy – May 22, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

## **13. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Ken Clarke

**Seconded by** Vanni Azzano

**THAT the April 3, 2025 Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 4:03 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:44 P.M.