



**Town of Aurora
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, April 15, 2024
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Councillor Rachel Gilliland (Chair)
Councillor Wendy Gaertner (Vice Chair)
Nicole Arsenault
Shun Chen
Pippette Eibel
Alain Godin
Denis Heng
Kristen Martens
Ken Turriff

Other Attendees: Natalie Kehle, Analyst, Energy and Climate Change
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Alain Godin

Seconded by Nicole Arsenault

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

5. Receipt of the Minutes

5.1 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2024

Moved by Ken Turriff

Seconded by Denis Heng

1. That the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 26, 2024, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Energy and Climate Change Analyst; Re: 2024 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan Draft Report Presentation

Patrick Darby, Energy & Carbon Team Manager, and Kayden Toffolo, Energy Engineering Intern, of WalterFedy presented the Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (ECDMP), highlighting key topics including: the project targets and milestones, the addition of PCP

Milestone 1-3 to the plan, the corporate assets including town-owned facilities and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from solid waste, new targets implemented into the plan including 20% reduction in GHG emissions from 2018 and a net zero goal by 2050, and the change in GHG emissions since the 2019 ECDMP targets were established. They further discussed the breakdown of the Town's corporate emission profile, including utility use trends such as natural gas and electricity, the percentage of corporate GHG emissions from town facilities, and planned projects included in the ECDMP, including short term, medium term, and long term. They concluded with additional recommendations, highlighting energy performance monitoring, investigating low-carbon electricity generation opportunities, and purchasing carbon offsets to meet GHG reduction targets, then identified the progress towards goals.

Staff commented on the progress made from the previous ECDMP, highlighting the focus on GHG reduction practices, collecting and tracking significant data including from fleet, waste and public lighting, the shift towards decarbonization, and the acquisition of new properties and their contributions towards the emission profile and assets.

The Committee discussed the newly designed Aurora Town Square and its environmental design features, the improvement of targets set in the ECDMP, possibility of alternative energy methods such as hydrogen and microgrids, sustainability building standards to reduce GHG emissions and reach net zero, how carbon offsets can be successful as an alternative recommendation. They further discussed how the Town pays a carbon charge based on emissions in the natural gas bills, the introduction of a waste audit and where corporate waste is being disposed, and how the short term plans will be incorporated in the budget process.

The Committee also sought clarification on the electricity consumption reductions from the wastewater pumping stations since 2018 and how pet waste diversion is included in the plan, and expressed concerns regarding the Ontario grid electricity security with the electrification of Town fleet and buildings system, the need for more alternative energy sources such as waste-heat recovery, Town employee shift in habits to conserve energy

and need for employee buy-in, and investments needed at Town Hall to address occupancy comfort and improved lighting controls.

Moved by Kristen Martens

Seconded by Pippette Eibel

1. That the memorandum regarding the 2024 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan Draft Report Presentation be received; and
2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding the 2024 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan Draft Report Presentation be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None.

9. New Business

The Committee announced that the Town's Annual Spring Community Clean Up will be taking place on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Staff announced that the Electric Vehicle Showcase will be taking place at Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Alain Godin

Seconded by Nicole Arsenault

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Carried