



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

**Date:** Monday, December 16, 2024  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

**Committee Members:** Councillor Wendy Gaertner (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Rachel Gilliland (Chair)\*  
Nicole Arsenault  
Shun Chen\*  
Denis Heng  
Kristen Martens  
Ken Turriff

**Members Absent:** Pippette Eibel  
Alain Godin

**Other Attendees:** Natalie Kehle, Program Manager, Energy and Environment  
Will Stover, Analyst, Energy and Climate Change  
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

\*Attended electronically

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**1. Call to Order**

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 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** Ken Turriff

**Seconded by** Councillor Gilliland

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 October 21, 2024**

**Moved by** Councillor Gilliland

**Seconded by** Ken Turriff

1. That the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2024, be received for information.

**Carried**

**6. Delegations**

None.

**7. Matters for Consideration**

**7.1 Memorandum from Program Manager Energy and Environment; Re: 2023 Energy and Environment Progress Report**

Staff introduced new staff member, Will Stover, Analyst, Energy and Climate Change, who will also be participating in future Committee meetings. Staff presented an overview of the 2023 Energy and Environment Progress Report with a focus on two of the five main themes:

Climate Resiliency; and Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (community and corporate levels); summarizing the actions and progress of the Town's various environmental strategic plans toward mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The Committee and staff discussed various aspects including LEED certification and Town review of best practices/research into a new building standard for new corporate facilities or major reconstruction; consideration of Net-Zero type and Passive House building standards; the Town's annual anti-idling campaign and education-based policy and the potential need for an anti-idling policy and by-law specific to school zones; a proposal to include anti-idling education in the local school curriculum; flood resiliency; the Town's Green Development Standard (GDS) and requirements for new developments; the Green Municipal Fund Community Efficiency Financing grant to support the feasibility study of a home energy retrofit loan program toward mitigating the barriers for Aurora residents; scope 3 emissions tracking; and tracking of embodied carbon emissions.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the staff presentation, data and progress report, as well as the development of a baseline. It was suggested that future reports would have the opportunity to include multi-year data trending in order to determine whether the Town is on track and how to move forward.

**Moved by** Councillor Gilliland

**Seconded by** Ken Turriff

1. That the memorandum regarding the 2023 Energy and Environment Progress Report on be received; and
2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding the 2023 Energy and Environment Progress Report be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

**Carried**

## 8. Informational Items

None.

**9. New Business**

Councillor Gaertner, on behalf of Councillor Gilliland, extended happy holiday wishes to all.

The Committee expressed appreciation to the Councillors and staff for their leadership and guidance.

Councillor Gilliland expressed appreciation to all members and staff for their engagement on the Committee.

**10. Adjournment**

**Moved by** Councillor Gilliland

**Seconded by** Ken Turriff

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

**Carried**