



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

Date: Monday, October 20, 2025
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Ron Weese (Chair)
Shun Chen*
Jason Cheng*
Angela Daust
Leta Dayfoot
Denis Heng
Ken Turriff (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: Victor Carvalho
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

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 Leta Dayfoot

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 June 16, 2025

Moved by Angela Daust

Seconded by Leta Dayfoot

1. That the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 16, 2025, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Analyst, Energy and Climate Change; Re: 2024 Energy and Environment Progress Update

Will Stover, Analyst, Energy and Climate Change, presented an overview of the 2024 Energy and Environment Progress Update with a focus on the five main environmental themes of water conservation, waste reduction and diversion, natural capital and biodiversity, energy and greenhouse gas

emissions, and climate resiliency, including sustainable design measures implemented at Aurora Town Square.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the presentation and inquired about the availability of more year-over-year comparison data, including thresholds, to provide context around the Town's progress and remaining work. Staff provided a response, including clarification on rain barrel sales and urban tree replacements, noting more data will be available in future.

The Committee expressed concerns regarding the Town's rehabilitation plan for streams abutting public lands only, and the need to approach stream rehabilitation holistically, including on private lands. Staff agreed to share the concerns with the appropriate staff.

The Committee expressed concerns regarding maintenance of the urban tree canopy and the ability to meet future coverage targets in relation to new developments, and suggested that developers should be deterred from removing mature trees and use native species for replacement trees. Staff noted that developers must meet the requirements of the Town's Green Development Standards and Tree Compensation By-law, currently under review, as well as landscape design and stormwater management expectations. Staff provided clarification on the Green Development Standards applications received in 2024. It was further noted that staff have been requested to investigate and create an inventory of culturally significant trees with potential heritage value.

The Committee requested information on the Town's funding request to the Green Municipal Fund for support of tree canopy growth, and suggested that boulevard trees should be mandatory throughout the Town, noting that some older neighbourhoods have no boulevard trees.

The Committee inquired about whether the Town has considered the concept of micro or mini forests, known to contribute to the overall tree canopy and biodiversity, and staff agreed to follow up.

The Committee suggested an increased focus on providing residents with education on the tree canopy, water conservation, planting native species, gardening, landscaping, and managing invasive species. The Committee inquired about a possible brainstorming opportunity to discuss ideas on

how to increase awareness and education, and to recognize community members for championing environmental goals.

The Committee discussed the need to integrate climate projections into building design for energy efficiency, urban forest canopy, and stormwater management.

The Committee further suggested that the Town's by-laws regulating front gardens and lawns be relaxed to allow for alternatives such as native and pollinator-friendly plantings, and xeriscaping.

The Committee referred to the Town's upcoming transition to a new blue box recycling program and requested that more details on curbside waste be provided at the next meeting, and that informing residents of the changes be prioritized.

The Committee referred to the presented trails-per-residents ratio and suggested that data metrics from comparator communities would be useful in future reporting.

Moved by Ken Turriff

Seconded by Leta Dayfoot

1. That the memorandum regarding 2024 Energy and Environment Progress Update be received; and
2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding 2024 Energy and Environment Progress Update be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None.

9. New Business

None.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Ken Turriff

Seconded by Angela Daust

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Carried