



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

Date: Monday, February 23, 2026
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

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

Members Absent: Alain Godin

Other Attendees: Councillor Wendy Gaertner*
Natalie Kehle, Program Manager, Energy and Environment
Matthew Volpintesta, Manager of Parks and Fleet*
Will Stover, Analyst, Energy and Climate Change
Julia Shipcott, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

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 Ken Turriff

Seconded by Jason Cheng

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 20, 2025

Moved by Leta Dayfoot

Seconded by Ken Turriff

1. That the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting minutes of October 20, 2025, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Program Manager, Energy and Environment; Re: Draft Home Energy Retrofit Program Design Study

Staff introduced Janice Ashworth, Senior Consultant, and Alex Hill, Partner, Dunskey Energy before providing a brief overview of the evolution of the Feasibility Study to the Draft Home Energy Retrofit Program Design Study. Janice reviewed the study's main objectives, recapping the main

sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Aurora, identifying the demographic characteristics of energy poverty and retrofit barriers, and reviewing recent changes to various multi-level government and utility program initiatives. Multiple short-, medium- and long-term initiatives, both individual and in collaboration with various levels of government, were outlined, along with funding resources to address the inadequacy of natural gas emissions reduction efforts.

The Committee inquired about loan and grant options geared to low-income households, marketing efforts to piggyback on existing energy-efficiency programs and utilize local social networks to reach the target audience.

Additionally, the Committee expressed concerns regarding the publication of household energy ratings and their accuracy, as well as energy data collected by the Town being shared with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (M.P.A.C.), which could adversely affect home valuation. Feedback was provided that the homeowner will maintain the ability to opt-out or update energy ratings, as per a national energy standard.

The Committee requested further details on the reliability and return-on-investment of heat pumps and the optimal energy upgrade time for homeowners, as well as alternate solutions through partner programs to achieve the Town's retrofit targets. It was noted that knowledge barriers will be targeted through a variety of awareness methods to incentivize households.

The Committee further inquired on the availability of natural gas consumption details through home energy retrofit programs pre- versus post-retrofit, as well as historical data available from the federal EnerGuide program.

Moved by Ken Turriff

Seconded by Leta Dayfoot

1. That the memorandum regarding Draft Home Energy Retrofit Program Design Study be received; and

2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding the Draft Home Energy Retrofit Program Design Study be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

7.2 Memorandum from Manager, Parks and Fleet; Re: The Protection and Commemoration of Aurora's Oldest Trees that Hold Natural and Cultural Significance

Staff provided an overview of the program to be presented to Council at an upcoming meeting regarding the inventorying of Aurora's significant heritage trees and employing preservation, commemoration and potential lineage redistribution to continue their legacy. Staff noted that various revenue generation opportunities are also to be considered.

The Committee provided suggestions on location of commemorative plaques as well as providing protection to the root systems from future development in the immediate area of identified trees. Staff noted that setbacks will be incorporated into the new program.

The Committee inquired whether heritage tree designation would extend to trees on privately-owned land. Staff responded that legalities limit the Town's ability to protect those trees but current penalties are being reviewed, and the Private Tree Protection By-law will be updated in 2027 in order to strengthen the protection of significant trees located on privately-owned land.

The Committee queried how invasive tree species will be managed and how the heritage tree inventory will be generated and maintained. Staff provided details that the current significant tree inventory is regularly updated and will include a public call-out to provide an opportunity for the public to add new tree locations.

Moved by Leta Dayfoot

Seconded by Ken Turriff

1. That the memorandum regarding The Protection and Commemoration of Aurora's Oldest Trees that Hold Natural and Cultural Significance be received; and

2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding The Protection and Commemoration of Aurora's Oldest Trees that Hold Natural and Cultural Significance be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None.

9. New Business

The Committee inquired about tracking of waste diversion, and to what location recyclables will be taken, with the province awarding the recycling contract to Circular Materials. Additionally, concerns were shared relating to the closure of multiple Beer Stores in Ontario and the effect it will have on recycling and waste diversion. Staff commented that Amanda Cutler, Coordinator Waste/Recycling will attend a future meeting.

The Committee shared concerns regarding the lack of clearing of some storm sewers and ponds, which could lead to an increased risk of flooding, and queried how the Town may account for climate change and new development, and how maintenance may be affected due to the shortfall on infrastructure funds. funds.

The Committee inquired about how tree canopy projections may have changed based on recent tree losses on private property, and staff provided a response.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Ken Turriff

Seconded by Angela Daust

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Carried