



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

Date: Monday, April 20, 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*
Alain Godin
Denis Heng
Ken Turriff (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

Other Attendees: Councillor Wendy Gaertner* (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)
Will Stover, Analyst, Energy and Climate Change
Natalie Kehle, Program Manager, Energy and Environment
Dan Naccarato, Manager, Public Works
Amanda Cutler, Coordinator, Waste/Recycling
Julia Shipcott, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Angela Daust

Seconded by Alain Godin

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 23, 2026

Moved by Victor Carvalho

Seconded by Leta Dayfoot

1. That the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 23, 2026, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Program Manager, Energy and Environment; Re: Corporate Waste Audit and Reduction Plan Update

Staff provided a brief overview of the Town's first Corporate Waste Audit which will be used as a baseline to build the Town's Waste Reduction Plan, and introduced Katie McMillan, Manager of Waste Analytics and Development, AET Group Inc.

Katie presented the key objectives of the project consisting of auditing 15 waste locations including five Town facilities, nine park/trail bin locations and one public event. Detailed audit results for garbage, recycling, and organics disposal, as well as diversion and capture rates were provided, in addition to providing cost-savings solutions and feasible reduction strategies to improve implementation and reduce waste contamination. The following suggestions were provided to the Committee:

- maintaining ongoing waste audits every one-three years, using repeated methodologies in order to compare results
- continuing with existing initiatives to manage dog waste
- implementing on-site monitoring and provide internal escalation framework
- following the waste hierarchy of reducing, repairing, refurbishing, recycling, and energy recovery
- enhancing education and signage initiatives

The Committee suggested providing tri-sort recycling bins in all Town public facility locations, increasing the number of dog waste bins in parks and trails, enhancing signage at receptacles to educate users on the consequences of cross-contamination, generating a waste-diversion challenge between municipalities, partnering with local schools to generate a waste diversion curriculum, and removing garbage receptacles from public facilities entirely to ensure visitors take their garbage home. Regarding public events, and the Aurora Rib Fest in particular, the Committee suggested providing additional volunteers to assist with waste sorting and placing responsibility on vendors to separate their own waste.

Staff noted that some Town facilities, due to historical contamination rates, have been refused servicing of organic and recycling streams by the contractor. Staff are looking to align future contracts more closely with residential contracts. Staff added that sourcing enough volunteers to staff the full length of Aurora Rib Fest has proven challenging in the past.

Moved by Ken Turriff

Seconded by Leta Dayfoot

1. That the memorandum regarding Corporate Waste Audit and Reduction Plan Update be received; and
2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding Corporate Waste Audit and Reduction Plan Update be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

7.2 Memorandum from Manager, Public Works; Re: Waste Program and Recycling Update

Staff provided an extensive overview of the Waste Program which included key waste initiatives, current education programs, community events and pilot programs planned throughout the year, and outlined the distribution of responsibility between Circular Materials, GFL Environmental Inc. and the Town. Staff reported positive five-year solid waste and green bin results. Additionally, staff spoke to results of the Public Information Centre and survey which occurred in the fall of 2025, outlined waste management services provided under the current contract and opportunities for enhancing the new waste collection contract. Staff added that York Region's annual recycling audits shortly will be provided shortly and parameters will remain consistent for year-over-year comparisons. Staff will commence updates to the Waste By-law to reflect all recent changes next term.

The Committee inquired whether there will be any budget efficiencies realized with Circular Materials and suggested increasing corporate green bin diversion rates within the Waste Program, in addition to improving resident education on waste solutions to outline benefits of involvement. The Committee noted inconsistencies contained in three different recycling apps provided to residents by Recycle Coach, Circular Materials and York Region, and staff provided assurance that all inconsistencies will be reviewed and best efforts made to rectify them.

Moved by Alain Godin
Seconded by Leta Dayfoot

1. That the memorandum regarding Waste Program and Recycling Update be received; and
2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding Waste Program and Recycling Update be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None.

9. New Business

The Committee inquired into the funding request on tree canopy research; staff will forward the request to the appropriate department. The Committee discussed opportunities to become involved in additional initiatives surrounding Earth Week in conjunction with other communities, and staff provided an overview of the Town's acknowledgements of Earth Week 2026 including an anti-idling campaign and providing free EV charging at all municipal Level -2 stations.

The Committee acknowledged concern regarding the province's repealing of the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* as well as consolidating its 36 existing conservation authorities (CAs) into nine regional entities, the result of which would see the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority merge with multiple other CAs.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Jason Cheng
Seconded by Angela Daust

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

Carried