
Environmental Action Committee

Date: December 8, 2020
Time: 9:30 AM
Location: Online Video Conference

Members	Councillor Matt Mahoney	Ward 8 (Chair)
	Councillor Stephen Dasko	Ward 1 (Vice-Chair)
	Councillor George Carlson	Ward 11
	Chelsea Dalton	Citizen Member
	Lea Ann Mallett	Citizen Member
	Pujita Verma	Citizen Member
	Carina Suleiman	UTM (University of Toronto Mississauga) Student
	Alice Casselman	Association for Canadian Educational Resources
	Andrea Rowe	Greening Sacred Spaces (Non-Voting Member)
	Brad Butt	Mississauga Board of Trade (Non-Voting Member)
Members Absent	Brad Bass	Citizen Member
	Nandini Menon	PEYA (Peel Environmental Youth Alliance) Student
	Melanie Kramer	Credit Valley Conservation
	Britt McKee	Ecosource
	Jeff Robertson	Partners in Project Green
	Sid Gendron	Sawmill Sid Inc. (Non-Voting Member)

Staff Present

Dianne Zimmerman, Manager, Environment
Lisa Urbani, Supervisor, Environment Initiatives
Reg Langen, Supervisor, Parks Operations
Andrea Westfall, Sustainable Procurement Coordinator
Teresa Chan, Climate Change Specialist
Diana Suzki-Bracewell, Supervisor, Environmental Outreach
Catherine Nguyen-Pham, Communications Coordinator
Allyson D'Ovidio, Legislative Coordinator
Dayna Obaseki, Legislative Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Mahoney, Chair called this meeting to order at 9:34AM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved (L. Mallet)

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST - Nil.**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING****4.1 Environmental Action Committee DRAFT Minutes – November 3, 2020**

Approved (C. Dalton)

Councillor Dasko joined the meeting at 9:40AM during Item 4.1.

5. DEPUTATIONS**5.1 Alex Xia, Secondary School Student to speak on Marker Recycling**

Alex Xia spoke on Marker Recycling as well as the associated costs and benefits. A cost analysis was provided noting the different organizations that recycle markers for either a small fee or no fee at all. The associated benefits include helping the environment and the economy. Alex Xia outlined the simple two-step process for marker recycling by placing a cardboard box in every city-owned facility to collect the markers and then sending those collected markers to Teracycle and/or Crayola Colour Cycle to be recycled.

Dianne Zimmerman, Manager, Environment noted this idea is a great initiative and could work with the Waste Management team to implement pilot project to place labelled cardboard boxes in office spaces, libraries and recreational centers to collect markers to be recycled.

DIRECTION to staff was given to connect with Alex Xia regarding initiating a Marker Recycling pilot project to reduce waste and raise awareness as well as to report back to the Environmental Action Committee with an update on the project.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0031-2020

Moved By Councillor Carlson

That the deputation and associated presentation by Alex Xia, Secondary School Student regarding Marker Recycling be received.

Received

5.2 Jack Gibbons, Chair, Ontario Clean Air Alliance to present on Phasing-Out Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants (Related to Item 8.1)

Mr. Gibbons presented an overview on Ontario's growing climate crisis pertaining to Gas Plant pollution. He spoke to the process on how to phase out Ontario's gas plants by implementing and utilizing wind and solar energy, Quebec's water power and using energy efficiencies as alternative options. He noted the associated high costs of nuclear power in comparison to renewable energy. Mr. Gibbons noted organizations and municipalities that support the initiative to phase out gas-fired power plants in Ontario. Clean Air Alliance requested that the Environmental Action Committee support this initiative and recommend endorsement from City Council.

Brad Butt, Community Representative (non-voting) inquired if an economic impact study had been conducted. Mr. Gibbons responded by noting that the economic benefits associated with phasing out gas plants and how to achieve this initiative by 2023 are outlined in the Clean Air Alliance's Phasing-Out Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants: A Road Map report.

Members of the Committee spoke to the matter and requested that further information regarding the initiative be provided, to benchmark with other municipalities and to report back to the Committee in a timely manner.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0032-2020

Moved By Councillor Dasko

1. That the deputation and associated presentation by Jack Gibbons, Chair, Ontario Clean Air Alliance regarding Phasing-Out Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants be received.
2. That staff further investigate Clean Air Alliance's request to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation and to benchmark with other municipalities on endorsement and to report back to the Environmental Action Committee prior to General Committee.

Carried

5.3 Alice Casselman, EAC Member and Founding President of Association for Canadian Educational Resources and Catherine Soplet, Founder, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods to provide an Update on Project Crossroads (Related to Item 9.1)

Ms. Casselman and Ms. Soplet presented an update on Project Crossroads. Project Crossroads is climate justice science for trees and people that supports health and the well-being of communities with significant exposure to climate risk through action on climate change adaptation, risk reduction and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) mitigation. They spoke to their proposal to Environment Canada under the Climate Action and Awareness Fund. They noted the project's initiatives and accomplishments thus far, such as developing an application to collect and measure data. They further noted that they will be presenting to the Region of Peel and have briefly spoken at the City's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DIAC) regarding the trifecta crisis of climate change and racism. Ms. Soplet and Ms. Casselman requested for the Committee's support and referral to City Council as well as to extend the One Million Trees Program to the public school boards and to focus on climate change, equity and inclusion.

Members of the Committee briefly spoke to the matter and applauded the project initiative.

DIRECTION to staff to review Association for Canadian Educational Resources' proposal to Environment Canada and to set up a meeting with the Natural Areas and Million Tree Program Coordinator to further investigate the request to expand the One Million Trees Program to include planting on School Board District owned properties.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0033-2020

Moved By L. Mallett

1. That the deputation and associated presentation by Alice Casselman, Environmental Action Committee Member and Founding President of Association for Canadian Educational Resources and Catherine Sople, Founder, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods to provide an Update on Project Crossroads be received.
2. That the Environmental Action Committee are in support in principal of Association for Canadian Educational Resources Project Crossroads Initiative.

Carried

5.4 Reg Langen, Supervisor, Parks Operations to present on Electric Grass Cutting Equipment Pilot Project

Mr. Langen presented and provided an overview Electric Grass Cutting Equipment Pilot Project. The project scope involves a fully enclosed trailer that includes all battery operated cutting equipment. The benefits of the program is to reduce carbon emissions and noise, increased safety for employees, and no fuel being required, which helps align with the deliverables of the Climate Change Action Plan. The next steps are to replace the existing grass cutting equipment at the end of their lifestyles.

Members of the Committee spoke to the matter and raised the following questions and concerns:

- Inquired about the battery life, charging times and performance;
- Inquired if the existing equipment will be repurposed; and
- Inquired what is included in the trailer.

Mr. Langen responded to the questions from the Members of the Committee;

- Noted that this year due to the pandemic the operational roll-out was delayed, therefore the feedback is minimal and does not encompass the usual busy season. The battery life last approximately a day, while charging time is relatively quick. Overall, the results have been successful.
- Staff could consider repurposing the end of life diesel fueled equipment versus just recycling the equipment.
- The trailer includes assortment of batteries, trimmers, two lawn mowers and two riding lawn mowers. There is no generator in the trailer to re-charge the items, however exploring solar roofs to generate solar power to charge the equipment within in the trailer.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0034-2020

Moved By A. Casselman

That the deputation and associated presentation by Reg Langen, Supervisor, Parks Operations regarding Electric Grass Cutting Equipment Pilot Project be received.

Received

5.5 Andrea Westfall, Sustainable Procurement Coordinator to present on the Sustainable Procurement Policy

Ms. Westfall presented and provided an overview on the Sustainable Procurement Policy. The policy went into effect in January 2018 and helps the City make more sustainable choices when it comes to purchasing products and services from external vendors. The implementation consisted of training Buyers and Contract Managers reviewing bid criteria that may consist of environmental, ethical and social factors. She noted the implementation tools and procedures, the high impact procurement opportunities, routine sustainable procurement, and stakeholder relations. Ms. Westfall spoke to the City's sustainability achievements that include initiating and adopting the Corporate Green Building Standard, purchasing fair-trade coffee, reducing excessed packaging and purchasing hybrid vehicles. The next steps include creating a diverse supplier list, initiating e-learning modules, growing routine sustainable procurement and investigating the living wage.

Members of the Committee spoke to the matter and inquired about the type feedback from the vendors and if a cost/value analysis had been conducted. Ms. Westfall responded by noting that the City has received no push back from the vendors and noted a number of vendors are producing Corporate Responsibility reports. The Sustainable Procurement Policy is a guideline that requires the City to identify the sustainability aspects for consideration within procurement processes, such as considering the value for money, environmental, ethnical and social factors. Ms. Westfall also noted that the City is not required to select the most sustainable option, only mandated to consider those options, which could lead to future collaborations with vendors to integrate more sustainability factors into their products and/services.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0035-2020

Moved By C. Dalton

That deputation and associated presentation by Andrea Westfall, Sustainable Procurement Coordinator regarding Sustainable Procurement Policy be received.

Received

Pujita Verma, Citizen Member departed the meeting at 10:42AM during the discussion of Item 5.5.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD - 15 Minute Limit

No member of the public registered to speak.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Councillor Mahoney, Chair briefly spoke to this item outlining the purpose and efficiencies associated with having a Consent Agenda.

8. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED**8.1 Phasing-Out Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants Request Memo (Related to Item 5.2)**

This item was previously discussed and voted on under Item 5.2.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0036-2020

Moved By C. Suleiman

That the Phasing-Out Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants Request Memo by Clean Air Alliance be received for information.

Received

8.2 Environmental Action Committee (EAC) Work Plan

Dayna Obaseki, Legislative Coordinator spoke to Environmental Action Plan section's on Reporting on Committee Progress. She noted the option to either forgo the bi-annual update this year due to COVID pandemic, the suspension of meetings and the limitations surrounding public committee engagement opportunities or make a deputation to General Committee in early 2021.

The Committee decided to forgo the semi-annual reporting and to make one deputation on the Committee's Progress prior to the summer of 2021.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0036-2020

Moved By Councillor Dasko

That the Environmental Action Committee Work Plan be approved as discussed at the December 8, 2020 EAC meeting.

Approved

9. INFORMATION ITEMS**9.1 Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER) Canada Proposal to Environment Canada's Climate Action and Awareness Fund (CAAF) (Related to Item 5.3)**

This item was previously discussed and voted on under Item 5.3.

RECOMMENDATION EAC-0037-2020

Moved By L. Mallett

That the Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER) Canada Proposal to Environment Canada's Climate Action and Awareness Fund (CAAF) be received for information.

Received

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Chelsea Dalton, Citizen Member announced the finalized and approved University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) Sustainability Strategic Plan, Fostering a Culture of Sustainability 2030.

11. ENQUIRIES - Nil.**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 - 9:30am via Online Video Conference (Virtually).

Councillor Mahoney, Chair thanked all Members of the Environmental Action Committee for their participation and patience this year and through the virtual transition and wished the members a Happy Holidays!

13. ADJOURNMENT

11:00 AM (Councillor Dasko)