

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 18, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 18, 2024 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:02 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair
B. Baszyk, Brock
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student attended the meeting at 7:06 PM
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
K. Murray, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair
M. Nasir, Ajax
L. Nguyen, Youth Member
Councillor Shahid attended the meeting at 7:16 PM
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa attended the meeting at 7:04 PM
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair
K. Lui, Member at Large

Also

Present: Councillor Wotten (Alternate)

Staff

Present: S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
N. Halim, Sustainability Policy Advisor, Office of the CAO
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
S. Logan, Policy Advisor, Climate Change, Office of the CAO
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
I. McVey, Manager, Sustainability, Office of the CAO
***all staff members participated electronically**

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by M. Nasir,
That the agenda for the April 18, 2024 Durham Environment and Climate
Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.

CARRIED

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by B. Widner,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. **Presentations**

A) 2024 Annual Climate Change Progress Report, Nayel Halim, Durham Region Sustainability Office

Nayel Halim, Sustainability Policy Advisor, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2024 Climate Change Progress Report.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Durham's Commitment to Climate Action
- Durham Community Energy Plan Update
- Durham's Low Carbon Pathway – Key Strategies
- Community Energy Plan Initiatives Underway
 - Existing Home Energy Retrofits
 - New Construction – Durham Green Development Program
 - District Energy Initiative – Sewer Heat Recovery/District Heating
 - Electric Vehicle (EV) Adoption
 - Public and Active Transportation
 - Climate Governance and Public Reporting
- Durham Region Corporate Climate Action Plan Update
- 2019 to 2023 Durham Region Total Corporate Emissions
- Corporate Initiatives Underway
 - Buildings
 - Fleet
 - Solid Waste
 - Water & Wastewater
- Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan
- Adaptations Initiatives Underway
 - Cross-Sector
 - Building-Sector
 - Flooding-Sector
 - Human Health-Sector
 - Road-Sector
 - Natural Environment-Sector

N. Halim responded to questions from the Committee regarding what the Green Development Program would look like for Durham Region; whether the Region has installed any heat pumps or has plans in the future to install heat pumps and increase the number installed each year; the positives and negatives of Regional assets such as the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC), and private assets such as St. Marys' Cement, that are benefited from province wide and that contribute positively to the electrical grid, but seen by many as emitting too much carbon emissions; whether there can be an "other" category noted under carbon emissions (e.g. forest fires); what steps it will take to get to net zero or to meet each milestone; the increase of ridership on Durham transit and what can be attributed to that; and the removal of the subsidy for natural gas hook-ups in new buildings and whether the Committee can support the need for infrastructure upgrades and advocate for more electrification.

6. Items for Discussion

A) Debrief on the April 10th Climate Change Education Session to the Committee of the Whole (I. McVey)

I. McVey stated that it has been 4 years since the Region of Durham made the declaration of a climate emergency. He listed the presenters for the Climate Change Education Session (refer to Item 7. A) of this agenda) and noted it was a successful session.

J. Cuthbertson advised that he attended the session in person and stated it was very valuable and appreciated the great deal of discussion around the design and planning of homes, and the impact that long-term infrastructure has on the Region's ability to meeting its' climate goals/targets.

B) OPG The Power for Change Project (J. Cuthbertson)

J. Cuthbertson informed the Committee of Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) "The Power for Change Project" that provides a number of province-wide empowerment grants, regional empowerment grants, regional biodiversity grants, and school awards and scholarships.

C) Pollinator Project – Volunteer Reminder (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman reminded Committee members to let her know if anyone would like to volunteer at the compost giveaway events. P. Cohen advised that he would be interested in attending one of the events.

D) Tour of McLaughlin Bay and Second Marsh Update (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman reminded Committee members to fill out the doodle poll that she emailed out as soon as possible to determine the best day to tour McLaughlin Bay and the Second Marsh.

7. For Information

A) Materials presented at the April 10th Climate Change Education Session to the Committee of the Whole:

- a. Web streaming link of the Climate Education Session
- b. GTHA Emissions Inventory Presentation and Carbon Emissions Inventory Report – 2022 (by Bryan Purcell, The Atmospheric Fund)
- c. The Blueprint for More and Better Housing Report (Presentation and Report) (by Don Iveson, Co-Chair, Task Force for Housing and Climate)
- d. Perspectives from the Durham Climate Roundtable on Electrification and the Energy Transition (Presentation)
- e. Climate Adaptation 101 and Strategic Directions for Future Work (Presentation)

B) Information Report #2024-INFO-15: “Blueprint for More and Better Housing” – Overview of the Task Force Report for Housing and Climate

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-15 of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Commissioner of Social Services was received.

C) Information Report #2024-INFO-17: Durham York Energy Centre 2023 Compliance Source Test Update

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-17 of the Acting Commissioner of Works was received.

D) Memorandum from R. Jagannathan, Acting Commissioner of Works – Durham York Energy Centre – Quarterly (Q3 – 2023) Long-Term Sampling Systems Report

A copy of the memorandum from R. Jagannathan, Acting Commissioner of Works - Durham York Energy Centre – Quarterly (Q3 – 2023) Long-Term Sampling Systems Report was received.

E) Resolution passed at Whitby Council (March 18th, 2024) supporting the Ontario Energy Board’s Decision to end the Gas Pipeline Subsidy

A copy of the resolution passed at Whitby Council (March 18th, 2024) supporting the Ontario Energy Board’s Decision to end the Gas Pipeline Subsidy, was received.

F) Information Report #2024-INFO-21: 2023 Water Pollution Control Plant Annual Performance Report

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-21 of the Acting Commissioner of Works was received.

G) 2024 Planning and Economic Development Department Business Plans and Budget (Report #2024-P-7, Attachment, and Presentation)

A copy of Report #2024-P-7 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development and the staff presentation was received.

H) Commissioner's Report #2024-WR-2: Update on Small Business Recycling Post Blue Box Transition

A copy of Report #2024-WR-2 of the Acting Commissioner of Works was received.

I) Commissioner's Report #2024-WR-1: New Waste Management Services By-law

A copy of Report #2024-WR-1 of the Acting Commissioner of Works was received.

J) Commissioner's Report #2024-COW-11: Durham Meadoway Visioning Study – Project Outcomes and Next Steps

A copy of Report #2024-COW-11 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, Commissioner of Finance and Acting Commissioner of Works was received.

K) Minutes of the March 19th, 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting (Attachment 1)

A copy of the March 19 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting minutes was received.

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That Information Items 7. A) to 7. K) inclusive, be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Other Business

A) Parking Lot Solar Panels in Los Angeles (LA) (Geoff Carpentier)

In the absence of G. Carpentier, it was the consensus of the Committee to refer this item to the May 16, 2024 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting.

B) Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR)

O. Chaudhry announced that the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) in Washington, United States, has included him in their panel of research grant reviewers. He stated that FFAR approves research proposal grants between \$0.25 million to \$1.0 million for 5 years to scientists around the world.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by P. Cohen,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

J. Cuthbertson, Chair, Durham Environment
and Climate Advisory Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk