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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 21, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 21, 2024 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:04 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair  
B. Baszyk, Brock  
G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair  
O. Chaudhry, Pickering  
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student left the meeting at 8:13 PM  
K. Lui, Member at Large  
K. Murray, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair  
M. Nasir, Ajax  
B. Widner, Whitby  
**\*all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: B. Foxton, Uxbridge  
Councillor Shahid  
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa

#### Staff

Present: S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
D. Hagner, Works Technician, Works Department  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
S. Logan, Policy Advisory, Climate Change, Office of the CAO  
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department  
I. McVey, Manager, Sustainability, Office of the CAO  
D. Stewart, Project Manager, Maintenance Operations, Works Department  
**\*all staff members participated electronically**

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,  
That the agenda for the November 21, 2024 Durham Environment and  
Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.

CARRIED

### **3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

### **4. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by G. Carpentier,  
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory  
Committee meeting held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, be adopted.  
CARRIED

### **5. Delegations**

#### **A) Extreme Weather, James Bountrogiannis, Durham Resident**

James Bountrogiannis, Durham Resident, appeared virtually and with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, expressed his concerns regarding extreme weather conditions through the years.

Highlights from the delegation included:

- Extreme Weather 100 Yrs Less Now
- IPCC AR6 Wet Dry EW
- IPCC AR6 No Human Impact Wind
- Global Burn 1901 to 2018
- Canada Temps – Last 100 Yrs
- Canada Forest Fires 1980 to 2022
- CLINTEL EW Article (1) 2023 Less Now

### **6. Presentation**

#### **A) Regional Salt Management Practices, David Hagner, Durham Works Department**

David Hagner, Works Technician, Durham Works Department, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding winter maintenance operations.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Geographic Location
- Scenic Durham Region
- Regional Municipality of Durham
  - Local Municipalities
  - Area, Population, & Regional Road Length
- 5 Regional Depots
- Winter Operations Fleet
  - Pre-Wetting Capabilities on All Vehicles
  - All Vehicles Equipped with Electronic Controllers and AVL/GPS Units
- The Regional Maintenance Operations at Work

- Winter Operations Fleet
  - 8 Vehicles Equipped with DLA/Anti-Icing Capabilities
  - Road Patrol Vehicle
  - Snow Removal Equipment
  - Liquid Brine Storage and Pumping Facility
- Facilities
  - Salt Storage Domes
- Application Rates
  - Straight Salt
  - DLA Application with Salt Brine
  - Salt Pre-Wetting with Salt Brine
- Weather Forecast Services
- Summary

D. Hagner responded to questions from the Committee regarding what the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) is, whether regional staff conduct any type of monitoring at the end of the winter season, especially around wetlands, with respect to salt distribution; and whether the Region uses sand in their winter mixture.

## 7. Items for Discussion

### A) Fall Durham Climate Forum Update (DCF Subcommittee)

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A. Luqman advised that the Durham Climate Forum took place on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at Regional Headquarters and was very well attended. She advised that there were three submissions for the “Art from Garbage” contest and shared pictures of the submissions.

The following suggestions were made for next year:

- Schedule the forum on a day where no other events are taking place throughout the Region (possibly a Sunday); and
- Inform teachers well in advance of the forum to garner more participation for the “Art from Garbage” contest from the students.

Discussion ensued regarding the climate misinformation that was being spread throughout the event, but that it was handled well by the participants at the forum.

### B) Update on DECAC Motion re: Bill 199, the EV-Ready Homes Act

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A. Luqman advised that a letter was prepared by Regional Chair Henry and the Chief Administrative Officer’s office and was forwarded to MPP Jennifer French with respect to the Region and DECAC’s support for Bill 199.

### C) Bill 23 Proclamation Update: Upper-Tier Regional Planning Responsibilities (A. Luqman)

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A. Luqman explained that Bill 23 would remove existing planning approval responsibilities for some upper tier Regions in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, including Durham. She advised that there has been a lot of internal discussion and planning as to the new role of Regional planning, and that Regional staff have been waiting on a proclamation date from the province. She further advised that the proclamation date for Durham Region was finally set for January 1, 2025, and that the Regional planning responsibilities would be downloaded to the area municipalities at that time.

A. Luqman advised that the DECAC would continue, and that Regional planning staff are currently identifying next steps towards a growth management role.

D) Durham Greener Homes Information Sessions – DECAC Representatives (A. Luqman)

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A. Luqman advised that the Durham Greener Homes Information Sessions will be held electronically on November 27, 2024, from 2-4 PM, and November 28, 2024, from 7-9 PM and provided the registration links to the Committee.

A. Luqman advised that the sustainability team would like a DECAC representative to attend one or both of these information sessions to provide the DECAC perspective. She advised that if anyone was interested to follow-up with her after the meeting.

E) Friends of Second Marsh Board – DECAC Representative (M. Nasir)

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M. Nasir provided a PowerPoint presentation with respect to an overview of the activities of the Friends of Second Marsh and advised that he would be stepping down as the DECAC representative as of the new year, and a new DECAC representative is required. He advised that the meeting commitment is once a month excluding July, August, and December, and that he would forward his presentation to the Committee.

F) DECAC Terms of Reference Update (A. Luqman)

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A copy of the 2025 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Terms of Reference was received.

Moved by G. Carpentier, Seconded by B. Baszyk,  
That we recommend to the Planning & Economic Development  
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional  
Council:

That the proposed 2025 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Terms of Reference, be amended as follows, and as amended, be approved:

Under Section 2.3:

- Add the words “climate adaptation”, after the word “sustainability” and before the words “and climate change-related”; and

Under Section 8.1:

- Add the words, “virtually, and/or” after the word “held” and before the words “at the Durham”.

CARRIED

G) 2025 DECAC Workplan Update (A. Luqman)

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A copy of the 2025 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Workplan was received.

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by B. Widner,  
That we recommend to the Planning & Economic Development  
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional  
Council:

That the proposed 2025 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Workplan be amended as follows, and as amended, be approved:

Under Item 1.0:

- Delete the 1<sup>st</sup> bullet;
- Add as a new 1<sup>st</sup> bullet the words, “Environmentally significant projects and proposals”; and
- Under the 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet add the words, “and renewable energy” after the word “implementation”.

Under Item 2.0 (High Priority):

- Under the 1<sup>st</sup> bullet add the words, “and plan for the Durham Environmental Achievement Awards program” after the words “Sustainability Team”.

Under Item 2.0 (Medium Priority):

- Under the 6<sup>th</sup> bullet delete the word “climate” after the word “community” and replace with the word “environmental” and add the words, “to improve responses to climate, biodiversity, and habitat protection” to the end.

Under Item 3.0:

- Under the 1<sup>st</sup> bullet add the word, “retrofits”, after the word “producers”, and before the word “efficiency”;
- Under the 9<sup>th</sup> bullet add the word, “disposal” after the word “waste”, and before the word “reduction”;

- Under the 15<sup>th</sup> bullet add the word, “fertilizers”, after the word “pesticides” and before the word “and”;
- Delete the 17<sup>th</sup> bullet and combine with the 16<sup>th</sup> bullet so that it now reads as “Invasive and native species”; and
- Add a new bullet that reads “Ecosystem regeneration”.

Under Item 4.0:

- Delete the 5<sup>th</sup> bullet, “Regional Official Plan Amendment Applications”;
- Add as a new bullet the word “Biodiversity”;
- Add as a new bullet the words “Climate Adaptation”;
- Add as a new bullet the words “Greening of schools grounds, and industrial and municipal properties”; and
- Add as a new bullet the words “Methane generation from livestock”.

CARRIED

## 7. For Information

### A) Correspondence received from Durham Residents

A copy of the following items of correspondence from Durham Residents was received:

- Wendy Bracken, Clarington Resident, dated October 16, 2024, re: BBC News Article titled “Burning Rubbish Now UK's Dirtiest Form of Power”
- Linda Gasser, Durham Resident, dated October 22, 2024, Re: Bill C-59 Greenwashing Legislation and October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, DYEC Tours (Attachment 2)
- Linda Gasser, Durham Resident, dated October 30, 2024, re: History & Overview of Durham’s Monitoring Commitments re: DYEC Air & Soil Monitoring
- Wendy Bracken, Clarington Resident, dated October 30, 2024, re: DYEC Monitoring Not Keeping Up with Other Jurisdictions

### B) Information Report #2024-INFO-73: 2023 Waste Management Annual Report

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-73 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

### C) Information Report #2024-INFO-72: Carruthers Creek Sanitary Sewage Pumping Station Odour Concerns

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-72 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

D) Information Report #2024-INFO-67: Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's Nomination for the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (LSRCA) Conservation Awards

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-67 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

E) Information Report #2024-INFO-62: Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2024 Farm Tour

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-62 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

F) Climate Toolkit for Housing & Infrastructure (Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada)

A copy of the Climate Toolkit for Housing & Infrastructure (Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada) was received.

G) Ajax Water Supply Plant Expansion Project

A link to the Ajax Water Supply Plant Expansion Project was provided and received.

H) Minutes of the September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee meeting

A copy of the September 24, 2024, Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee meeting minutes was received.

I) Minutes of the September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting

A copy of the September 10, 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting minutes was received.

Moved by G. Carpentier, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,  
That Information Items 7. A) to 7. I) inclusive, be received for information.  
CARRIED

**8. Other Business**

A) Durham Heat Pump Workshop Series

I. McVey requested that the Committee share within their networks the information regarding the Durham Heat Pump Workshop series to help spread the word on the upcoming workshops. He advised that the workshop held on November 19, 2024, in the Township of Uxbridge was well attended.

B) Debrief of Durham Greener Buildings Recognition Event (I. McVey)

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I. McVey advised that on November 13, 2024, the Durham Greener Buildings program held its first “Evening of Recognition” in the Town of Whitby. He advised that this event celebrated buildings in Durham Region that performed exceptionally well in energy efficiency during 2023. He advised that awards were presented in twelve categories to recognize buildings for their energy performance, data quality, and early data submission, and that this is to become an annual event for building sector stakeholders.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**10. Adjournment**

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by M. Nasir,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

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

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S. Ciani, Committee Clerk