

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 19, 2025

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 19, 2025, in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:19 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair
B. Baszytk, Brock
G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
C. DeAbreu, Youth Member
K. Lui, Member at Large, Second Vice-Chair
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student
M. Nasir, Ajax
K. Murray, Clarington
Councillor Shahid
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa

Staff

Present: A. Bathe, Senior Planner, Community Growth & Economic Development
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
N. Halim, Sustainability Policy Advisor, Office of the CAO
S. Logan, Policy Advisory, Climate Change, Office of the CAO
Department
S. Vamathevan, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
***all staff members participated electronically**

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by B. Widner,
That the agenda for the June 19, 2025 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, May 15, 2025, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. Presentations

- A) Jasmine Green, Supervisor of Community Outreach and Education, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Patricia Lowe, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, presenting on the Ajax and Whitby Neighbourhood SNAP Programs
-

Jasmine Green, Supervisor of Community Outreach and Education, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Patricia Lowe, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA), and Sarah MacKell, Program Manager, TRCA provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Town of Ajax and the Town of Whitby's Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Programs (SNAP).

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Agenda
- Sustainable Neighbourhoods Action Program (SNAP)
- Celebrating 15 Years of Revitalizing Neighbourhoods in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)
- A Growing Network of SNAPs
- Town of Ajax SNAP
 - Ajax SNAP Action Plan
 - Quick-Start Projects – 2025
 - South Ajax Home Retrofit Program (2023-2025)
- Town of Ajax SNAP Neighbourhood Resilience Strategy
 - Neighbourhood Climate Vulnerability Assessment
 - Definition of a Resilient Neighbourhood
 - Neighbourhood Vulnerability Assessment Framework
 - Exposure
 - Ground Surface Temperature
 - Flood Risk
 - Sensitivity
 - Age, Education, and Language
 - Adaptive Capacity
 - Exposure to Nature
 - Community Assets and Services
 - Overall Results
 - Vulnerability = Sensitivity – Adaptive Capacity
 - Neighbourhood Adaptation and Resilience Strategies
 - Top 10 Adaptation and Resilience Strategies
- West Lynde SNAP

- Snapshot
- Durham Region Perspective/Benefits

J. Green responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether they have engaged large property owners and commercial/industrial owners with respect to planting trees/vegetation in their parking lots to help reduce the effects of heat islands; and whether there has ever been a focus on wildlife with respect to creating healthy communities.

B) Emily Whitehead, Sustainability Intern, Town of Ajax, presenting on the Ajax Mature Tree Incentive Program

Emily Whitehead, Sustainability Intern, Town of Ajax provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Town of Ajax's Mature Tree Incentive Program.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Background
- Mature Tree Conservation Program
 - Parameters
 - Program Guidelines
- Supporting Policy
 - Town of Ajax Official Plan
 - Ajax Urban Forest Study: Technical Report (2023)
 - Ajax Climate Risk & Resiliency Plan
- Benefits of Maintaining Mature Urban Trees
 - Environmental
 - Financial
 - Communal

6. Items for Action/Discussion

A) Kingston Climate Forum Debrief (N. Halim)

N. Halim advised that he attended the 2025 Kingston Climate Summit that took place on June 4 and 5, 2025 at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. He advised that the focus of the summit was to explore regional climate topics, attend information sessions, and take part in study tours across the community. He further advised that the goal was to spark new ideas and partnerships for local climate action.

N. Halim advised that the keynote speaker for the event was Brent Toderian, who is a world-renowned city planning expert known for his work on sustainable urban design.

B) Durham Climate Forum Discussion (N. Halim)

N. Halim advised that staff have set November 15, 2025, as the tentative date for the Durham Climate Forum. He advised that the main foyer of Durham

headquarters will be used for the event, as well as the adjacent meeting rooms that will host various workshops. He further advised that various organizations will have booths set-up along the hallways to share their information.

Discussion ensued regarding having a booth set-up for DECAC members to hand out DECAC swag and to share the role of DECAC in the community; and how the DECAC awards will be incorporated into the event.

A. Bathe also stated that the nomination for the DECAC awards closes on June 27, 2025, and reminded the Committee members to share the nomination form within their networks.

7. For Information

A) Information Report #2025-INFO-47: Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee Spring 2025 Pollinator Seed Giveaway Project

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-47 of the Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development was received.

B) Commissioner's Report #2025-CG-7: Region of Durham Response to Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing the Economy Act, 2025

A copy of Report #2025-CG-7 of the Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development was received.

It was the consensus of the Committee to support Report #2025-CG-7: Region of Durham Response to Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing the Economy Act, 2025, but specific concern was raised with respect to Attachment #1 to Report #2025-CG-7, Item 4., underplaying the negative impact that Bill 5 will have for endangered and at-risk species habitats and ecosystems.

C) Information Report #2025-INFO-40: Monitoring Growth Trends

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-40 of the Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development was received.

D) Commissioner's Report #2025-CG-8: Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2024-2024

A copy of Report #2025-CG-8 of the Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development was received.

E) Reclaiming Nature: Town of Ajax Reclamation Project

A copy of the Reclaiming Nature: Town of Ajax Reclamation Project was received.

F) Town of Ajax Environmental Sustainability Projects and Programs: Status Update

A copy of the Town of Ajax's Environmental Sustainability Projects and Programs was received.

G) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

A copy of the May 13, 2025, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting minutes was received.

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

CARRIED

8. Other Business

A) Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas

G. Carpentier advised that the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas is a 5-year project that assesses avian health in Ontario. He stated he is the Regional Coordinator for the Region of Durham, and that nature has been doing well in Durham with 180 species being confirmed to be breeding in the region. He also recognized and thanked the 131 volunteers who have worked on the project.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2025, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by G. Carpentier, Seconded by B. Baszyk,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM

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

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk