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The Regional Municipality of Durham

Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday, October 16, 2025

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment & Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, October 16, 2025 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:01 PM

J. Cuthbertson assumed the Chair.

1. Roll Call

Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

* all individuals participated electronically.

Members

Present: J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair attended the meeting at 7:09 PM
G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair
B. Basztyk, Brock
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
C. DeAbreu, Youth Member
K. Lui, Member at Large, Second Vice-Chair attended the meeting at 7:34 PM
K. Murray, Clarington attended the meeting at 7:20 PM
M. Nasir, Ajax attended the meeting at 7:27 PM
Councillor Shahid
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa
B. Widner, Whitby

Members

Absent: P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student

Staff Present: A. Bathe, S. Ciani, M. Kawalec, S. Logan, L. Raney, S. Vamathevan

In the absence of J. Cuthbertson, G. Carpentier, First Vice-Chair, assumed the Chair.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by B. Basztyk,
That the agenda for the Thursday, October 16, 2025 Durham
Environment & 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 Councillor Shahid, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the minutes of the following meetings be adopted:

- Regular DECAC meeting held on Thursday, June 19, 2025; and
- Regular DECAC meeting held on Thursday, September 18, 2025.

Carried

5. **Presentations**

- A) Roy Mosher, Restoration Coordinator, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
Re: Enhancements to the Durham Trees Program
-

Roy Mosher, Restoration Coordinator, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding enhancements to the Durham Trees Program.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Durham Trees
- Funding Partners
- Afforestation
- Extension Services

R. Mosher responded to questions from the Committee regarding how Regional Councillors could further facilitate CLOCA's initiatives; whether CLOCA collaborates with the LEAF program; whether hedgerows are used, and if so, can they be used more often; and whether CLOCA uses a mix of trees at the beginning of the planting process.

At this time J. Cuthbertson attended the meeting and assumed the Chair.

- B) Lauren Raney, Planner 1, Community Growth Division, Region of Durham
Re: The Active and Sustainable School Travel Program
-

Lauren Raney, Planner 1, Community Growth Division, Region of Durham provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Active and Sustainable School Travel (ASST) Program.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Active and Sustainable School Travel (ASST) Program
- Who is Involved?
- Benefits of ASST

- School Travel Plans (STP)
- The STP Process
- Data Collection
- Action Plans
- Implementation
- Implementation Examples
- Walk and Roll to School Campaign
- Next Steps

L. Raney responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether statistics are collected with respect to the carbon footprint that electric cars leave; whether the ASST program talks to students about bike and scooter safety; the possibility of using the flashing LED pedestrian crosswalk signs near the schools for increased visibility; whether staff collect data on why parents choose to drop their children off if they have that choice; whether staff have received any negative public feedback when traffic enforcement measures are implemented and how that is addressed if they have; and whether the Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland County Catholic District School Board (PVNCCDSB) and the Kawartha, Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR) are included in the ASST program.

6. Items for Action/Discussion Items

A) Durham Climate Roundtable Fall Forum Event Plan (N. Halim)

In the absence of N. Halim, A. Bathe advised that the Durham Climate Roundtable Fall Forum will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, from 10:00 – 2:00 PM at Regional Headquarters. She stated that DECAC will have a table, and a link will be forwarded to Committee members to sign up to volunteer at the event. She also advised that there is a need for someone to present the awards to the recipients.

M. Kawalec advised that there will also be a “Plug n’ Drive” for residents to be able to test drive an electric vehicle (EV) and a First Nations art exhibit.

B) Endorsement of the DECAC Awards Recipients (K. Lui)

Moved by G. Carpentier, Seconded by K. Murray,

That the meeting be closed to the public in order to consider a matter that is subject to personal matters about identifiable individuals regarding the proposed recipients of the 2025 Environmental Achievement Awards.

Carried

[See Closed DECAC Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2025]

Chair Cuthbertson advised that there were no motions made during the closed session.

The Committee Clerk conducted a roll call following the Closed Session and all members of the Committee were present with the exception of P. Cohen.

Moved by G. Carpentier, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,

That the sub-committees recommended recipients of the Irene Kock Environmental Awareness Award, the Jessica Markland Partnership Award, the Dr. J. Murray Spiers Restoration Award, the John G. Goodwin Sustainable Group Award, and the George A. Scott Stewardship Award be submitted to Community Growth staff as DECAC's nominations for the 2025 Environmental Achievement Awards.

Carried

C) Discussion and Endorsement of the 2026 Terms of Reference and Workplan (A. Bathe)

A copy of the 2026 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Terms of Reference was received.

Discussion ensued regarding adding the Microsoft Teams meeting details to the reminder emails as a quick reference for members; whether a "no response" to the meeting invite should be counted as a "no"; and if there are consequences for non-consecutive attendance.

Moved by B. Basztyk, Seconded by G. Carpentier,

That we recommend to the Community Growth & Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the proposed 2026 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Terms of Reference, be amended as follows, and as amended, be approved:

Under Section 3.1 f):

- Add the words, "or other committees with environmentally focused interests after the word "studies";

Under Section 4.6:

- Add the words, "without prior notification" before the word "meetings";

Under Section 8.3:

- Add the words, "The committee shall wait 15 minutes from the scheduled start time for quorum, at which point the meeting will be adjourned and/or rescheduled if quorum is not met" following the first sentence; and

Under Section 9.1:

- Add the words, “Delegates shall speak for no more than five minutes. The time for delegations may be extended by a 2/3rds vote of the Committee” following the last sentence.

Carried

A copy of the 2026 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Workplan was received.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Committee wanted to reschedule the March meeting from March 20, 2025, to March 24, 2025; and whether the Committee would like to continue working with the Friends of Second Marsh.

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That we recommend to the Community Growth & Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the proposed 2026 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Workplan, be amended as follows, and as amended, be approved:

Under Item 2.0:

- Under the 1st bullet, add the words “Continue to” before the word “promote”, delete the words “continue to” before the word “implement”, add the word “Durham” before the word “Environmental”, and add the word “program” after the word “Awards”;
- Under the 2nd bullet, delete the words, “sustainability team and plan for the Durham Environmental Achievement Awards program”, and replace with the words, “Environment and Climate Division”; and
- Under the 4th bullet, add the word, “enhancing” after the word “for”, delete the word “a” before the word “volunteer”, and add the words “ism with the Committee” after the word “volunteer” and before the word “program”.

Carried

7. For Information

A) Report #2025-INFO-55: Sustainable Infrastructure Policy and Guidelines

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-55 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

B) Report #2025-INFO-56: Proposed Amendments to the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act and Blue Box Regulations and Impacts to Service in Designated Business Areas

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-56 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

C) Report #2025-INFO-57: 2024 Annual Building Activity Review

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-57 of the Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development was received.

D) Report #2025-INFO-63: 2025 Annual Climate Change Progress Report

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-63 of the Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development was received.

E) Report #2025-INFO-66: One Year Update on the Enhanced Green Bin and Waste Management Container Online Sales and Exchange Platform

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-66 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

F) Report #2025-INFO-69: Update on Partnerships for Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-69 of the Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development was received.

G) Report #2025-INFO-70: Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessments; Air Quality Report

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-70 of the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health was received.

H) Report #2025-INFO-72: Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2025 Farm Tour

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-72 of the Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development was received.

I) Report #2025-INFO-74: Transport Canada Stakeholder Consultations on Pickering Lands

A copy of Report #2025-INFO-74 of the Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development was received.

J) Report #2025-CG-11: Update on Ontario's Integrated Energy Plan Related Policy, Planning, and Procurement Initiatives

A copy of Report #2025-CG-11 of the Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development was received.

Moved by M. Nasir, Seconded by G. Carpentier,
That Information Items 7. A) to 7. J) inclusive, be received for information.

Carried

8. Other Business

A) Phragmite Control at Cranberry Marsh Located in Whitby, Ontario

G. Carpentier advised that work is currently underway at Lynde Shores Conservation Area, specifically at Cranberry Marsh to control the phragmites that have been taking over.

Discussion ensued regarding what type of chemical they are using in place of Roundup, and if it is effective, if the Region would consider using it to control the phragmites along the roadways.

A. Bathe advised that she would follow-up with the Works Department and CLOCA for more information and report back to the Committee.

B) Bensfort Road Waste Management Facility Located in Peterborough, Ontario

G. Carpentier advised that at the Bensfort Road Waste Management Facility there is a separate area for residents to drop off good reusable materials that other residents can take and asked whether that could be proposed at the waste transfer stations around the Region.

A. Bathe advised that she would follow-up with Works staff and report back to the Committee.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled DECAC meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

J. Cuthbertson
Chair

S. Ciani
Committee Clerk