

Energy and Environment Minutes, 2021 - 2022

THIS IS A ROUGH COPY, intended to give a **keyword-searchable** history of the committee's conversations. Some portions of minutes are omitted. There may be errors; inks to minutes are provided.

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2021 January

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2021-01-07-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee-Meeting/da603c78-15a2-4154-95c1-acd800da88de>

Chair: Emily Chandler, VC Anna Stratton

Carbon Reduction & Ecological Working Groups

Anna Stratton provided background information on the development of the two working groups, namely the Ecological (Greening) Working Group and the Carbon Reduction Working Group. Ms. Stratton asked if any interested members would like to join and restart the Carbon Reduction Working Group, as they had paused meetings during the pandemic. The working group is planning to meet before the next Committee meeting and will send out an email to invite people to join. She suggested that one of the items on the agenda would be the idea of working with Climate Momentum to offer a community webinar on climate action.

Ecological Working Group, Craig Merkley reported that plans are in place for the Northshore cribwall project. They will be extending the existing cribwall work that was previously installed (across from the Theatre). As there were some docks located along there, they are planning on adding a boat launch area for boats to slide in from. They will be also working on the accessibility of the path along that area. The wooden cribwall, along with some rock will help to stabilize the shore. The UTRCA is planning to begin the work next week and estimate that it will be completed in March. In the spring they will add some cattails, dogwood and other various plantings along the shore.

Mr. Merkley also reported that Stratford has deemed invasive species to be an issue in the City, such as along the T.J. Dolan area. UTRCA has treated this area in the past for species such as European Buckthorn, phragmites and Japanese knotweed. They are working closely with the Parks and Forestry Manager for the City on this ongoing project. Anita Jacobsen suggested getting local groups involved more on the education of invasive species and what to look for. Craig Merkley agreed that education is key, however the actual work of ridding the areas of the species should be left up to the UTRCA, due to the fact that by pulling out some species you actually encourage them to propagate and sometimes there is a need to use chemicals in a controlled way. Emily Chandler suggested earmarking some 2021 budget funds to continue the invasive species work and to focus on education. Vanni Azzano encouraged working with the Scouts and local schools. He also noted that the Field Naturalists could possibly do an invasive species walk once permitted.

Mike Jorna suggested that since Stratford City Council has declared a climate emergency, they could be encouraged to find room in the budget to focus on an education plan regarding items such as invasive species, anti-idling, native plantings, etc. He noted that the Committee writing a regular column or social media post would be beneficial to the community. Councillor Henderson suggested producing a short video to post in lieu of the usual speakers that the Committee hosts annually. Councillor Burbach suggested the working groups could each put together a communication plan and Vanni Azzano suggested taking the video one step further and doing a webinar or an “ask the expert” interactive event that would have a greater impact. Emily Chandler will contact Mike Beitz, the Corporate Communications Lead, to get his feedback regarding the parameters and frequency of posts for events such as this. Anita Jacobsen will contact the Stratford Field Naturalists to possibly partner with the Committee on an event or webinar regarding invasive species.

Previous business

Update on Climate Action Plan – Emily Chandler/Councillor Burbach

Emily Chandler shared that there were 911 participants in the survey. Rebecca Garlick, Climate Change Coordinator, is working on summarizing the results for Council. Her hope is to have the Climate Plan document adopted by Council in February. Emily Chandler will e-mail the information she received from Rebecca Garlick to the Committee for their information.

Councillor Burbach advised funds have been included in the draft 2021 budget for the continuation of the Climate Change Coordinator position, in cooperation with or without the other municipalities. Councillor Burbach also updated the Committee that the Deputy Clerk does not have a meeting date scheduled or new updates for when the report will go to Council. There are a few outstanding items he would like to include when it does go to Council. He will advise the Committee when a date is set.

2021 Project Plans and Budget Update

LID Project (Stratford Skate Park) – Vanni Azzano

Vanni Azzano reported that they have received preliminary soil sample results. There are some levels that are slightly higher than they would like to see and as a result they will be conducting leaching tests to further analyze the soil in the area. Members will discuss 2021 budget plans for this project at a future meeting

*Compost Cow Update – Sammie Orr

Sammie Orr reported that there are no new updates, as the school is closed due to the pandemic. The compost bins are ordered and they plan to begin using them to collect compostable items when the school re-opens closer to February. Ms. Orr and her teacher, Ms. Ritsma, will plan to do a presentation to the Committee on the compost sometime in the next few months

Proposed Glass Plant Update – Emily Chandler

Emily Chandler shared an e-mail update she received from the City Clerk that staff is collecting all the information regarding the glass plant to present it at an upcoming Council meeting regarding the plant and the cost sharing proposal. The motions passed at the last Committee meeting will be included with the information for Council’s consideration. Ms. Chandler noted that there is a virtual Get Concerned Stratford meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m. for anyone who would like to register to attend.

Webinar – Plan for a Green Recovery/Climate Action Plan – Sammie Orr
Sammie Orr reported that they are in the very preliminary planning stage of hosting a webinar. The carbon reduction working group may take on this idea and keep the Committee updated.

Tree Power Update – Emily Chandler

Emily Chandler updated the Committee that the new date for the Tree Power event is on Friday, April 9th and Saturday, April 10th. Festival Hydro is sponsoring the event, which supplies 300 trees to Stratford residents to purchase online or by phone prior to the pick-up dates in April. Committee members were encouraged to mark their calendars and consider volunteering those days to help distribute trees. The event will be taking place near the dog park where they can spread out for pick-ups. Councillor Burbach noted that there will be a separate website set up dedicated to the Tree Power event in Stratford where people can log on to purchase a tree and all the instructions regarding picking the trees up to planting them will be made available there

New business

Idling bylaw - Emily Chandler - request to committee that business owners display signage regarding the by-law to make them aware that Stratford has an anti-idling by-law in place. In doing so, this may help Stratford meet its climate action plan reduction targets.

EChandler: this committee's list of updates*, which was provided to the Deputy Clerk, updating and enforcing the City's anti-idling by-law was included.

She does not personally feel comfortable

asking businesses who are struggling through the pandemic right now to post additional signage regarding idling. Mike Jorna suggested the Committee could produce a bumper sticker that could be put on City vehicles, police cruisers and anyone else who would like to post one, stating that they support anti-idling and will be turning vehicles off when not in use. Ms. Chandler added that the City does have anti-idling brochures that are available as well. Councillor Henderson suggested that perhaps a good approach would be to have the City's Communications Lead send out some social media posts regarding idling. Anna Stratton suggested reaching out to the City Centre Committee to remind their members that there is an anti-idling by-law in Stratford. She noted that the businesses could add it to their take-out instructions for customers to suggest customers do not idle during their pick-up. Councillor Henderson will contact the City Centre Committee and the Chamber of Commerce. Vanni Azzano suggested that adding in a "did you know" aspect to the anti-idling information may make it more effective. Councillor Burbach noted that this is a hard item to consider during the pandemic and trying to balance hardships.

Emily Chandler will follow up with the person who submitted the letter to advise them on the climate action plan and the materials that are available at the City and thank them for bringing their concern to the Committee

Mike Sullivan - Government's two billion tree planting initiative. Federal funding available would like committee to consider recommending City apply.*

Smart Energy Conference (Kingston) - Mike Sullivan recommends a member of the Committee attend. Held in January. \$149 per person,

Energy Efficient Building Requirements - Mike Sullivan - Stratford City Council is approving many housing tracts within City boundaries and there will be many more to come because Stratford is a desirable place to live. He is suggesting that Stratford could request zoning rules that allow the City to work toward being carbon neutral. Building codes have not changed in decades and homes are being built with heating and insulation minimum standards from years ago. It was his opinion that the City could become a leader in attracting builders who will build homes on the desirable lots that Stratford has to offer that are highly efficient.

He suggested that moving forward on any future developments, Council could request only developers who include an energy component be permitted to build. Councillor Henderson suggested getting SABA involved to discuss energy efficient building would be beneficial. She also noted that Woodstock is a great example of a community working towards high efficiency and net zero buildings. Mike Jorna inquired why infrastructure design for new tracts of housing could not include ground source heat and other net zero standards. Mr. Jorna suggested the Committee investigate and put some thought into their recommendation to Council and have further discussion at the February meeting. Before the next meeting, Emily Chandler will review the climate action plan and see what has been included with regards to housing. She will forward the information to the Committee*

2021 February

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2021-02-04-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/f7311b40-36b9-4289-a3f3-aced00b45e49>

Delegate: Jack Gibbons, Ontario Clean Air Alliance
Municipal Support for Ontario's Gas Plant Phase-

Jack Gibbons introduced himself and shared a Powerpoint presentation on the Ontario Clean air Alliance's campaign to promote the phase-out of the Ontario gas fired power plants. They are looking for support in the form of a resolution from the City of Stratford. Mr. Gibbons was available to answer questions.

Mike Sullivan inquired if Mr. Gibbons could provide natural gas costs. Mr. Gibbons explained that with the current natural gas plants, the total cost is \$0.14/Kwh, but if you just look at the fuel costs of just ramping them up, the cost is \$0.03/Kwh. Mr. Sullivan inquired if we are still paying for gas plants to run, when electricity is cheaper than \$0.03. Mr. Gibbons reported that, yes it is true that they are paid whether they run or not. However, of the 20-year contracts signed with gas plants during the phase-out of coal plants, 80% of those contracts will have expired by 2030.

Anna Stratton inquired if the ideal situation would be a combination of wind and solar with Quebec as a backup. Mr. Gibbons agreed that there needs to be a backup for wind and solar and Quebec wind, solar and surplus water power is available to import. Ms. Stratton also inquired if the Province of Ontario has cancelled wind and solar contracts. Mr. Gibbons agreed that projects have been cancelled, however according to the International Energy Agency wind and solar are now the lowest cost services of new electricity supply. The IEA forecasts that 95% of the world's new power capacity during the next five years will be renewables. Ontario is going in the total opposite direction from the rest of the world. The Government of Ontario is focusing their spending on gas fired power plants, not renewables.



Councillor Burbach inquired if the Kitchener resolution has been circulated to other municipalities as a consent agenda item. Mr. Gibbons was not aware if it was circulated. He will provide examples of resolutions adopted by 11 municipalities. He has also provided a draft resolution for Stratford.

Sammie Orr inquired if municipalities would have to change a lot of infrastructure to move to solar and/or wind energy. Mr. Gibbons reported that a lot of the power plants are already hooked up to the Hydro One high voltage transmission grid, which does not require any action by a municipality. Many residents already have solar panels that can be hooked up to the grid and local municipalities are already doing this for them. Mike Jorna stated he supports eliminating fossil fuel generation of electricity, however, he is concerned that while this plan looks good currently, what if a large amount of other things are switched over to electricity, such as cars. Would the demand outweigh the supply Quebec can provide. Mr. Gibbons reported that electric cars will not have as much of a demand on electricity as people think. As an example, if a million cars in Ontario became electric, it would raise the electricity demand by 2%. If all cars in Ontario went electric, it would raise it 17%.

Councillor Henderson stated that there are approximately 12 projects in Stratford that have solar panels on their homes and the City has 3-4 projects located in Stratford.

Councillor Burbach stated she had solar panels installed on her roof with a previous government program and hooking into the Festival Hydro grid was very easy

Vanni Azzano stated that a lot of the lowest costs are with programs that provincially no longer exist, such as energy efficiency, solar and wind. Mr. Gibbons agreed it is not rational. There are many low cost alternatives that are also very clean.

Emily Chandler inquired if Mr. Gibbons would like to see a motion from the Committee recommending that Stratford City Council endorse the phase-out of coal fired plants by 2030. Mr. Gibbons agreed and also the support of an interim cap of the annual greenhouse gas pollution from the gas plants at 2.5 mega tons, which is the level they achieved in 2017. There is also a petition online in support of the phase-out that Ontario residents can sign (ontarioclimateaction.ca).

Anna Stratton assumed the role of chair at the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Mike Jorna urged members not to just focus on the cost per kilowatt hour. By 2030 costs will not drive the agenda, it will be what we are doing on the planet. He believes the resolution should focus on this goal.

Anna Stratton reviewed the draft resolution provided by the Ontario Clean Air Alliance. Mike Jorna suggested members review the draft resolution and discuss any revisions they would like to make at the March meeting.

Motion: Defer consideration of the request to endorse the recommendation to phase out Ontario's gas plants to the next committee meeting. Carried *

Ecological Update

Vanni Azzano updated the Committee that the working group would like to request staff attend an upcoming meeting to provide an update on the City of Stratford's salt management plan.

- Work on the north shoreline of the Avon River began yesterday and continued today.
- The working group would like to see more tree plantings around Stratford. School plantings are on hold for now. They will inquire with some options to plant more trees on commercial/industrial land around the city. Perhaps wildflowers instead of trees, as sometimes expansion of businesses are an issue with planting trees.
- Will follow up if the Tree Trust has a commercial/industrial program.
- The group has discussed the future of the John Street Weir and the possibility of a multi-use bridge with a pathway across it.

Carbon Reduction WG

Anna Stratton shared the notes from the working group's last meeting.

- The group will continue to send posts to Mike Beitz to share on social media once per month.
- They are also collecting ideas for future webinars. She asked members to please send their ideas to Emily Skelding to be included. Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk, stated that if it was a city initiative, staff would assist the group in setting up a webinar.
- The group would like to invite the Climate Change Coordinator to an upcoming E&E meeting to review her report and share any feedback she has received to date.

Business arising

Update on Climate Action Plan

Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk, reported that staff are finalizing the document and she will e-mail the Committee when she has confirmation on a date that it is going to Council.

Mike Sullivan inquired if the City's 10% greenhouse gas emissions reduction between now and 2030 is a set goal or if it can be changed. He stated it is very low and should be closer to the Canada average of 30%. Councillor Burbach noted that the 10% decrease is based on 2017 figures, whereas a lot of the other data is using a measuring point from the early 2000's. Tatiana Dafoe will provide members with additional information on how Stratford is calculating their reduction figures*

Invasive Species Update

Emily Chandler reported that members are working with the Stratford Field Naturalists and the UTRCA to put together a webinar to be held in June*

Nature Canada – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan reported that Canadian Forestry Services will be doing a call for proposals soon, seeking interest from organizations that can do plantings this spring or fall. There is an outline of six principle organizations must follow. Mr. Sullivan will watch for the request for proposal to be released. Councillor Burbach noted that this program will work nicely with the upcoming Tree Power event. She also noted that there is not as much area available on public land to do tree plantings; however there is a substantial amount available on private land for homeowners who are interested, as well as commercial/industrial land. Mike Sullivan also discussed previous tobacco farmland being reforested and if reforesting farmland in this area might be a possibility. Vanni Azzano stated that the high cost of farmland in this area makes it difficult to pursue an option such as this. Councillor Henderson inquired if local farmers could be encouraged to plant additional tree lines or add to existing ones. Councillor Burbach noted there are wind break programs for private land owners to help plant trees, as well as initiatives to help connect woodlots.

Energy Efficient Building Requirements – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan shared a draft proposal for City Council requesting that they no longer issue building permits for anything that is not a passive house or passive building standard. He would like Council to adopt a policy that only development proposals for buildings that meet passive house standards will be accepted and permitted. He suggested if there was reluctance from developers to come to Stratford and build, a way to encourage this would be to offer lower development charges and property taxes to offset the cost of building a passive house. Geoff Krauter inquired if the City has the ability to adjust or lower development charges for programs such as building to net zero standards? Councillor Burbach noted that the City can adjust the charges, however she is not clear on what a discount type model would look like. Councillor Burbach has just recently joined an organization called Climate Caucus, which is for councillors and mayors. They do have working groups in many different areas and there may be an opportunity for her to discuss development policies and legislation on passive developments with other municipalities. Tatiana Dafoe suggested the Committee could put forward a motion referring it to staff to review and investigate the details of a net zero development policy for Council to have all the information, including the financial implications of reducing the development charges and property taxes.

Motion: THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee requests an investigation into adopting a policy that the City of Stratford will only

accept development proposals for homes, apartments and other dwelling units that meet Passive House Standards (PHIUS), and that such developments be net zero ready, be referred to staff;
AND THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee recommends that the City consider time-limited 10% reductions in development charges and property taxes for any such buildings in order to offset the potential additional cost of construction. Carried

Ground Source Heating – Mike Jorna*

Mike Jorna discussed how Stratford could get rid of fossil fuels for the existing dwellings in the city. He suggested the possibility of using ground source heat, not only in new developments, but within the infrastructure of the existing roads. He questioned whether ground heating plates could be added during road reconstruction projects. Stubs could be run to the property line of each home and as each of the heating systems at these homes needs to be replaced, they could hook into this heat source.

Mr. Jorna inquired if a staff representative from the Engineering Department, who is involved with the road rebuilds, could attend a future Committee meeting to discuss the possibility of this. Anna Stratton suggested having a geo-thermal expert attend a future meeting. Tatiana Dafoe advised she would contact the Director of Infrastructure & Development Services to gain some initial input and advice. As the current director is retiring there may be a delay in scheduling the presentation until the position is filled. Anna Stratton also suggested a representative from Festival Hydro could be invited to a meeting to discuss options. Vanni Azzano reported that residents in assisted living can participate in an energy audit done on their appliances, bulbs, insulation, etc. They will provide a report and will help replace and upgrade some of these items to assist in reducing energy use.

Acceptable Take-out Containers for Recycling – Kate Simpson

Kate Simpson reported that she is working with Sammie Orr on a campaign for what take-out containers are accepted in Stratford's recycling program. They are collecting pictures of all the various containers and indicating where they should go, either recycle, compost or if they are garbage. She asked members to please forward photos of anything they get so they can use them as examples.

Reducing Food Waste Campaign – Kate Simpson

Kate Simpson reported she has started working with the CFUW on ideas on how to promote reducing food waste. The CFUW will put together an educational document that can be shared on the City's social media outlets. Ms. Simpson will request they put together a proposal and attend an upcoming Committee meeting to discuss with the members.

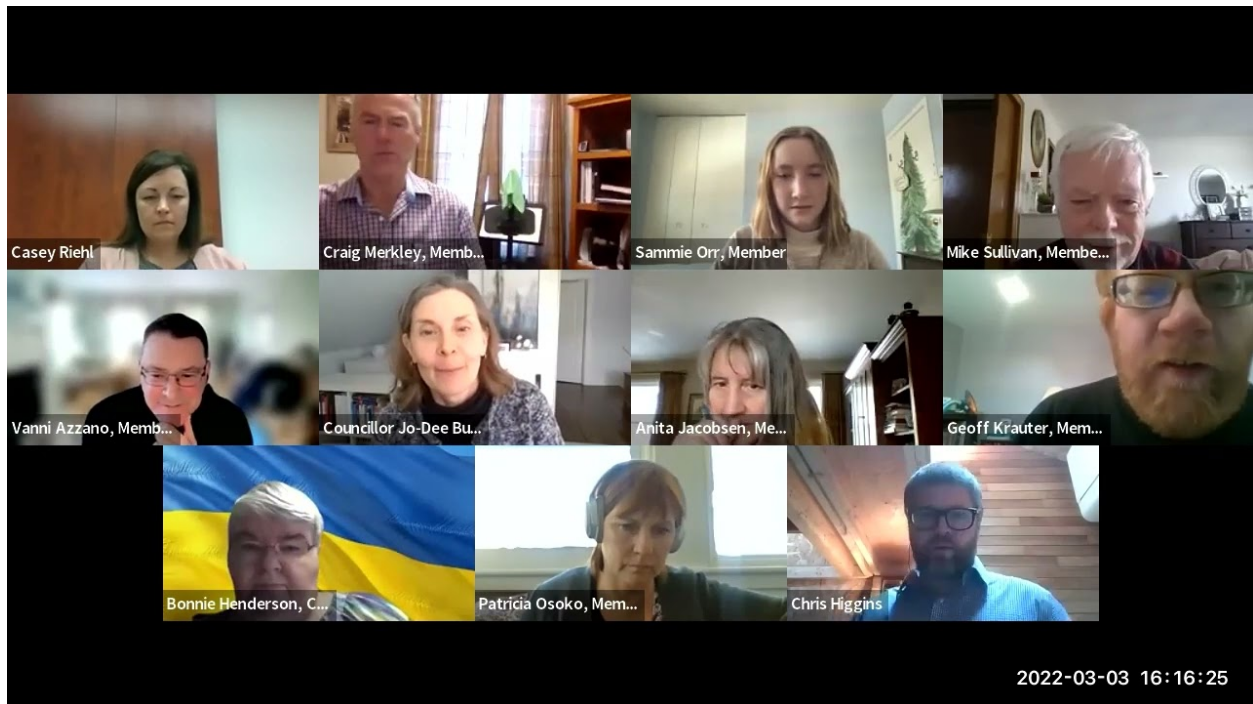
2021 March

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2022-03-03-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/57ae7d73-25b3-4303-a625-aed000f07d50>

Delegate: Chris Higgins – Senior Green Building Planner, City of Vancouver

By-Law Eliminating the Use of Fossil Fuels in Residential Buildings Under 3-

Storeys



Chris Higgins, Senior Green Building Planner, introduced himself and reviewed his role with the City of Vancouver and how he and his team began the project of eliminating fossil fuels from low-rise residential building projects. 60% of Vancouver is zoned for low-rise residential (3 storeys or under). When the project first started, Mr. Higgins dedicated 100% of his time to new builds and now dedicates 50% to new builds and 50% to existing buildings.

For new construction, Vancouver offers a “floor area bonus”, which allows a builder to construct a slightly larger building and get a floor space increase if they are building a fossil fuel free low-rise building. A duplex receives an 18% bonus, single family homes receive a 15% bonus, and a multi-unit building receives a 5% floor area bonus. Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk, now present at the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Offering floor area bonuses is a powerful tool and it does not cost the City of Vancouver anything out of pocket but does provide additional built space. The City of Vancouver also offered cash incentive programs such as the Near Zero program that offered up to \$25,000.00 per participant (nearzero.ca), Heritage Energy Retrofit Grant offering \$4,600-\$14,000 to retrofit pre-1940's homes, and an incentive from BC Hydro and the Province to receive a rebate to retrofit from a gas/oil furnace to an electric heat pump (the Province puts in \$3,000.00, BC Hydro puts in \$3,000.00 and the City of Vancouver puts in \$6,000.00).

City of Vancouver staff will be submitting a proposal to Council in May to require all homes over 3,000 square feet to switch off fossil fuels for space heat by January 1, 2024.

When builders approach Vancouver Council asking for a zone change, such as changing four lots for single family homes to a row of townhouses, Council asks that those buildings be fully electric and have a higher level of energy performance. This was a way to voluntarily require developers to build to a higher standard. Once the changes were made to implement electric space heating and hot water tanks, City of Vancouver staff undertook research and found the cost to the developer was a \$1.12/square foot increase for townhomes and low-rise multi-family that already have an existing \$300-\$350/sq. foot building cost. In their opinion, it was a fairly modest increase to the building cost. Single family homes had a slightly higher increase of \$3.41 per square foot. Mr. Higgins worked with three builders in the Vancouver Builders Association and had each of them independently cost out the requirements he provided. All three builders came back with costing that fit within the same cost range that staff had received from consultants. Two of the three builders that did the costing for townhomes, were able to do the changes for under \$0.90/sq. ft.

Mr. Higgins noted that one thing that was very helpful in getting these regulations passed at Council, was to have industry representatives speak to the changes and their willingness to see Council implement the requirements of green initiatives. The City of Vancouver also uses their civic buildings as examples of retrofitting to electric. They have converted their City Hall, fire halls, day care centres, schools and police department as demonstrations of what is possible.

Geoff Krauter inquired if the heritage building program is funded solely by the City or if it is backed by the government or BC Hydro. Mr. Higgins stated the program is funded entirely by the City of Vancouver, however if you participate in the program, it does not make you ineligible to receive other outside funding. The City's incentive programs are funded through carbon tax refunds and community amenity contribution programs. Sammie Orr inquired if older buildings will eventually be required to be electrified. Mr. Higgins stated that yes, by 2024 they are proposing to require all one and two-family homes use renewable energy for domestic hot water. There will be exemptions for some buildings that cannot be retrofitted to electric to use a condensing gas boiler and purchase a lifetime contract for renewable gas. Additionally, homes larger than 3000 sq. ft. will have to install a heat pump to replace the furnace/boiler or if retrofitting with an electrical service is not an option, replacing equipment with high efficiency gas equipment and purchase a lifetime contract for renewable gas.

Craig Merkley inquired if Mr. Higgins sees a rise in prices when there are incentives offered. Mr. Higgins stated that unfortunately yes, you sometimes do see some escalation in price. However, it was difficult to gauge lately if it was based on incentives offered or pandemic-related price increases.

Vanni Azzano inquired how Vancouver got buy-in from builders, besides the floor area bonus incentive, and what sort of training builders had. Initially Mr. Higgins spoke to builder contacts he had and set up some evening events to talk about what the barriers are within the City of Vancouver and removing some of the red tape. He also attended the Builder's Association "Builders Breakfast" event to have an open dialogue with local builders and he also met at a temple to talk with members who were builders and he had approximately 40 builders attend. Mr. Azzano noted it was encouraging to hear that the City of Vancouver uses their civic buildings as demonstrations for retrofitting. Mr. Higgins advised he would forward Vancouver's Civic Buildings Policy to the Committee.

Patricia Osoko inquired if Mr. Higgins would share his slide deck with E&E. Mr. Higgins

advised he sent Mike Sullivan the Real Estate and Facilities Management Technical Guidelines and that he would also send the slide deck presentation.

Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk, departed the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Mike Sullivan inquired if Vancouver has a Land Tribunal or a similar appeal system in BC that can overrule their decision. Mr. Higgins stated that they do not. The City has the ultimate decision on whether something goes ahead or not. There is an appeals process, but it is incremental.

Councillor Burbach stated that because Stratford's development charges are different, allowing a zone change may work as opposed to monetary incentives. She inquired where the floor area bonuses lie and whether they are a development charge per square foot and how savings are achieved. Mr. Higgins explained that a developer would be building a larger home, paying for a smaller footprint. Vancouver sets a limit on the size of the floor area based on the size of the land. Developers can deduct 5% of their floor area from that number.

Mike Sullivan inquired if Vancouver requires car charging ports to be installed in every building, including apartments, and whether solar panels have net metering or if there is an incentive on top of that. Mr. Higgins stated that yes, for all residential and owner/occupant spaces a charging connector has to be wired, not fully installed, and that this does not apply to visitor spaces. In high rises and hotels, the connector must be provided in 80-100% of the spots. Mr. Higgins stated that Vancouver is not a leader in solar panels. Their electrical peak occurs between November and February between 5-9 p.m. To offset the electrical peak, it does not provide a lot of help. BC Hydro has not done a lot to encourage solar.

5.0 Updates from Carbon Reduction, Ecological and I.CI

Ecological

Craig Merkle reported that the shoreline work has not been completed due to weather. Next week he is meeting with a forester from the UTRCA to go through the Old Grove to look at some of the plantings done by the Civic Beautification Committee in 1991 and review it from a management standpoint.

Carbon Reduction

Geoff Krauter reported that the working group discussed the lack of mention of the environment in the City of Stratford's secondary plans. The Official Plan review is underway on a required basis, however, feels it would be an acceptable time to ask staff to undertake a review of the secondary plans using a climate lens. Councillor Henderson suggested that E&E could start a list of items they would like to see the Climate Change Working Group discuss. It may be beneficial to coordinate all the information, rather than sending various motions throughout the process.

Councillor Burbach suggested that she could take E&E motions to the Infrastructure Transportation and Safety Sub-committee, ++ where the Climate Working Group provides their updates. Councillor Burbach provided an update on the Climate Action Plan. She stated the internal working group has met twice, and divided discussions into short, mid and long term goals to focus on. She will forward the breakdown to committee members.

Motion by Mike Sullivan

Seconded by Geoff Kraute = THAT the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee recommends Stratford City Council undertake a formal review of the Secondary Plans and make recommendations for revisions based on a climate lens. Carried

.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sammie Orr reported that the working group has been contacting local grocery stores to discuss single-use plastics. They are planning to work on compiling a list of success stories in regard to local waste reduction to encourage individuals to shop sustainably and also provide some ideas for businesses to see what other businesses are doing. They are also working on putting together some educational and promotional materials

Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee

Councillor Burbach advised that ATAC is working on recommendations for the prioritization of projects. The main goal is looking at infrastructure to figure out the best locations in Stratford to focus on. They will also be meeting with the Accessibility Advisory Committee this Spring to discuss projects. They discussed bikes in the TJ Dolan Area and options for additional signage. She also reported that the City is looking at the possibility of lowering the speed limit in residential areas, making it safer to share the road. She noted that the Master Transportation Plan is currently being updated for the City and active transportation and transit will be incorporated into the plan.

BUSINESS ARISING

Update on Climate Action Plan/Tax Deferral Program to Encourage Green Development in Stratford – Councillor Burbach Council has been discussing the 5-year update to their development charges. Councillor Burbach inquired about adding incentives into the development charges for developers building with greener standards. She stated it is important to make sure that as the green development standards are being updated, they also look at changing the development charges along the way. Sammie Orr inquired if E&E can request items be incorporated into the green development standards. Councillor Burbach suggested as a group, putting together a list of what will work in Stratford with the Ontario Building Code. Geoff Krauter suggested a presentation to the SABA members would also be beneficial. Mike Sullivan inquired if E&E could hold a special meeting and invite staff to attend based on the information E&E heard today from Chris Higgins. Councillor Burbach suggested E&E could do a future presentation to the Climate Action Plan internal working group

Update on Paving for the Bandshell Project In Park Area Between Lakeside Drive and Cobourg Street – Councillor Burbach

Councillor Burbach contacted the Director of Community Services to express E&E's concerns with drainage and the amount of concrete proposed. He reported that the plans are rough initial plans and if Stratford receives the grant funding, he would take E&E's concerns into consideration

Ontario Building Code Review – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan contacted the Deputy Clerk to inquire if the City of Stratford would be commenting on the review. He stated that the City will not be submitting comments. He suggested that E&E members could forward comments by the deadline of March 13, 2022. Mr. Sullivan will be suggesting the Province gives cities the right to improve on the building code, as they do in Vancouver

2021 April

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2021-04-01-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/4c3f0bbf-be6a-44d5-b657-ad3300e4ec4c>

Delegations

Members of the Stratford District Secondary School Eco Club presented a slide show on the new compost cow project their club has started at their high school. They have started using some of the compost in their greenhouse and gardens.

Anita Jacobsen inquired if a platform in front of the composter would make it easier to empty the bins into the cow. Sammie Orr noted that so far, they have not had any difficulties reaching the opening to dump the bins. Ms. Ritsma also noted that the bin can be lowered to make emptying the bins easier.

Emily Skelding inquired how they get air into the composter and if they ever need to add any moisture. Ms. Ritsma explained that there are air vents in the sides of the cylinder and the students do add a little bit of water and dirt to assist with the breakdown.

Emily Skelding also asked if the school supplements the program by using the City's green bin composting program. Sammie Orr noted that the school currently does not qualify for the City's green bin program.

Anna Stratton inquired if SDSS is the only local school doing a compost program like this. Joelle Weibe stated that they are the first public school using a compost cow in Ontario. The Eco Club has been promoting it using the school's social media and then they hope to reach out to the community. Emily Chandler suggested tagging the City's social media when they post to help spread the information. Anita Jacobsen suggested the information could be sent to the AMDSB and other school boards to promote the composter initiative. Once school is back to normal with the cafeteria and restaurant open, students will be collecting from two bins in the cafeteria, two in the lobby and one in the Screaming Avocado.

Carbon Reduction Update

Anna Stratton reported that the working group is currently putting together the monthly webinars. They are working at scheduling a webinar to hear from local youth. Sammie Orr confirmed that they should be prepared to do the April one and excited about the

opportunity to participate. Ms. Stratton confirmed with Mike Beitz regarding promoting the “Climate Action Community Meetings” and he offered to provide support on social media, links to additional information and an events calendar. Other tentative webinars have been arranged for greening the economy (May) and invasive species with the Stratford Field Naturalists (June)

Emily Chandler discussed with Mike Beitz about E&E partnering with other local environmental groups or individuals to promote and access events that could be included with a link on the City’s website calendar. This would bring further awareness and additional promotion for local educational events happening

Ecological Update

Craig Merkley reported that the Stratford Field Naturalists have confirmed the invasive species webinar for June 8, 2021. UTRCA will also participate in the webinar. Mr. Merkley also reported that the most recent shoreline work is almost complete. UTRCA staff will add the final gravel and topsoil next week. They are also working on new ideas for planting aquatic plants near the Tom Patterson Theatre. Wildlife has eaten all the previous plantings.

Mr. Merkley also reported that Vanni Azzano has 200 trees to be planted and will work with Community Services staff on a location, which will most likely be at the dog park.

Business arising

2021 Budget Allocation Discussion – Emily Chandler

Emily Chandler reviewed some of the previously discussed projects that E&E would like to do in 2021 and the budget figures.

Ongoing Shoreline Work 10,000.00
Invasive Species Work 3,000.00
Low Impact Development Project 3,000.00
Webinars 200.00

Tree Power Event 150.00
SDSS Eco Club Garden T.B.D.

Motion by Councillor Burbach, seconded by Anna Stratton
THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$150.00 on refreshments for volunteers at the April 9-10, 2021 Tree Power Event. Carried

(c) Energy Efficient Building Requirements – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan participated in an online course with Passive House Canada. He has sent the Committee the course materials and will forward the online videos if anyone requests a copy. Certification is available from Passive House Canada for tradespeople, architects, designers, builders, etc., to begin building passive houses. There is a passive house project in Embro that is currently underway. There is also a public housing development in Woodstock that meets the passive house requirements.

Passive House is attempting to get the Federal Government to make this the new building standard for the Building Code. It is a slow process and they are receiving push back from Environment Canada in terms of the stringency. Mr. Sullivan has also requested information regarding passive house standards for retrofits. Mr. Sullivan has not had an update from City of Stratford staff regarding the motion the Committee previously passed. Councillor Burbach stated the City cannot make

stricter requirements than those included in the Ontario Building Code, however incentives, not necessarily monetary, to builders who meet passive house standards may be able to be offered. Emily Chandler suggested incentives for builders to take training on building passive houses might be a start. Staff will inquire if the Manager of Planning would be available to attend the June E&E meeting to discuss options for moving forward with a plan.

(d) Re-Usable Container Program for Stratford – Sammie Orr

Sammie Orr reported that A Friendlier Company has hosted some meetings for local restaurants to learn about the program. There was a lot of interest in participating. The working group is trying to get a group of Stratford restaurants, hopefully 5-10 to participate. There have been sample containers delivered to some restaurants and samples are available to see at Destination Stratford. There will be another information session in a couple of weeks. The working group is also researching other companies and options for restaurants to choose from. Please contact Sammie Orr if you would be interested in joining the committee.

(e) Recommendation to Phase Out Ontario's Gas Plants – Mike Jorna

Following the presentation from the Ontario Clean Air Alliance and reviewing resolutions from other municipalities, Mike Jorna drafted a resolution for Stratford to support the phase-out of Ontario's gas plants. Emily Sykes suggested amending the section referencing Stratford has "committed" to a carbon net zero goal by 2050 to "considering" a carbon net zero goal by 2050, as it has not yet been passed by Council.

Motion by Mike Jorna, seconded by Emily Sykes

THAT the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee recommends the following resolution be considered by Stratford City Council:

AND WHEREAS the Earth is on course toward a climate crisis, unless timely actions are taken to minimize the greenhouse effect;

AND WHEREAS the use of fossil fuels is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect because of the increasing amount of heat trapping Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere;

AND WHEREAS Stratford, along with other municipalities has declared a "Climate Emergency" and is considering a Carbon Net Zero goal to be achieved by 2050;

AND WHEREAS the 2050 Carbon Net Zero goal has been, and is being adopted by countries and governments at all levels, as well as by industries, social and economic institutions;

AND WHEREAS the most effective way of achieving that goal is through initiatives in reducing carbon footprint, and greening;

AND WHEREAS in the Province of Ontario, Electricity generation fueled by Natural gas contributes substantially to the province's carbon

footprint and provides an opportunity for rapid reduction of carbon dioxide emissions through the elimination of this form of generation;

AND WHEREAS in the interest of environmental and economic wellbeing for the province of Ontario, immediate action to replace the gas generators by sustainable zero carbon alternatives should be undertaken

Therefore, be it resolved that the City of Stratford strongly appeal to the Government of Ontario to immediately take steps to replace gas powered electrical generation with non-carbon based sustainable alternatives;

Be it further resolved that this resolution be circulated to Ontario municipalities and their organizations including AMO and OSUM for their consideration of support. Carried

(f) Update on Anti-Idling By-law – Councillor Burbach

Councillor Burbach reviewed the Working Group's recommendations for updating the City's anti-idling by-law. The recommendations are:

- Reducing the time limit from five minutes of consecutive idling to one minute, which is in line with what other municipalities are doing.
- Expand the types of vehicles covered to include small 2-stroke outdoor motorized equipment, such as snowblowers, leaf blower, lawn mowers, etc.
- Remove the outdoor ambient temperature attached to the idling by-law.
- Recommend an education and enforcement campaign – enforcement in certain designated zones (downtown core, market square, school zones), include regular social media posts, posting anti-idling signs in designated zones, creating bookmarks or stickers to make available at City Hall to get the message out, signs for businesses to post with the phone number to contact a by-law officer to report any idling.

++Councillor Burbach will investigate by-laws from other municipalities who have included 2-stroke equipment in their anti-idling by-law.

Chris Bantock will contact the Infrastructure & Development Services department to inquire about the cost of signage. Vanni Azzano suggested

any fines collected from the anti-idling by-law could be put towards the purchase of trees.

Members were requested to forward any additional feedback to the Chair.

Campaign to Reduce Food Waste – Kate Simpson Kate Simpson provided the climate fact sheet to Committee members to help distribute and it will also be posted on the City's social media. She is also working on a fast food/take out infographic to post as well

2021 May

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2021-05-06-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/c11f9b2c-cf56-4208-96b7-ad6400b7bd0f>

Johnny Bowes – Manager of Environmental Services, City of Stratford
Geothermal Well Alternatives in Stratford

Johnny Bowes, Manager of Environmental Services, discussed with the Committee various geothermal options that cities can use. He suggested that a representative from the Ontario Geothermal Association attend a future E&E meeting to discuss topics such as the history of geothermal technology, current/future trends and the future state of geothermal initiatives. Mike Jorna had previously raised the questions about the possibility of ground source heating options being installed during construction projects. Mr. Jorna explained that with ground heat being an excellent option to move away from carbon and also the space required to use geothermal, heat exchange systems located below the road allowance would be a solution. This could be put in when roads were created for new subdivisions, as well as during road construction projects. He inquired if geothermal could be installed,

in similar fashion to the drilling being completed by Wightmans, at a level that would serve as a source of heat for homes. Mr. Bowes explained that there is currently a pilot project being undertaken by a developer in the City of Markham. Essentially, they have constructed a 331 home subdivision with their entire heating and cooling systems fed from a common geothermal system.

Mr. Bowes noted that there are significant costs to installing geothermal infrastructure as a new utility in existing subdivisions during road reconstruction. It would require a utility provider to be onboard to install the new infrastructure during the road construction process and take on the financial responsibility with the hope that over time residents would connect to the system. This is not an issue for a developer with construction in a new subdivision, all the homes are built at the same time and it is profitable from the start for the developer and the utility provider.



Another issue Stratford would need to take into account is that they are a ground water sourced community, with six well head protection areas surrounding the water sources. Mr. Bowes stated that in 2022 staff hope to include funds in the budget for the purpose of retaining a consultant to complete a study on the potential impact of vertical geothermal wells and their relation to the vulnerability of the ground water aquifers.

This would fall under their ground water study that they complete. There are also horizontal geothermal systems available, which only require a depth of approximately 10 ft. Space is required for this, so rural properties are ideal and, in a city setting, large parking lots can utilize this type of well and do not compromise the aquifer.

Mike Jorna stated that in order for Stratford to meet a net zero commitment in the next 30 years, the older part of the city will need to be addressed. He stated the horizontal systems may be a good solution for this. Stratford could be on the forefront by investigating this option and possibly make use of a government grant to help with funding for such a pilot project. He also inquired about closed loops with the vertical systems. Mr. Bowes stated that the main concern with a closed loop vertical system is causing a transport pathway. By drilling down to a certain level, you can possibly interrupt the underground flow.

Councillor Burbach inquired if the Rotary Complex parking lot would be an ideal location for a horizontal geothermal system, as it will be undergoing a reconstruction review. Mr. Bowes concurred that this could potentially be a good location and will reach out to Community Services to discuss this option.

Sammie Orr inquired if there are any emission or environmental factors involved with geothermal. Mr. Bowes stated that geothermal systems for a home require electricity for the heat pump and it is a 5:1 improvement versus fossil fuel. He advised he would provide additional statistics for the committee

Delegate: Scott Knapman – CEO, Festival Hydro – Green Initiatives

Scott Knapman, referring to a PowerPoint presentation, provided an overview and background on green initiatives undertaken by Festival Hydro and their affiliate Rhyzome.

Festival Hydro participates in the Green Button program, which allows customers to view their meter data and see their consumption and decide where they can make reductions to help conserve energy. Festival Hydro also hosts one of the largest lithium battery storage facilities which currently helps balance the system, with a maximum of 8.8 mega-watts capacity. In the future it could be used for load shifting.

Festival Hydro was active in delivering the Conservation and Demand Management Program from 2015-19 and helped reduce consumption by 40.6 GW hours. Some additional green initiatives that Festival Hydro is working towards is encouraging residents to use paperless billing, providing tips on how to conserve energy and reduce consumption, offering a net-metering system for renewable energy. They are currently undergoing an extensive study of their grid to make sure it can accommodate the growth in electrical vehicle charging stations and withstand the load on the system at certain peak times. Festival Hydro also sponsored the successful 2021 Tree Power event.

Mike Sullivan inquired if Festival Hydro has begun planning for the massive change in demand for electricity as homeowners switch from using fossil fuel. Mr. Knapman explained that they are continuously assessing their grid and the load demands and what they will need to upgrade and maintain it. They continuously follow studies so they can be fully prepared for upgrades and changes.

Emily Skelding inquired if many businesses are taking advantage of programs available. Mr. Knapman noted that when they were managing the programs in the past, there was a very good uptake. Now that they do not manage the programs, they have less insight into what programs customers are utilizing. Festival Hydro is always receptive to supporting business customers that want to work towards reducing their energy costs and consumption.

Councillor Henderson inquired if hydro lines are buried in areas where work is being completed. Mr. Knapman stated that all new developments have wires located underground and in the downtown area where it is more densely populated. Otherwise,

in most cases above-ground lines are replaced again with above-ground lines, as it is a costly undertaking to bury them and keep rates down.

Councillor Burbach inquired if a geothermal system was installed in a new subdivision, would it interfere at all with other underground utilities. Mr. Knapman stated that the geothermal would be located lower in the ground than the hydro, cable and gas. Councillor Burbach also inquired if Mr. Knapman knew of any Federal funding programs for greening opportunities that may be offered in the future. Mr. Knapman stated that there are some upcoming announcements that will be encouraging for commercial uses, as well as residential.

Sammie Orr inquired if Festival Hydro has a plan for the future on how they are going to increase their renewables or if they have any plans to ask the Provincial Government for change. Mr. Knapman stated that they work very closely with the Ontario Energy Board and Ministry of Energy to continually look at initiatives and policy changes that can help the Province and Festival Hydro. They also continue to work closely with customers to try and conserve. The transportation sector is an area that they are monitoring closely with electric vehicles and transit options.

Mike Jorna inquired if a hydrogen energy initiative is an option that Festival Hydro has investigated. Mr. Knapman stated that hydrogen energy takes a lot of power to produce and is not very attractive from an energy perspective. It makes more sense to have a renewable energy source available for this to work, such as hooking up to a wind farm.

There is a small system currently being used in the City of Markham.

Anna Stratton inquired if solar energy is a viable option right now for residents, without any incentives currently available. Mr. Knapman stated that it certainly is viable and the technology, performance and efficiency of solar panels is always improving. You do need to have a backup for night time, such as Festival Hydro or a battery storage. Economically, it is a challenge, with a long pay back period. He also suggested thermal solar for heating as another option. A good option is to use both.

Ecological Update

Craig Merkley reported that the shoreline work is complete, with a coat of wood chips on the new area. They will plant vegetation, including service berry trees, wildflowers and native grasses along the shore starting next week. He has received a lot of positive and appreciative feedback from landowners whose properties are along the shoreline in that area. He also reported that they have been successful in receiving grant funding from TD Friends of the Environment. This funding will assist with additional planting and upgrading the steps and decking on the south side of the lake.

Vanni Azzano reported that 200 native trees and shrubs have been planted at the dog park where the ash trees had been taken down.

Carbon Reduction Update

Anna Stratton reported that the Youth Speaks Out Webinar held in April was a success. Information on the webinar was posted on the City's website. The next webinar is being held on May 26, 2021 with Eric Miller from York University, Environment & Urban Change Department. A panel of E&E members will consolidate the questions for the webinar.

Councillor Burbach, Geoff Krauter and Emily Skelding have volunteered to sit on the panel. Mike Sullivan will be the host/moderator for this event.

FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

2021 Budget Allocation Discussion

The Committee discussed upcoming expenses related to the webinars.

Motion by Geoff Krauter, seconded by Mike Sullivan

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$500.00 on expenses related to the 2021 E&E webinars.

Carried

Update on Anti-Idling By-law – Councillor Burbach/Chris Bantock

Chris Bantock, Deputy Clerk, prepared and circulated a **report recommending changes to the City's Anti-Idling By-law**. The report is intended to be considered at the May 26, 2021 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting. The two revisions to the by-law that are outlined in the report are:

1. Reduce consecutive minutes of idling time from five minutes to one minute, and.
2. removal of the temperature exception.

New signs will be ordered for no-idling designated zones in the downtown core and school zones, should the by-law be amended, as well as updating all existing signage. Moving forward, education will be key to get this message out. Mr. Bantock will work with the City's Communications Lead to inform members of the public of the environmental impact of idling. There are anti-idling stickers available and once the lockdown is over, they will be made available throughout City buildings at various counters for people to pick up.

Sammie Orr inquired if provisions will be included to reduce idling of two-stroke engines. Councillor Burbach reported that she completed research to determine if other municipalities had these provisions in their by-law. An example could not be found. She suggested that she could raise the issue when the anti-idling by-law comes to Council for discussion. Chris Bantock explained that staff's decision to not include two-stroke engines in the by-law was that this by-law is specifically a vehicular idling by-law. The revisions addressed were both related to vehicles. He

stated that enforcement of two-stroke engine idling would be complicated and the City does not have the resources to enforce it. Councillor Burbach suggested looking at a separate two-stroke anti-idling by-law, separate from the vehicular one, in the future.

Mike Jorna suggested bumper stickers would also be a good option. They could be placed on City vehicles. Members agreed that this would be a good educational piece that the Committee could produce and distribute.

Sammie Orr inquired if residents could be made aware that enforcement of the two-stroke engines could happen, if that would be enough of a deterrent. Anna Stratton stated that the Communications Lead would be working on getting information out regarding idling. Chris Bantock stated that E&E could prepare some draft wording for posts to send to Mike Beitz. Craig Merkley suggested a fact sheet regarding idling could be included with residents' tax bills

Update on Energy Efficient Building Requirements – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan noted that the staff report has gone to Sub-committee and it outlined the legalities of what can and cannot be asked of developers. The suggestion was made to offer a subsidy to developers/builders. Mr. Sullivan stated that Stratford will need to appeal to the Provincial and Federal Government for changes to the guidelines that allow Stratford to ask developers to follow certain rules. This review has been deferred to the 2022 budget.

Geoff Krauter inquired about the City of Whitby standards that were discussed at the Sub-committee meeting. Councillor Burbach explained that it is a 4-tiered voluntary system, that over time each tier builds on the one before and gradually becomes a required green development standard. She noted that Stratford is quite small and does not have the in-house staff required to write a report regarding green development standards. Deferring the report to 2022 would allow a consultant to be hired and research what system could work in Stratford.

Mike Sullivan stated that there is Federal funding coming available in the next few years. He suggested that staff should write to ministries to request possible funding.

Re-Usable Container Program for Stratford – Sammie Orr

Sammie Orr reported that three restaurants so far have signed on to use the re-usable containers. They are continuing to try and encourage more restaurants to sign on, as well as other options with companies who offer cups or non-plastic containers. The working group is also looking into options for the al fresco dining initiative and adding receptacles to collect the containers. They are planning on doing some presentations to Council, Rotary, etc., to get the word out about this program. They plan to do a media release in the next few weeks

Campaign to Reduce Food Waste – Kate Simpson

Kate Simpson updated the Committee that the Canadian Federation of University Women has produced an educational document regarding food waste. Drawing attention to the issue of possibly purchasing too much food or different ways to use up leftovers

NEW BUSINESS

a. Blue Communities Project – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan provided information on the Blue Communities Project, a program for municipalities to adopt three points. Water and sanitation are human rights, the phase-out of bottled water in municipal facilities and events and ensure that municipalities are promoting publicly financed owned and operated water and waste-water services. Councillor Henderson reported that on December 14, 2015 the City of Stratford became a Blue Dot Community, which was an initiative of the David Suzuki Foundation. It is very similar to the Blue Communities Project. Anna Stratton suggested adding the Blue Dot information to the City's climate change page. Councillor Henderson will forward the Blue Dot information to Committee members.++

(b) Climate Change Coordinator – Emily Skelding

Emily Skelding inquired what the status is of fulfilling the Climate Change Coordinator position. Members were advised the Municipality of North Perth is overseeing the recruitment process

2021 June

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2021-06-03-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/ed51f91d-4454-49dc-a992-adc100d1e6be>

DELEGATION:

Delegates: **Jeff Hunter – Ontario Geothermal Association & Rose Anderson – Buchanan & Hall – Geothermal Discussion**

Jeff Hunter referring to a PowerPoint presentation, provided an overview on ground source heat pump systems, heat transfer processes, various geothermal loop designs and installations and efficiency data. Mr. Hunter and Rose Anderson, local geothermal contractors, were available for questions.

*Craig Merkley and Geoff Krauter now present at the meeting at 4:12 p.m. Councillor Burbach inquired about the aquifer protection areas in the City and what kind of problems this presents for vertical systems in residential areas. Jeff Hunter advised drilling guidelines are currently being worked on and will be shared with



municipalities to assist them in navigating vertical drilling in areas with aquifers. This will be an educational process moving forward.

Anita Jacobson inquired what the pipes are made of and approximately how many years they are expected to last. Rose Anderson stated that they are made of high-density polyethylene, the same pipe that natural gas is piped through, and they will last 200+ years.

Anna Stratton inquired what the estimated costs are with installing a residential or community geothermal system, such as the example in Sweden. Mr. Hunter stated that the Sweden study will be released in the next week and they will be able to examine what policies they had in place, such as government incentivization or discounted utility rates. Locally, capital costs to install vary depending on the site geology, the amount of pipe required, load diversity, etc.

Mike Jorna inquired if it would make sense for the City of Stratford to start planning to provide geothermal energy as a utility by coordinating it with the reconstruction process of the roads or directional drilling and closing the loops at either end and having homeowners over a period hook up to the larger system. The City would have

the capacity to do the capital investment. Rose Anderson commented that this would be the ideal situation. Jeff Hunter agreed and advised the decarbonization of houses is space conditioning and if a municipality has the capital to provide its residents with a geothermal energy utility, it would be ideal and be a great source of revenue. Johnny Bowes noted that there is a significant difference between new developments versus road reconstruction in existing neighbourhoods. A utility company would cover the cost of installing the infrastructure with the hopes that people will pay out of pocket to connect to the private side. As opposed to pre-designed new neighbourhoods that have homes designed to already have that in place.

Councillor Henderson inquired if pipes are installed under new construction, how the pipes would be replaced. Jeff Hunter stated that pipes would never need to be replaced once installed. Pipes are pressure tested and tested for leaks prior to burying. The pipes have a half-life span of 1000 years. She also inquired if there is an approximate cost comparison for the geothermal energy. Jeff Hunter explained that the thermal energy in the ground is free, you just pay for moving it to and from the house using the heat pump, which is a cost of 5:1. Operational costs compared to natural gas can be upwards of 50% savings. Rose Anderson explained that a vertical bore installation is more expensive than a standard horizontal system.

Sammie Orr inquired if new developments in Stratford would need to have the geothermal connection to meet passive house standards. Jeff Hunter stated that another policy trigger that has been very effective, is that municipalities have their own green standards and building standards, which require developers to incorporate these standards into their buildings. Rose Anderson noted that with new construction, the homes are required to be extremely airtight. Therefore, the size of the heat pump and loop field is reduced, which reduces costs.

Mike Jorna stated that Stratford Council should consider costs to residents for not utilizing thermal energy, not only for new construction, but to retrofit existing areas. Jeff Hunter stated that an analysis to electrify space conditioning would greatly be reduced if geothermal was incorporated into the solution.

Mike Sullivan inquired if having an appropriately sized ground source is a barrier and if so, could ground source and air source heat pump technology be combined in the same facility. Rose Anderson stated that there is technology out there that allows for an air pump to be installed to supplement the ground heat. Jeff Hunter noted that in Europe they are using integrated technology with hybrid heat pumps for both water and air source.

Councillor Burbach inquired if the City of Stratford, which has a lot of corporate building to look after, could utilize parking lots as a practical solution. For example, the proposed reconstruction of the Rotary Complex parking lot. Rose Anderson stated that it could be run horizontally under the lot. A large cost associated with doing a project like this would be the removal of the fill and to resurface. She suggested it would be more practical to drill a system in. Councillor Henderson inquired if a geothermal

system would be suitable for the load demand of an arena. Jeff Hunter stated that it would be, with special engineering considerations for the loops. Engineers would perform an energy analysis study to look at the performance of the buildings monthly/annually

Ecological Update

Craig Merkley reported that UTRCA staff is doing a survey of the shoreline along the lake. They are also replanting on the south shore near the Tom Patterson Theatre.

Carbon Reduction Update

Anna Stratton reported that they recently held the webinar on ecological economics with Eric Miller and it is now posted on the climate change page on the City's website. The invasive species webinar is scheduled for next Tuesday, June 8. They will also be looking into future webinars on energy topics, reducing your carbon footprint, recycling and indigenous approaches to environmental issues. Sammie Orr stated that the working group has compiled some motions for discussion in the fall, with the plan to move forward on them once the climate action plan has been passed. Councillor Burbach reported that the new Climate Change Coordinator has been hired and will be starting in the next few weeks. Members questioned if the new Climate Change Coordinator could attend the September E&E meeting. Staff will contact the Coordinator to invite her.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) 2021 Budget Allocation Discussion

Committee members discussed figures for upcoming E&E projects. Sammie Orr reported that the SDSS Eco Club may have an upcoming naturalization project at the school, and they may be looking for funding support. Once plans are in place, Ms. Orr will share the proposal with the Committee.

Motion by Councillor Burbach, seconded by Anna Stratton

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee spends the following amounts from their 2021 budget:

Naturalization Projects Along the Avon River 10,000.00

Invasive Species Work in T.J. Dolan 3,000.00

L.I.D. Project at the Stratford Skate Park 3,000.00

Carried

(b) Re-Usable Container Program for Stratford – Sammie Orr

Sammie Orr reported that they remain at three restaurants signed on for the program and the citizen committee will continue to meet and work on communications to send out to the public and restaurants. They are hoping to present the project at future Council, ATAC, Rotary and E&E committee meetings. They are also looking to increase collection receptacles in the downtown and al fresco areas. Ms. Orr has asked if E&E would consider requesting a reusable container mandate for City events.

2021 September

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2021-09-02-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/f887aedc-f79a-4d88-b9e4-adc100d241f5>

Carbon Reduction

Anna Stratton reported that they have held the invasive species webinar and it was a great success with approximately 40 participants.

There is a Climate Momentum session being held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. There will be 25 in-person spaces available at the venue (Avondale Church) and all other attendees can participate electronically. The new Climate Change Coordinator for Perth County will be a guest speaker. There will be additional speakers who will be addressing climate action plans from different municipalities

The working group will be meeting again next week to discuss plans for some webinars in the fall. Emily Chandler suggested inviting key attendees and decision-makers to the various webinars, i.e. Council members, City staff, Federal candidates, service clubs, BIA, etc.

Ecological

Craig Merkley reported that UTRCA has treated the Old Grove again for Japanese Knotweed. It has almost all been eradicated from there. Staff will do a complete re-assessment of all invasive species in the Old Grove in late fall. They have also treated an additional area that Community Services had requested in Shakespeare Gardens. Shoreline work along the Avon River near Tom Patterson Theatre has been going well. The wildflowers that had been planted are still there and growing well. There are plans to do some more shoreline work at the top end of the lake. Community Services staff approached UTRCA about doing a bit more around the boat launch area. They are currently working on some funding applications to help with the project. Mr. Merkley will give a further update at the October meeting.

Vanni Azzano and the Manager of Parks & Forestry did a site visit looking at potential tree-planting locations. They will be planting approximately 200 trees at the end of Lorne/O'Loane to do some infilling. Approximately 500 trees will also be planted at either the Dog Park in the spring or staff suggested that tree planting could continue at the Storm Water Pond area.

Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Anna Stratton

Anna Stratton updated the Committee from the June 23, 2021 ATAC meeting. ATAC had requested that Lakeside Drive once again be closed during the summer, which has now happened. There was an extensive discussion with the Transit Manager regarding bike racks on City transit buses. Riders are permitted to bring their bikes onto the buses if the bus is not full. There is not currently room in the transit garage

to park buses with bike racks mounted on them. The screens on the buses are used to encourage people to ride their bikes and that you can bring your bike onto the bus. There has been discussion regarding a bicycle parking improvement plan to create more opportunity for bike parking in the city. ATAC is continuing to work on their report card goals for 2022. A report was also presented on two new park benches that were sponsored by ATAC.

Land Acknowledgement Update – Councillor Burbach

Councillor Burbach reached out to the City Clerk who reported that staff has compiled examples of land acknowledgements and developed a learning guide. They are in the process of reaching out and consulting with indigenous communities and organizations and then will be consulting with the public at large. The goal is to have the report to Council by November.

Update on John Street Weir – Emily Chandler

Emily Chandler reported that City staff is reviewing various options to naturalize the John Street weir area (located just outside the Old Grove). Because of recent construction on St. Vincent Street, the weir was removed. With the plan to create a multi-use trail further east up T.J. Dolan, it's an opportune time to revisit plans for the weir. Ms. Chandler did a site visit with City of Stratford and UTRCA staff to look at options and the potential implications of keeping the weir out. There is the potential to improve the water quality, water flow and fish species if the weir is kept out. It will also have minimal impact on flood management. Councillor Burbach suggested the concrete supports could be used as a possible foundation for an active transportation bridge

Motion by Mike Sullivan

Seconded by Emily Sykes

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee requests Council direct City of Stratford staff to examine various options to modify the John Street Weir operations in the future. Carried

New Business

NEW BUSINESS

a) Takeout Waste Reduction Project (Reusable Container Committee)

Sammie Orr reported that the current Reusable Container Committee did a presentation to the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee. It was recommended that this Committee become a working group of the E&E Committee. It would be a good fit to have this initiative taken on as part of E&E with the current volunteers of the Container Committee. Councillor Burbach recommended that Sammie Orr could be the liaison between the working group and E&E. Councillor Burbach also volunteered to be a part of the group.

Emily Skelding inquired if the working group would strictly be focusing on reusable

containers or would they broaden their work to include different aspects of waste reduction. Emily Chandler suggested that the initial focus could be the reusable containers and plan to move onto other waste reduction initiatives as well. Sammie Orr reported that the container program has five participating restaurants and would like to keep promoting the program as much as possible. They have also discussed adding additional garbage, recycling, and green bins throughout the downtown core to keep up with the demand. Councillor Burbach inquired if the Committee wanted to focus on just food waste or all waste, such as single use plastics.

Anna Stratton added that it had been discussed that eventually the Carbon Reduction working group would take on waste as a part of their focus. Sammie Orr requested that the Committee could be set up as their own separate working group and keep their focus on business sector food waste. Members of E&E suggested that a new business sector food waste group could work in collaboration with the Carbon Reduction Working Group and give monthly feedback reports to the E&E Committee as a whole, however would also support it being a separate working group.

Mike Sullivan inquired if the City could include information in the annual garbage collection flyers letting citizens know what businesses are participating in the reusable container initiative. Emily Chandler noted that the City is not permitted to promote private businesses in any form. Councillor Burbach added that the City also cannot promote a company providing the service, alternatively the focus will need to be on waste reduction, not promoting a company.

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Mike Sullivan

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee add an **I.C.I Waste Reduction Working Group** focused on reducing industrial, commercial, and institutional waste in the City of Stratford. This group will report back monthly to the E&E Committee with updates and recommendations for Council. Carried

b) 2022 E&E Budget Request – Emily Chandler

Motion by Mike Sullivan

Seconded by Anna Stratton

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee requests a 2022

budgetary figure of \$17,500.00 from the City of Stratford. Carried
Educational Expenses \$ 3,750.00
Community Projects & Initiatives 3,750.00
Avon River Naturalization Projects 10,000.00
\$ 17,500.00

Green Parking Spots – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan shared an article with the Committee regarding “green parking” that offers reduced parking rates as an incentive promoting electric cars. Further discussion to be held at the October meeting

2021 October

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2021-10-07-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/4ec9c72b-602b-451d-bdf5-adeb0147e196>

Carbon Reduction

Anna Stratton reported that Climate Momentum hosted an online webinar on how cities can lead on climate change, creative plans, and concrete action. It was also an introduction of the new shared Climate Change Coordinator. The webinar is available to watch on the Climate Momentum website. The working group will wait and plan their next webinars after the City of Stratford has released their Climate Action Plan. The working group is compiling suggestions from the E&E Committee to move forward with recommendations.

Ecological

Vanni Azzano reported that UTRCA staff has approximately 1.5 days of work left to treat the buckthorn in T.J. Dolan. At the end of October, there will be 500 trees and shrubs planted at Stratford’s dog park, where there were 400 ash trees taken down. Another 200 Trees will be planted at T.J. Dolan (at Lorne/O’Loane).

I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sammie Orr reported that the working group met on September 29, 2021, to discuss putting together a newspaper article to show the impact the re-usable container program has had in Stratford. They have received a summary of statistics for Stratford that shows how much waste the city has avoided. They are also continuing to work on the plan for coffee cups to assist in the confusion of where coffee cups are supposed to be disposed of. The working group would like to work with the carbon reduction working group to organize a webinar for an educational session on waste in general. The working groups will make arrangements with the Waste Reduction Coordinator to schedule the details for an upcoming webinar. Kate Simpson suggested tentative plans could be set for the week of October 25, 2021, as it is Waste Reduction Week

Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Anna Stratton
Anna Stratton reported that ATAC met earlier this month to set their 2022 budget. At the ATAC meeting, Councillor Burbach presented the “report card” ++that charts all the aspects of active transportation in the City. The Committee has been using the report card to track activity since 2016. Councillor Burbach collects the data from the police and staff. Emily Chandler suggested that adding a report card aspect to the Climate Action Plan would be helpful.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a) 2021 Budget Discussion

Sammie Orr reported that the Stratford District Secondary School (SDSS) Eco Club has begun making plans for their reforestation project at the school. Phase one will focus on planting native trees, shrubs, perennials, and flowers, as well as adding mulch. SDSS Eco Club has sent in an application for a Youth in Action grant, however they have not heard back to date. Ms. Orr is requesting financial support from the E&E Committee to assist in purchasing trees for the project. Future phases will include additional plantings, as well as benches.

Motion by Vanni Azzano

Seconded by Mike Sullivan

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$1,000.00 to partner with the Stratford District Secondary School Eco Club to assist in Phase I of their reforestation and naturalization project at the school to purchase and plant native trees, shrubs, and flowers. Carried

d) Green Parking Spots – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan shared an article regarding cities encouraging, through their parking levy's, the adoption of cleaner vehicles. Cities could offer free or discounted parking rates for green vehicles. Emily Skelding inquired if it would be better to put forth a motion after the adoption of the Climate Action Plan. Councillor Burbach noted that Council has previously discussed a possible grant project to install charging stations and whether to make the charging free, not necessarily the parking fee. Mike Jorna agrees that the focus should be on the charging fee, not the parking fee. Mike Sullivan noted that currently Stratford only offers Level 2 charging stations, which take longer to charge a vehicle. Level 3 chargers, like the ones installed along the 401, charge vehicles quite quickly.

Councillor Henderson has forwarded members the climate action report that is going to Council on October 12, 2021. She noted that it appears that the E&E recommendations to date have been included.

Councillor Burbach suggested that since the final Climate Action Plan is still being worked on, E&E could gather all their ideas and ensure that they are included in the plan. It appears that most are already included, however members can review

the report and suggest further input. Council will be passing a motion at the October 12, 2021 meeting to finalize a reduction target. Councillor Burbach clarified that it's her interpretation that the overarching Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan is for Perth County and the Climate Action Plan will be specific to the City of Stratford with their own goals and targets.

Mike Jorna noted that until Council sets their target and adopts the Climate Action Plan, the Committee may need to wait and see how E&E contributions will fit into the plan.

Emily Skelding suggested the Committee could reiterate their position to Council on the emissions reduction target and having an environmental coordinator position responsible for the City of Stratford.

Motion by Emily Skelding

Seconded by Mike Sullivan

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee, following consideration of the Perth County climate survey results, recommends Stratford City Council adopt an emissions reduction target of 30% below 2017 levels by 2030 and commit to being net zero by 2050. Carried

Motion by Emily Skelding

Seconded by Mike Sullivan

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee recommends Council consider additional staff resources, in a broader Environmental Coordinator type role, to be responsible for implementation of the Climate Action Plan. Carried

Mike Sullivan suggested the Carbon Reduction Working Group will be meeting again prior to October 25, 2021 and could analyze the Greenhouse Gas Reduction plan put forth by the Climate Coordinator and report back to E&E if there are any items they feel the Committee should meet again to discuss.

New Business

a) Airport Expansion and Emissions

Anna Stratton stated that it does not appear that the Stratford Municipal Airport emissions have been included in the emissions report. She questioned whether the emissions should be included given the possible expansion of the airport. Emily Chandler noted that as a municipal airport, those figures should be included in the overall report. Ms. Chandler suggested that this concern could be discussed with the Climate Change Coordinator at the November E&E meeting.

b) Removal of Endangered Species of Trees – Mike Sullivan

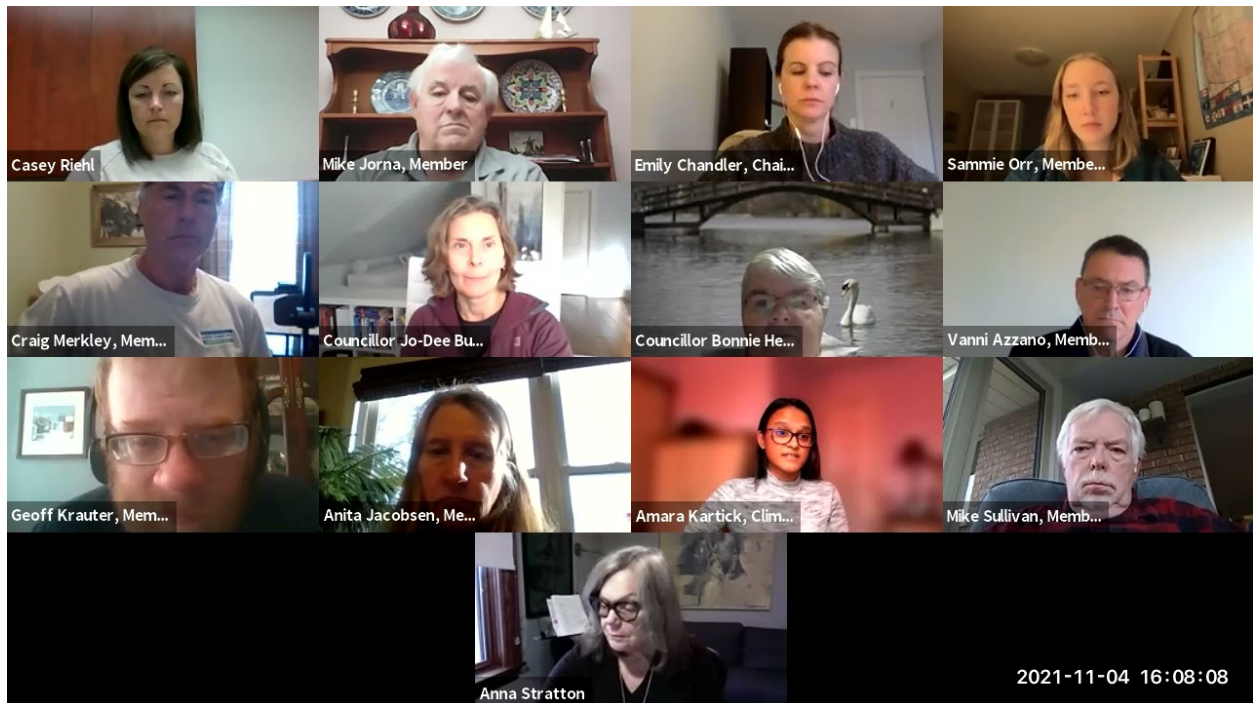
Mike Sullivan discussed a concern that a citizen brought to him regarding the

removal of an endangered cucumber tree by a developer at a building site two years ago. Mr. Sullivan inquired if there is any way for the City to protect endangered species. Vanni Azzano suggested a good starting point would be talking to the City's Parks & Forestry Manager to inquire if there is an inventory of endangered or at-risk trees in Stratford. There may also be information included in the Perth Natural Heritage Study

2021 November

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/default/Detail/2022-06-02-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/d3c50283-c2ff-4e4a-b84e-af800139c4fa>

Delegate: Amara Kartick – Shared Climate Change Coordinator – Discussion on GHG Reduction Plan and Climate Action Plan
Emily Chandler introduced Amara Kartick the Shared Climate Change Coordinator. Emily Chandler opened the floor for E&E members to ask Ms. Kartick questions regarding the GHG reduction plan and the climate action plan.



Sammie Orr inquired if regenerative agriculture will be included in the plan. Ms. Kartick stated it has been challenging to date to gain information from the agriculture sector. The previous coordinator would have liked to have had more consultations. Ms. Kartick will be focusing on agriculture as one of the areas that requires further updating.

Emily Chandler inquired if Ms. Kartick had a projected date for when the Stratford-specific climate action plan would be developed. Ms. Kartick advised she does not

have an estimated date. Ms. Kartick stated she is in the very preliminary stages of the work plan. Chris Bantock, Deputy Clerk, added that Council has passed a resolution that a climate change implementation plan, including a green standards policy, be developed. There was direction provided for a dedicated City of Stratford climate change coordinator position to be referred to the 2022 budget. The starting plan will be to review all inventories based on the 2017 baseline and projects that have been completed since then. There are budget implications regarding hiring a climate change coordinator for the City to focus solely on this project to get it completed. Current staff will continue working towards completing the plan until the position is possibly approved.

Craig Merkley commented that tree canopy coverage and protecting local woodlots needs to be of more importance. He questioned whether the plan includes information regarding existing by-laws in place to protect the woodlots and whether it could be emphasized that they will be strictly enforced. Chris Bantock stated that the plan has been completed and adopted by Council. It is a framework that sets out general goals and strategies for the partner municipalities to undertake. The by-law being referred to is a City of Stratford by-law and would not necessarily be included in this plan. Emily Chandler suggested that being aware of this issue moving forward at the public consultations and for Ms. Kartick's research and promoting awareness that there are by-laws in place and enforcement could be greatly improved.

Mike Sullivan stated that the two largest sources of green house gases in the county and the city are transportation and building. There are 28 years left to get to zero for both of those. He questioned whether Stratford could offer grants to homeowners to begin the process of changing their building use from natural gas to an alternate source. It was questioned what Stratford should start with to move in the right direction and how quickly it needs to happen. Ms. Kartick stated that as her first step, she is currently looking at the projects that have taken place since 2017 to gain updated data. Once she has this updated information, she will better be able to make suggestions for future direction.

Anna Stratton inquired if the three County staff positions to be created, that are mentioned in the report, have been accepted if the report was adopted. Chris Bantock stated that the positions in the plan are recommendations. The community wide positions are available for future approval but have not been approved as they are only recommendations at this time.

Anna Stratton noted that there is no mention of indigenous communities or their involvement in the climate action plan. She suggested that in future partnerships, the indigenous community should be included. Ms. Stratton also stated that tourism is mentioned in the report but inquired if moving forward, tourism and the impact of tourism should have a dedicated section.

Councillor Burbach noted that the Stratford Municipal Airport is not included in the emissions report and inquired if it should be. Ms. Kartick stated that those emissions will be accounted for and added to the profile.

Sammie Orr inquired if there has been a deadline set for the completion of the climate plan report. Ms. Kartick stated that her contract finishes the end of December, 2021, and she hopes to have all her data collection completed by then. She cannot give a specific date that the work plan or the implementation plan will be complete.

Mike Sullivan noted that there is no documentation in the report for industrial emissions. There were industrial emissions included in the 2008 document and Mr. Sullivan inquired if Ms. Kartick will be including them in this report. Ms. Kartick stated

that the industrial data is not included since the report is a community-wide emissions profile and plan, that the numbers would dwarf all other emissions regarding the community emissions. Industries tend to have their own set regulations and policies that they follow. She is interested in the data from industries and noted that St. Mary's has also raised this question.

Councillor Henderson inquired if there will be an impact on municipalities that adopted report should any of the partner municipalities choose not to do so. Ms. Kartick stated that it will not, and she will move forward with the municipalities that have adopted the report.

Emily Chandler inquired what the best way was for E&E to support her work in the next steps and her role in moving forward. Ms. Kartick stated that knowing what projects and directions the committee sees Stratford moving forward with and any other concerns that come up will help her understand the forward-thinking and the projection of where E&E sees this plan going.

Chris Bantock stated that the work plan will be started shortly to determine the next steps moving forward based on the community plan. The inventories from Stratford will be provided to Ms. Kartick as part of the implementation plan and will be a longer-term project with the current resources available. Once it is completed, Mr. Bantock will share it with the E&E committee for their feedback and comments. Ms. Kartick thanked committee members for their feedback and areas she can focus on moving forward.

Ecological

Vanni Azzano reported that UTRCA, in partnership with the Rotary Club and Girl Guides, have planted 200 trees at the corner of Lorne and O'Loane Avenue. They have also planted 510 additional trees at the dog park in partnership with Aisin employees. These new trees will replace the ash trees that have been taken down. There are still some ash trees in the park to be removed.

Carbon Reduction

Anna Stratton reported that panelists for the upcoming waste webinar on November 18, 2021 will be representatives from Bluewater Recycling and Storm Fisher. Sammie Orr will also be speaking. Ms. Stratton will also invite Amara Kartick to discuss emissions and waste.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sammie Orr reported that there will be an article coming out soon in the Stratford Times regarding the re-usable container program. The container company is always working on developing new containers to meet the various needs of businesses. The ICI working group would like to revisit some of their goals and plan for their next steps.

Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Anna Stratton

Anna Stratton reported that at the October 27, 2021, ATAC meeting there was an update on the bicycle parking plans from Nick Sheldon, Project Engineer. There was discussion on trail signage in TJ Dolan and the Avon Trail. Mike Mousley and Mike Beitz attended to discuss the use of the digital screens on the transit buses to promote various items. Ms. Stratton suggested that E&E could put some facts together regarding waste, recycling, etc. that would be posted on the signs.

Councillor Burbach stated that the Transit Manager and the Communications Lead suggested to ATAC that a list of items to post would be helpful. E&E could do the same.

b) Update on Removal of Endangered Species of Trees – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan reported that there was a cucumber tree cut down by a developer and there is apparently a sapling left. Vanni Azzano contacted the Parks & Forestry Manager to discuss this issue and was informed that the cucumber tree was cut down 12 years ago and the tree was dead. There is not a sapling available to try and grow. He also consulted with a terrestrial ecologist, who reported that cucumber trees do not propagate naturally in the Stratford area and you would require more than one tree.

a) Ontario Street Development – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan discussed the proposed Ontario Street development and City of Stratford planning department's lack of a climate lens during their decision-making process when approving an intensification project. He questioned how future proposed projects can be examined from a climate perspective. The Ontario Street proposal will lock in internal combustion engine cars for the next 40-50 years because there is no provision for these homeowners to charge them. It has also been raised that the environmental cost of demolition, which will create 200 tons of waste to go to the Stratford Landfill, and the environment cost of building new concrete buildings will take between 50-80 years to recover through the proposed energy efficiency. It is likely that these buildings will be more efficient than the buildings they are replacing and more efficient than building the equivalent of 30 other units. The rationale given by staff and some Council members is that building more efficient units and intensification is necessary in Stratford, which Mr. Sullivan agrees with. This proposed property would pave a large portion of the land with asphalt. There is no plan in the proposal to put in porous paving. In the staff reports, there is no reference to the environmental advantage or disadvantage of the building.

Mr. Sullivan referenced the Shared Climate Change Coordinator's report and a link that she included for a climate lens provided by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario that is to be used by municipal staff to examine their decisions. When decisions are examined through that lens on this website, there are two red flags. There are only two areas, energy use and water run-off. This project gets red flags in both. Mr. Sullivan suggested that this proposal may draw a blueprint for other developers to take the Heritage Corridor and turn it into high density.

Emily Chandler inquired how the E&E Committee could encourage planning staff to examine new projects or proposals with a climate lens. Mr. Sullivan noted it may be too late for this existing proposal. Councillor Burbach stated that while talking about the climate implementation plan, she specifically mentioned the green development standards that could be suggested to be used in the city. However, a lot of the building decisions come from the Ontario Building Code, which is dictated by the Province. Council cannot stipulate more rules or force extra rules outside of the Ontario Building Code. Municipalities can encourage developers to have an environmental outlook and state what they would like to see in their City. She noted that there is always going to be an environmental impact any time Stratford grows. Vanni Azzano suggested that UTRCA could partner with this developer and install LID's by installing swales or rain gardens for the run-off from the pavement. Mike Sullivan stated that when the developer first approached the planning

department, they required a waiver of a significant portions of the Official Plan because there is a specific prohibition in the Official Plan against high density buildings in a stable residential area. He suggested that at this point in the process, the City could have demanded environmental aspects in return for the waiver.

Councillor Henderson inquired if there are storm water pond requirements for apartment building developments such as this. Vanni Azzano stated that there is not a requirement.

Anna Stratton inquired if the developer could be asked to elaborate on the plans they mention regarding energy efficiency. Councillor Henderson suggested that Councillors could raise questions at the next Council meeting that they would be looking forward to seeing issues such as LID's, permeable pavement and charging stations addressed in their site plans.

Mike Jorna stated that he fears the process is going to cause Stratford to reach 2030 and not meet the goal that has been set. He stated the E&E Committee needs to urge Council to immediately inform all City departments to strongly apply the climate and environmental lens, as approved in the Climate Coordinator's report.

Motion by Mike Sullivan

Seconded by Anna Stratton

THAT the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee requests Council defer the proposed development to the Planning and Heritage Sub-committee to deal with the environmental issues of charging stations, energy efficiency and fuel, and storm water run-off. Carried

Climate Action Plan Timeline – Sammie Orr

Councillor Burbach noted that it would be difficult to put a timeline on this project prior to having a staff person dedicated to strictly focusing on the plan. Until then, the Deputy Clerk and shared Climate Coordinator will continue to work on it. The budget process is currently underway and by mid-January 2022, the budget process will be complete, and a decision will be made whether Stratford will be hiring staff to work on the plan. Completing the plan will take a lot longer if no one is hired.

Mike Sullivan suggested the date of February 10, 2022 as a target date for a plan to move forward, as it is the second anniversary of the declaration of a climate emergency for the City of Stratford. Councillor Henderson noted that Council has requested staff to come back with how they can bridge the current Climate Change Coordinator position that ends in December and budget approval for a Stratford Climate Coordinator in January. Councillor Burbach suggested speaking to the Deputy Clerk regarding extending the shared Climate Change Coordinator position.

Motion by Sammie Orr

Seconded by Mike Sullivan

THAT the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee recommends that Council, considering the progress being made, extend the Shared Climate Change Coordinator position contract. Carried.

2021 December

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2021-12-02-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/ffa3c3af-c41b-415d-89a5-ae2a0122a5b1>

Ecological

Vanni Azzano reported that treating of the buckthorn in the TJ Dolan area has been completed for the year. UTRCA will return in the spring to complete the project with no additional cost to E&E to finish it up.

He also reported that the rocks along the south shore of the Avon River require fixing. Some have slumped down into the water. Now that the water is lowered, they will get fixed once everything is frozen.

Councillor Burbach reported that Community Services staff has been adding more wood chips to the paths in TJ Dolan, the paths have been very mushy from flooding. She also mentioned that areas of TJ Dolan have been cleared to make additional trails. Craig Merkley added that bike riders have been making paths throughout the TJ Dolan area and are beginning to kill the underbrush and native fauna. Members discussed possible ways to deter riders from going off the trails.

Councillor Burbach noted that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee is currently working on new signage for the TJ Dolan area. Perhaps information requesting visitors stay on the trails could be added to the new signs. Craig Merkley added that any options are worth trying. Anna Stratton suggested that E&E could partner with ATAC in the New Year to explore possible options.

Vanni Azzano addressed the e-mail Mike Sullivan circulated regarding 2 Billion Trees. He reported that proposals were due in by May. Conservation Ontario is working with Forests Ontario on a large proposal as a scoping exercise from the Federal Government. The UTRCA also put in a separate proposal for expanding the Tree Power Program into other communities and expanding the existing program in Stratford. From all the requests for proposals, EnerCan will ask some of those agencies who put proposals out for an RFP for more details.

Carbon Reduction

Emily Skelding reported on their last webinar for 2021, held on November 18, 2021. The webinar was focused on waste, called "The Ins, the Outs and Getting to Zero". Speakers included Kate Simpson who provided an update from the City of Stratford, representatives from the Bluewater Recycling Association and Storm Fisher and Sammie Orr spoke regarding the re-usable container program in the City. There were 60 people in attendance, which was the highest attendance for one of the webinars. The webinar is available for viewing on the City's website.

Sammie Orr inquired what the plan moving forward will be for the chart Anna Stratton has created for future motions that the working group would like to bring forward. Ms. Stratton stated that it is made up of the recommendations that E&E made this year regarding the climate action plan and hopes that the committee can use it as a work plan for the New Year. Emily Skelding added that a lot of their focus this year has been webinars and community engagement. They do plan as a group to champion more recommendations and actions outside of webinars in the New Year.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sammie Orr reported that the sub-committee is working on what their next main focus will be. A date will be set for their next meeting in the New Year. A recent article was

published in the Stratford Times on the reusable container program. If anyone would like to join the ICI group or has any suggestions for projects, please contact Ms. Orr. Emily Skelding inquired if the ICI group has reached out to Storm Fisher or considered partnering with SDSS on compostables. Sammie Orr stated that compostables does now always mean that the containers can go through the system, which makes the process complicated. The ICI group has contacted local businesses who already use compostable containers and inquired with Storm Fisher if they could actually be composted. Connecting local restaurants with Storm Fisher for guidance on compostables prior to purchasing containers is currently the best option.

Mike Sullivan inquired on the status of the passive housing standard recommendation that the E&E Committee passed earlier this year requesting that it be included in the 2022 budget considerations. Councillor Burbach stated that green development standards that all developments must meet has been researched. However, municipalities are not permitted to give reductions on certain things, as it is seen as bonusing. You can however develop standards and encourage them by adding certain incentives. Councillor Burbach stated that as part of the climate action plan motion, she also included that it has to have the green development standards as part of the overall plan. Mike Sullivan stated that there are some municipalities that have found a way to provide incentives. Councillor Burbach stated that they are not monetary incentives. Mr. Sullivan inquired for example, if reducing the number of parking spaces could be required. Councillor Burbach stated that, that would be covered by a by-law and might be an option for a municipality. Geoff Krauter added that there is a Provincial tax deferral program for municipalities for incorporating standards from the facility accessible design manual in the interior of the units. He feels that if that sort of program could be put in place, you could apply the same principles to green standards. Councillor Henderson has contacted the Director of Infrastructure & Development Standards to inquire about a possible program.

Motion by Sammie Orr

Seconded by Mike Sullivan

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee requests that the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee request options to develop an incremental tax deferral program to encourage green development in the City of Stratford, be investigated. Carried

5.0 Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Anna Stratton

Anna Stratton reported that ATAC has been working on their work plan, which includes cycling, multi-use trails, pedestrian projects, wayfinding, mapping, their report card, and the integrated transportation plan.

6.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a) Land Acknowledgement Update – Councillor Burbach

A request was made for an update to be provided on the status of the acknowledgement.

b) Update from Council on Climate Action Plan

Councillor Henderson reported that December 14, 2021 is Council's first budget meeting. They will receive their budget binders the week before and she is hoping that the positions will be listed for discussion. Councillor Henderson noted that she and Councillor Burbach have raised the issue at Council that the current Climate Change Coordinator's contract will be ending at the end of December. Sammie Orr inquired if there is anything that the E&E members can do to help ensure that

these positions are approved in the budget. Councillor Burbach stated that with the committee already passing a motion to request the positions be added, an effective option would be to encourage people to e-mail Councillors and tell them how important it is to them and that you hope it will be considered.

c) Update from Council on Trow Avenue Development

Mike Sullivan stated that Council has passed the development and hopes Council will ask tough questions during site plan approval. Councillor Burbach noted that a site plan approval process has been put in place that will need to be approved by Council. A future mediation process may take place between the developer and the surrounding residents.

a) Update from Avon River Environmental Association (AREA) – C. Merkley

Craig Merkley shared an update from AREA representative, Alan Carr, on the water samples from the Avon River and Lake Victoria. E-Coli results from this fall show levels are below the 100mg/L for the first time in a long time.

b) 5-Year Review of Stratford's Official Plan – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan stated that Stratford will soon need to begin their review of the Official Plan. He suggested that E&E members review the plan and could work on providing feedback and guidance on environmental aspects. He inquired how E&E could be included in the review process. Councillor Burbach stated that the review may begin in early 2022 and suggested that members review the plan and prepare to make a recommendation. She stated that there will also be public consultation.

Anita Jacobsen inquired if the committee is advocating for multi-use purposes in the Official Plan, is there any way to ensure that future developments save green space. Councillor Henderson stated that the plan currently requires developers include 5% green space. Ms. Jacobson stated that the Federal Government is trying to advocate that 17% of the area be protected, with 25% by 2050. Councillor Burbach stated that storm water management should also be an important part of the plan.

Emily Skelding inquired if the newly adopted One Planet Principles will be included in the new 5-year plan. Councillor Burbach stated she hopes that they will be incorporated in the update.

Motion by Mike Sullivan

Seconded by Geoff Krauter

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee requests Council formally consult with the E&E Committee on its redesign of the Official Plan. Carried

Committee members inquired if Infrastructure & Development Services staff could be invited to attend the January E&E meeting to discuss the Official Plan.

c) Flood Line Map – Mike Sullivan++

Mike Sullivan circulated an e-mail regarding flood lines based on atmospheric river type events. Craig Merkley will touch base with UTRCA staff regarding a map.

2022 January

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2022-01-06-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee-Meeting/7fd3ea0a-5cf1-4260-acd5-ae6200ff6491>

Cllr Burbach is chair, Emily Skelding vice chair

Ecological

Craig Merkley advised he would like to re-visit the salt usage in Stratford. He has contacted City Centre representatives to discuss and possibly work together on a plan.

Mike Jorna noted that years ago, Council advised staff use a mixture of 30-40% salt mixed with sand. However, he does not feel that this same ratio is being used today.

Mr. Jorna suggested a report from staff on how they treat sidewalks/roads in the winter is most likely available from the Public Works Department. Craig Merkley will follow up with Public Works to gather some information. Councillor Burbach noted that staff may have previously done an audit and have an updated salt management plan in place. Anita Jacobsen added that downtown merchants are responsible for clearing the snow in front of their businesses. Perhaps an educational approach directed at merchants may be beneficial to raise awareness. Councillor Henderson stated that the by-law may have to be updated to clearly state what business owners should be using to salt and sand the sidewalks. Mike Jorna suggested researching and getting all the correct information to make a well-informed recommendation in the future.

The working group is still discussing plans for the T.J. Dolan area and will report back at the next meeting.

Carbon Reduction

Emily Skelding reported the working group did not meet in December. They would welcome any members who might be interested in joining the working group.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sammie Orr reported that the working group will be focusing on large chain grocery stores and the amount of waste they produce. The first item they will focus on is the plastic produce bags and encourage compostable or paper bags. They will work with the Waste Coordinator to ensure there is a product that is acceptable for Stratford's green bin program before promoting them.

They also discussed a "Green Star" award program to acknowledge all the waste reduction and waste initiatives that local businesses are implementing. They would also like to reach out to other groups that have their own award ceremonies and ask if they would be interested in including an environmental section in their ceremonies to encourage and incentivize businesses to take environmental action

Update from Council on Climate Action Plan

No new updates.

Sammie Orr inquired when budget discussions will be nearing completion and some of these decisions may be considered. Councillor Burbach stated that by the February E&E meeting they may be able to provide some more information.

Mike Sullivan inquired if the new Climate Change Co-ordinator position for Stratford is part of the budget considerations. Councillor Burbach noted that the Shared Climate Change Co-ordinator is slated to continue, the Stratford Co-ordinator position will be brought up during discussions by herself and Councillor Henderson.

Sammie Orr inquired if it is possible for E&E to start passing recommendations at the February meeting to ensure that climate change issues are included in the 2022 budget. Councillor Burbach stated that there is an upcoming feedback survey that will be submitted to Council which could have an impact on issues.

Mike Sullivan noted that Council endorsed the Climate Action Plan, which included a request for a Stratford Climate Change Co-ordinator position. He is hoping that Council will strongly consider adding the position. He stated that with Stratford only having eight years to reduce carbon by 30%, it may not be achieved without someone at the helm.

Emily Skelding inquired if the Shared Climate Co-ordinator could be invited to attend the monthly E&E meetings. Councillor Burbach will contact the Co-ordinator to inquire if attending the meeting would be something she could fit into her schedule.

e) Update on Flood Line Map/Information – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan forwarded a detailed response he received from the UTRCA to all E&E members for everyone's information. The map that is included with the response is very interesting. Mr. Sullivan suggested that in the process of updating the Official Plan, perhaps how the Plan is affected by the flood maps and whether for example, the City should be paving over non-paved surfaces should form part of the Plan.

Craig Merkley noted that this is an important issue as climates continue to change.

f) Update on Electric Vehicle Incentive Program – Sammie Orr

Sammie Orr inquired if there was any movement on the proposed incentive program for electric vehicles. Councillor Henderson stated they are waiting to hear back from staff regarding this. Councillor Burbach noted that staff may have applied for some funding for additional electric charging stations but have not heard back to date. Staff will contact Chris Bantock to inquire if he would be available to attend the March E&E meeting.

g) Repaving Rotary Parking Lot/Geothermal Options – Emily Skelding

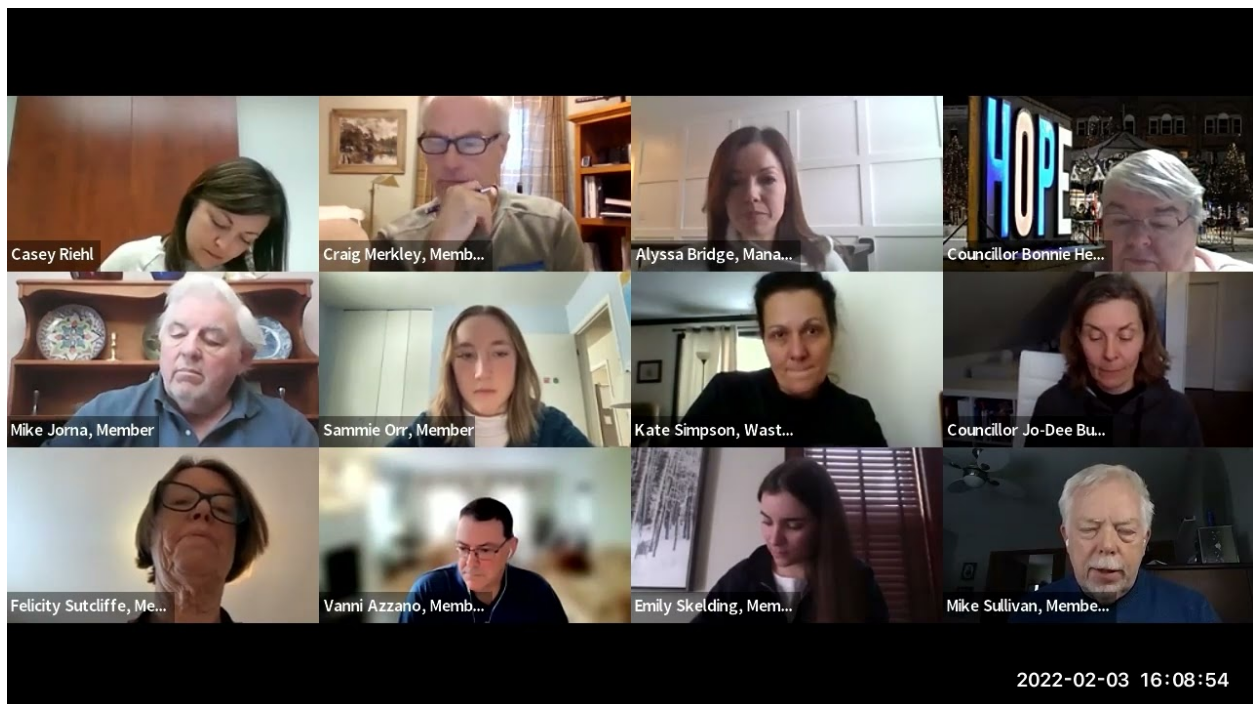
Emily Skelding inquired what stage this project and discussions on geothermal options was left off at and could the discussion continue in 2022. Councillor Burbach took the idea to the Community Services Subcommittee for discussion.

Councillor Burbach will look at the list of capital projects coming up and see when the Rotary parking lot is scheduled to be redesigned.

2022 February

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2022-02-03-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/a1a75895-1ec9-4dc1-a08a-ae620102a312>

Delegate: Alyssa Bridge, Manager of Planning – 5-Year Review of the City of Stratford’s Official Plan



Alyssa Bridge, Manager of Planning, outlined the plans for the required 5-year review of the City’s Official Plan (OP). The review is expected to take 18-24 months to complete and will be implemented through an official plan amendment to the existing official plan. It is not a complete review of the entire plan, the primary intent of the review is to ensure that Stratford’s OP is consistent with the 2020 Provincial Policy Statement. Some items included in the review relate to long term population and employment growth, policies related to intensification, natural heritage, cultural heritage, climate change and employment areas. Community and stakeholder consultation are an essential component of the review and will occur throughout the review. Staff will be bringing forward a report to the City’s Planning & Heritage Sub-Committee that will outline in more detail the scope of the review and the tentative work plan.

The Chair opened the floor for members to ask questions regarding the 5-year review of the Official Plan. Sammie Orr inquired if sustainable development requirements and passive housing standards in redevelopment sites and residential areas could be included in the plan. Ms. Bridge stated that injecting some sustainability and climate lenses into the OP is certainly needed. At an OP level, it is challenging to require certain building components. An overall framework that gives more consideration to climate and sustainability creates the framework for other programs or policies like a green development standard or guideline that would provide more detail to be implemented through actual buildings.

Emily Skelding inquired when public consultation would begin. Ms. Bridge stated the OP review requires employment and population forecasting which is obtained through the 2021 census data. Staff are trying to align the timing of the OP review project with the release of the 2021 census data. Staff estimated the first round of public consultation would occur in the Fall of 2022. The Planning Act also requires a municipality to hold a special meeting of Council, which is the kickoff to the OP review project and gives Council a chance to formally initiate that process and the public can provide input. She estimates the special meeting of Council will take place in the Spring of 2022

Mike Sullivan inquired:

- if secondary plans created before the climate change emergency being experienced now will be subject to review and strengthening in terms of not having so much sprawl;

- whether Indigenous consultation would be completed as part of the review; and

- whether the annexation of land that took place in 2020, which is no longer required, would be reviewed.

Ms. Bridge stated that the Provincial Policy Statement does require the municipality to undertake Indigenous consultation, which will be part of the consultation plan staff is creating. The annexed lands currently do not have a designation in Stratford's OP. They are designated as agriculture in the County of Perth OP. Part of the OP review project will be to look at residential and non-residential land supply. Staff will look at growth forecasts for the City of Stratford for the long term and then do an associated lands needs assessment. Ms. Bridge explained that a number of the secondary plans are out of date. The scope of the current OP review is to bring the OP into conformity with the growth plan, complete long-term population and employment growth forecasting, and update the policy framework to align with the Provincial Policy Statement. Looking at the secondary plans is certainly something staff could do but would have to come subsequent to this OP plan review project due to the timeframe and budget allotted for this project.

Councillor Henderson inquired if items such as net zero standards for developers are included in the OP or a green development standard. Ms. Bridge stated that staff

would create the overall policy in the OP with language that encourages the use of geothermal and net zero building and then use that future green development standards document to specify the details and incentives.

Sammie Orr stated that under the utilities section of the OP there was no mention of renewable or sustainable energy. She inquired whether this could be incorporated into the OP to open the doorway for future policies. Ms. Bridge stated it is something staff could consider, and these types of suggestions will be focused on and discussed during the public consultation sessions.

Mike Sullivan inquired if the portion of the Provincial Policy Statement dealing with energy supply will be part of the discussions of the OP review. Ms. Bridge stated that the OP amendment that Stratford brings forward must be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement. Staff will work with committees such as E&E on potential policy approaches and ultimately Council will have the final decision if items are an “encourage” or “required” type of policy in the OP.

Mike Sullivan questioned if the intensification targets set in the previous OP have been met. Ms. Bridge noted that part of this review will be to measure what intensification has looked like in Stratford to inform whether they have been successful with the current target, if the current target is appropriate and help inform policy approaches going forward. Councillor Burbach inquired if the Provincial Policy Statement states what the intensification targets should be. Ms. Bridge stated that it does not specify a target for municipalities, it just requires that municipalities set an intensification target.

Mike Sullivan inquired if an affordable housing target could be included in the current OP, with a target of affordable as defined in the Policy Statement, which is no more than 30% of income for low and middle income families. He questioned whether there is a way that the City of Stratford can add an affordable housing target into the OP. Ms. Bridge stated that affordable housing is at the top of the list for many people and is definitely worthy of further discussion. There are a number of approaches on how to do it such as embedding a target in the OP or by setting a target in a housing and homelessness master plan which is then referred to in the OP.

Felicity Sutcliffe inquired if the Provincial Policy Statement is something that Committee members could review. Ms. Bridge advised she would send a link to the members for them to review.

Councillor Henderson inquired if accessible housing will be considered in the OP as well. Ms. Bridge stated further discussion could take place in terms of a policy perspective in the OP to try and encourage more ground-oriented accessible housing, as the Ontario Building Code covers multi-residential buildings.

Mike Sullivan inquired about flood lines, as the VPS now only requires that the 100-year timeline be used as a minimum. He questioned whether the potential flood lines and new flood lines will be a part of the official review. Ms. Bridge stated that staff relies on the UTRCA for flood mapping and some updates are required based on

changes made to the regulated area and is part of the scope of the OP review. There is no intention to do a wholesale review of new flood limits or regulated areas during this current project.

Sammie Orr inquired if waste reduction could be incorporated into the OP. Ms. Bridge stated that from an OP level, encouraged-type wording could be included, but it may be more appropriate to have detailed information in a green development standard that contains more specifics than OP policies. Sammie Orr further inquired if under the Community Design Strategy/Active Transportation section where it talks about the bus system, could improving or maximizing the bus system be included. Ms. Bridge noted that from an OP perspective they always try to encourage the most dense development possible to make communities walkable and to get people out of their cars. The City has just retained a consultant to work on a transportation master plan and transit is a component of the plan. She will connect E&E with the Manager leading the project for further discussions.

Councillor Burbach inquired if standards for mixed development, such as retail, commercial, and residential all within walking distance are included in the OP. Ms. Bridge stated that the OP uses language about complete communities, intending to have a mix of uses such as residential, jobs, commercial, and schools in proximity to each other. Some municipalities, such as Ottawa, are promoting a “15-minute community”. Building a more complete community can be looked at through the OP to create the framework to start to implement it through development applications.

Mike Jorna inquired if the current review will include updating the standards on the amount of green space in the city and the coverage of urban forest. Ms. Bridge stated that there are some existing OP policies that speak to green space in the community. They will be looked at during the review process to see if there are items in the Provincial Policy Statement that need to be reflected in Stratford’s OP. Mr. Jorna inquired if the OP will set standards to work from or work towards. Ms. Bridge stated that standards should be set to work towards, and it should be ambitious as a way to grow and move forward.

Alyssa Bridge will contact the Energy & Environment Committee for targeted consultation, as well as include members in the online or in-person community consultations. Members can also be added to the subscribers list to be notified. Vanni Azzano inquired if looking at projects through a climate lens can be included in the OP. Ms. Bridge stated that having a climate lens in the OP would primarily put that lens on land use planning related items. At some point Council will need to update their strategic priorities, adding a climate lens on the strategic priorities would filter down into all activities happening in the City.

Ecological

Craig Merkley reported that the working group has been discussing salt management in Stratford. Staff is in the process of updating the salt management plan and has been invited to attend the March E&E meeting. The group also discussed the need for

a management plan for the T.J. Dolan area to try and minimize the human impact in the area, such as side trails from biking, skiing, hiking.

There are plans to do additional shoreline work. Accessibility to the lake will be a focus which could be developed through a combination of shoreline revetment to work in some accessibility for canoes and kayaks. The most practical area would be the area east of the festival bridge. Vanni Azzano will be contacting representatives at Wildwood to consult on a similar project they did there.

Members were also advised the group discussed the need for natural heritage in the City. A suggestion was made to look at some possible land at the airport that could be replanted with native grass and wildflower plantings to increase a pollinator component there. Once some of the annexed land decisions have been finalized, there is possibly some additional areas that could be considered for plantings. Craig Merkley has submitted an application for funding for invasive species in the T.J. Dolan area, specifically trying to address the phragmites spreading. Councillor Burbach noted that the grant that was applied for does not require any matching funds from the City or Committee.

Carbon Reduction

Emily Sykes reported that the working group is looking forward to focusing their efforts in 2022 on energy as a theme and looking at infrastructure and policy.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sammie Orr reported that the working group will be focusing on single use plastics at grocery stores. Members would like to do informal plastic audits at grocery stores to see what plastic is being used and where it could possibly be reduced. Once complete, they will reach out to managers at the stores to discuss a collaborative effort to reduce the use of plastics. Emily Sykes noted that the larger grocery stores likely already have sustainability plans and targets that they are working towards and set in motion.

Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee

No new updates to report. Members discussed appointing a member from E&E to participate as the representative on ATAC. Felicity Sutcliffe volunteered to be the representative for 2022

a) Land Acknowledgement Update – Councillor Burbach

No new updates to report.

b) Update from Council on Climate Action Plan

Councillor Burbach reported that during budget deliberations she put forward a motion to hire a dedicated staff person and it was passed, becoming part of the budget. The entire budget must still be passed by Council.

c) Update from Council on **Trow Avenue Development**
No new updates to report.

d) Update from Council on Request to Adopt a Tax Deferral **Program to Encourage Green Development in Stratford**

Councillor Burbach reported that during initial discussions with staff, the tax deferral program could be considered within the development of a green development standard. Mike Sullivan inquired who is working on the green development standard. Councillor Burbach stated a working group will be formed to work on this.

e) Update on Shared **Climate Change Coordinator Position**

Emily Skelding inquired if there was an update on the continuation of the shared climate change coordinator's position that Stratford shares with the County. Councillor Burbach reported that it is listed in Stratford's budget, however, has not received an update on whether it is included in the County's budget

New business

a) Waste/Recyclable Collections and Bus Service Concerns

Energy & Environment committee members received correspondence from a citizen regarding waste and recycling collection and concerns about the bus service. Ms. Simpson noted that Stratford is currently in the middle of a contract for curbside waste collection and blue bins. She noted that there will be changes in blue bin collection system in the future.

Mike Jorna inquired if a recommendation could be made requesting Council consider a change to recycling every week, incorporating the changes mandated by the Province and getting ready for a contract that represents and incorporates all these items. Staff would have a couple of years to make arrangements for the new plan to be put in place. Kate Simpson clarified that when Stratford transitions in 2024 with a new contract, they will be adding more material into the program. However, the municipalities do not decide what materials are accepted, those decisions are made by the Province and are producer driven. Producers do have to maintain the status quo moving from the current contract to the new contract. In 2026, Producers can decide if Province-wide they want to do the whole Province weekly/bi-weekly, dual or single stream, etc. Municipalities can however determine what level of service for I.C.I. they have.

Emily Skelding noted that the purpose of the new regulations is to address some of the challenges of finding end markets for the blue box program and to promote innovation.

Councillor Henderson inquired if any municipalities have challenged the regulations. Ms. Simpson stated that the Association for Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has an entire waste division to deal with waste and recycling issues.

Kate Simpson will e-mail the E&E Committee members the latest statistics on green bin and waste-related information. She will also share it with the City's Corporate Communication Lead to post on the website.

Councillor Burbach reported that Council passed a motion to hire a consultant for the purpose of creating a transition plan to move towards electric buses for Stratford. The plan will be created in 2022 and in 2024 the first electric bus is included in the budget to be purchased. ++

Councillor Henderson noted that the City has investigated smaller buses in the past, however the smaller buses still take the same turning radius, they tend to have a shorter lifespan and have higher maintenance costs. They do cost an average of \$200,000.00 less than a standard sized bus to purchase.

Mike Sullivan stated that the City of Toronto has a fleet of electric buses, and they are wonderful to ride and have drive by your house, as they are very quiet. The City of Stratford could gain some real knowledge from Toronto's experience with electric buses, such as charging times and how long the buses hold their charge for various routes. Toronto's electric buses are standard size buses. He also noted that the City of Montreal is intending that their entire fleet of transportation will be off fossil fuels within the next five years. The cost of running the vehicles will go down by a factor of eleven. It is eleven times cheaper to run electric vehicles than it is to run gas and diesel vehicles.

Patricia Osoko reported that there is a Canadian company that retrofits buses, converting gas/diesel buses to electric. She will provide the Committee with some information.

City of Vancouver – Fossil Fuel Building By-Law

Mike Sullivan circulated an e-mail from the City of Vancouver's Environmental Planner regarding their new by-law that any residential buildings under three stories built in Vancouver as of January 1, 2022 cannot be built using fossil fuels to heat them or heat their hot water. This was a decision made by the City of Vancouver however this is currently not possible for municipalities here in Ontario as the province sets the building code. This could be a first step in asking the province to give permission for cities to have their own building codes. Mr. Sullivan will confirm availability for the March 3, 2022 E&E meeting to have him attend as a delegate.

c) Paving Across from the Lakeside Drive Bandshell

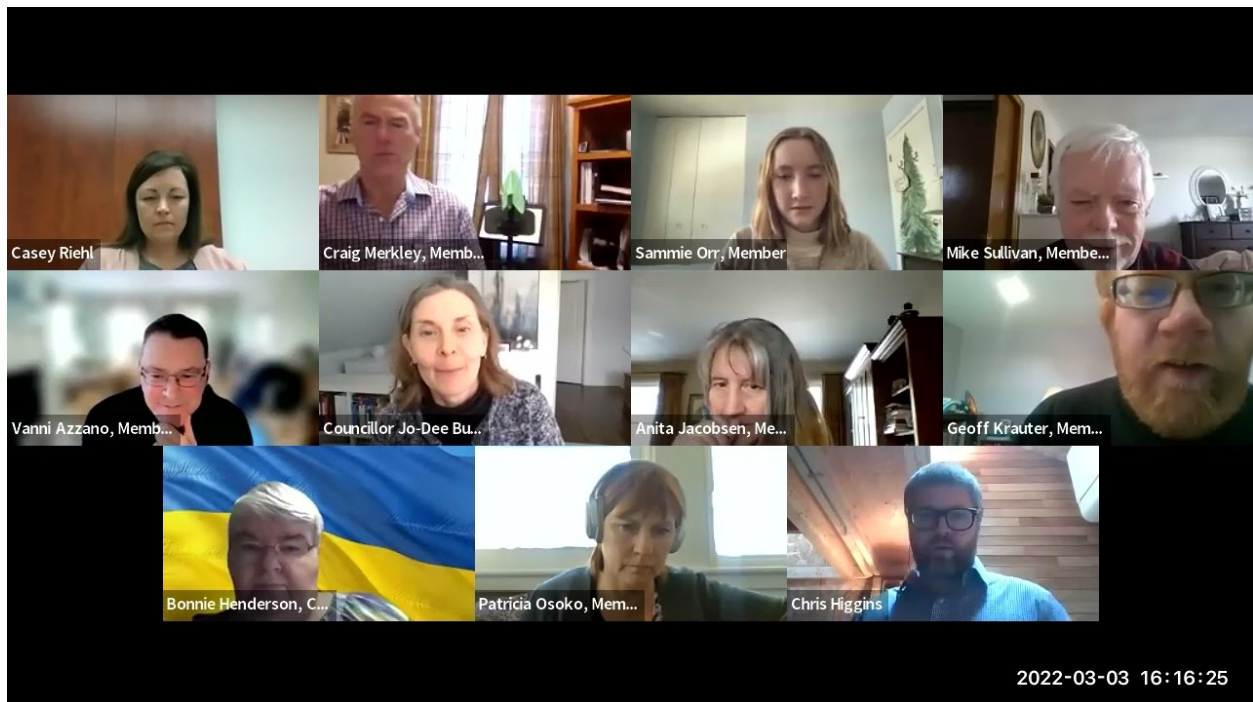
Anita Jacobsen inquired about the paving in the park area adjacent from the Bandshell and if there was consideration of run off to the river and if a porous

surface could be used for the project. Councillor Burbach will review the proposal and clarify if paving is part of the project and if so what type of materials will be used and what types of environmental accommodations they are making.

2022 March

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2022-03-03-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/57ae7d73-25b3-4303-a625-aed000f07d50>

Delegate: Chris Higgins – Senior Green Building Planner, City of Vancouver
By-Law Eliminating the Use of Fossil Fuels in Residential Buildings Under 3-Storeys



Chris Higgins, Senior Green Building Planner, introduced himself and reviewed his role with the City of Vancouver and how he and his team began the project of eliminating fossil fuels from low-rise residential building projects. 60% of Vancouver is zoned for low-rise residential (3 storeys or under). When the project first started, Mr. Higgins dedicated 100% of his time to new builds and now dedicates 50% to new builds and 50% to existing buildings.

For new construction, Vancouver offers a “floor area bonus”, which allows a builder to construct a slightly larger building and get a floor space increase if they are building a fossil fuel free low-rise building. A duplex receives an 18% bonus, single family homes receive a 15% bonus, and a multi-unit building receives a 5% floor area bonus.

Offering floor area bonuses is a powerful tool and it does not cost the City of Vancouver anything out of pocket but does provide additional built space. The City of Vancouver also offered cash incentive programs such as the Near Zero program that offered up to \$25,000.00 per participant (nearzero.ca), Heritage Energy Retrofit Grant offering \$4,600-\$14,000 to retrofit pre-1940's homes, and an incentive from BC Hydro and the Province to receive a rebate to retrofit from a gas/oil furnace to an electric heat pump (the Province puts in \$3,000.00, BC Hydro puts in \$3,000.00 and the City of Vancouver puts in \$6,000.00).

City of Vancouver staff will be submitting a proposal to Council in May to require all homes over 3,000 square feet to switch off fossil fuels for space heat by January 1, 2024.

When builders approach Vancouver Council asking for a zone change, such as changing four lots for single family homes to a row of townhouses, Council asks that those buildings be fully electric and have a higher level of energy performance. This was a way to voluntarily require developers to build to a higher standard. Once the changes were made to implement electric space heating and hot water tanks, City of Vancouver staff undertook research and found the cost to the developer was a \$1.12/square foot increase for townhomes and low-rise multi-family that already have an existing \$300-\$350/sq. foot building cost. In their opinion, it was a fairly modest increase to the building cost. Single family homes had a slightly higher increase of \$3.41 per square foot. Mr. Higgins worked with three builders in the Vancouver Builders Association and had each of them independently cost out the requirements he provided. All three builders came back with costing that fit within the same cost range that staff had received from consultants. Two of the three builders that did the costing for townhomes, were able to do the changes for under \$0.90/sq. ft.

Mr. Higgins noted that one thing that was very helpful in getting these regulations passed at Council, was to have industry representatives speak to the changes and their willingness to see Council implement the requirements of green initiatives. The City of Vancouver also uses their civic buildings as examples of retrofitting to electric. They have converted their City Hall, fire halls, day care centres, schools and police department as demonstrations of what is possible.

Geoff Krauter inquired if the heritage building program is funded solely by the City or if it is backed by the government or BC Hydro. Mr. Higgins stated the program is funded entirely by the City of Vancouver, however if you participate in the program, it does not make you ineligible to receive other outside funding. The City's incentive programs

are funded through carbon tax refunds and community amenity contribution programs. Sammie Orr inquired if older buildings will eventually be required to be electrified. Mr. Higgins stated that yes, by 2024 they are proposing to require all one and two-family homes use renewable energy for domestic hot water. There will be exemptions for some buildings that cannot be retrofitted to electric to use a condensing gas boiler and purchase a lifetime contract for renewable gas. Additionally, homes larger than 3000 sq. ft. will have to install a heat pump to replace the furnace/boiler or if retrofitting with an electrical service is not an option, replacing equipment with high efficiency gas equipment and purchase a lifetime contract for renewable gas.

Craig Merkley inquired if Mr. Higgins sees a rise in prices when there are incentives offered. Mr. Higgins stated that unfortunately yes, you sometimes do see some escalation in price. However, it was difficult to gauge lately if it was based on incentives offered or pandemic-related price increases.

Vanni Azzano inquired how Vancouver got buy-in from builders, besides the floor area bonus incentive, and what sort of training builders had. Initially Mr. Higgins spoke to builder contacts he had and set up some evening events to talk about what the barriers are within the City of Vancouver and removing some of the red tape. He also attended the Builder's Association "Builders Breakfast" event to have an open dialogue with local builders and he also met at a temple to talk with members who were builders and he had approximately 40 builders attend. Mr. Azzano noted it was encouraging to hear that the City of Vancouver uses their civic buildings as demonstrations for retrofitting. Mr. Higgins advised he would forward Vancouver's Civic Buildings Policy to the Committee.

Patricia Osoko inquired if Mr. Higgins would share his slide deck with E&E. Mr. Higgins advised he sent Mike Sullivan the Real Estate and Facilities Management Technical Guidelines and that he would also send the slide deck presentation. Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk, departed the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Mike Sullivan inquired if Vancouver has a Land Tribunal or a similar appeal system in BC that can overrule their decision. Mr. Higgins stated that they do not. The City has the ultimate decision on whether something goes ahead or not. There is an appeals process, but it is incremental.

Councillor Burbach stated that because Stratford's development charges are different, allowing a zone change may work as opposed to monetary incentives. She inquired where the floor area bonuses lie and whether they are a development charge per square foot and how savings are achieved. Mr. Higgins explained that a developer would be building a larger home, paying for a smaller footprint. Vancouver sets a limit on the size of the floor area based on the size of the land. Developers can deduct 5% of their floor area from that number.

Mike Sullivan inquired if Vancouver requires car charging ports to be installed in every building, including apartments, and whether solar panels have net metering or if there

is an incentive on top of that. Mr. Higgins stated that yes, for all residential and owner/occupant spaces a charging connector has to be wired, not fully installed, and that this does not apply to visitor spaces. In high rises and hotels, the connector must be provided in 80-100% of the spots. Mr. Higgins stated that Vancouver is not a leader in solar panels. Their electrical peak occurs between November and February between 5-9 p.m. To offset the electrical peak, it does not provide a lot of help. BC Hydro has not done a lot to encourage solar.

UPDATES

Ecological

Craig Merkley reported that the shoreline work has not been completed due to weather. Next week he is meeting with a forester from the UTRCA to go through the Old Grove to look at some of the plantings done by the Civic Beautification Committee in 1991 and review it from a management standpoint.

Carbon Reduction

Geoff Krauter reported that the working group discussed the lack of mention of the environment in the City of Stratford's secondary plans. The Official Plan review is underway on a required basis, however, feels it would be an acceptable time to ask staff to undertake a review of the secondary plans using a climate lens. Councillor Henderson suggested that E&E could start a list of items they would like to see the Climate Change Working Group discuss. It may be beneficial to coordinate all the information, rather than sending various motions throughout the process. Councillor Burbach suggested that she could take E&E motions to the Infrastructure Transportation and Safety Sub-committee, where the Climate Working Group provides their updates.

Councillor Burbach provided an update on the Climate Action Plan. She stated the internal working group has met twice, and divided discussions into short, mid and long term goals to focus on. She will forward the breakdown to committee members.

Motion by Mike Sullivan ++
Seconded by Geoff Krauter

THAT the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee recommends Stratford City Council undertake **a formal review of the Secondary Plans** and make recommendations for revisions based on a climate lens. Carried

I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sammie Orr reported that the working group has been contacting local grocery stores to discuss single-use plastics. They are planning to work on compiling a list of success stories in regard to local waste reduction to encourage individuals to shop sustainably and also provide some ideas for businesses to see what other businesses are doing. They are also working on putting together some educational and promotional

Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee

Councillor Burbach advised that ATAC is working on recommendations for the prioritization of projects. The main goal is looking at infrastructure to figure out the best locations in Stratford to focus on. They will also be meeting with the Accessibility Advisory Committee this Spring to discuss projects. They discussed bikes in the TJ Dolan Area and options for additional signage. She also reported that the City is looking at the possibility of lowering the speed limit in residential areas, making it safer to share the road. She noted that the Master Transportation Plan is currently being updated for the City and active transportation and transit will be incorporated into the plan.

Business arising

a) Land Acknowledgement Update – Councillor Burbach
No new updates to report.

b) Update on Climate Action Plan/Tax Deferral Program to Encourage Green Development in Stratford – Councillor Burbach

Council has been discussing the 5-year update to their **development charges**. Councillor Burbach inquired about adding incentives into the development charges for developers building with greener standards. She stated it is important to make sure that as the green development standards are being updated, they also look at changing the development charges along the way. Sammie Orr inquired if E&E can request items be incorporated into the green development standards. Councillor Burbach suggested as a group, putting together a list of what will work in Stratford with the Ontario Building Code. Geoff Krauter suggested a presentation to the SABA members would also be beneficial. Mike Sullivan inquired if E&E could hold a special meeting and invite staff to attend based on the information E&E heard today from Chris Higgins. Councillor Burbach suggested E&E could do a future presentation to the Climate Action Plan internal working group++

d) Update on Paving for the Bandshell Project In Park Area Between

Lakeside Drive and Cobourg Street – Councillor Burbach

Councillor Burbach contacted the Director of Community Services to express E&E's concerns with drainage and the amount of concrete proposed. He reported that the plans are rough initial plans and if Stratford receives the grant funding, he would take E&E's concerns into consideration.

New business

a) Ontario Building Code Review – Mike Sullivan++

Mike Sullivan contacted the Deputy Clerk to inquire if the City of Stratford would be commenting on the review. He stated that the City will not be submitting comments. He suggested that E&E members could forward comments by the deadline of March 13, 2022. Mr. Sullivan will be suggesting the Province gives

cities the right to improve on the building code, as they do in Vancouver.

2022 April

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2022-04-07-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/42108910-e636-4cc8-abfd-aebd0125ded4>

Delegate: Adam Ryan, Manager of Public Works – Salt Management Plan

Adam Ryan, Manager of Public Works, reported that they implemented a Public Works Winter Operations Plan in 2020 that was endorsed and adopted by City Council. Part of the plan is to outline how Public Works performs their winter operations, hours of services, types of equipment used and a brief materials list. Salt and salt brine are included in the materials list to fight snow and ice in the city

They have included a specific salt management portion to the Winter Operations Plan, showing the City's commitment to reducing the environmental effects of excessive salt use and also ensures that Stratford remains consistent with Environment Canada's stated objectives. Staff has been working on this section, with a few areas still under review to be finalized



Along with the types of equipment used, the plan also shows the application rates. The City currently uses electronic salt application devices in all of the trucks, and they get calibrated annually before the winter season to ensure that they are spreading the least amount of salt, while maintaining safe sidewalks, roadways, and parking lots. Mr. Ryan stated that using salt brine is an efficient way for staff to manage the roadways and sidewalks. It prohibits the excessive build-up of ice and also reduces the amount of actual rock salt used during an event. The brine used in the last few years, contributes to less salt being used. In 2019, Public Works used 3800 tons of salt in the City of Stratford, in 2020 they used 50,000 liters of brine, reducing rock salt usage to 2500 tons.

A large part of the plan is to identify the salt-vulnerable areas within the City, such as roads and sidewalks that are near bodies of water, including bridges. Staff is working with conservation authorities to completely identify all the salt-vulnerable areas to map them out and reduce the application amounts in those areas.

Mr. Ryan stated that the Winter Operations Plan will be a living document that staff will review and update annually. Once the current updates are complete, he will forward a copy to E&E.

The final section in the plan is best practices. It outlines the best practices through the Transportation Association of Canada and shows what the current practices are in Stratford. The goal will be to continuously make improvements to this section. Sammie Orr inquired if staff has considered using any other substances other than salt. Mr. Ryan reported that they do always look into alternative solutions, and they do use some sand (pickled sand – 60% sand, 40% salt). The sand is used when it gets much colder, generally salt becomes less effective below -10. There is no melting action with sand, it is strictly for traction.

Mike Jorna inquired about the reduction of 1000 tons of salt between 2019 and 2020 by the use of brine and if the City purchases the brine or whether it is mixed. Mr. Ryan stated that they purchase the brine, as Stratford's Public Works yard does not allow for this. Mr. Jorna inquired if there is a difference in the overall amount of salt that ends up in the river and whether both the brine and the rock salt end up there. Mr. Ryan stated that they do not spread the brine on all of the City streets, it is limited and not used near the river. However he does recognize that eventually it does find its' way into the waterways. Studies show that with the direct application of the brine onto the roadway, there is no bounce-off like the rock salt onto the shoulder or boulevard. Mr. Jorna further inquired if potassium chloride is any more benign for the river system than sodium chloride. Mr. Ryan stated that they are currently researching it as part of the plan.

Vanni Azzano stated that even sand will find its way into the waterways and increase siltation. He inquired if calcium chloride has ever been used at the municipal level, or whether it is so cost-prohibitive it has not been considered an option. Mr. Ryan stated that cost is the main factor for not using it.

Mike Sullivan inquired if the Province pays for any of the road clearing for the Provincial highways or whether it is all paid for by the City of Stratford. Mr. Ryan stated that the City pays for it all.

Craig Merkley inquired if the calibration of the trucks at the beginning of the season holds for the whole winter. Mr. Ryan stated that they do bring the trucks in periodically throughout the season if the operators feel that the truck is spreading differently, or something does not seem right. They also check the calibration when the trucks are in for general maintenance. Mr. Merkley inquired if the sidewalk spreaders can turn the salt off at intersections. He questioned whether it is something that happens automatically or whether it is done manually by the driver. He noted that he has seen piles of salt at the corners where the spreader sits. Mr. Ryan stated that most of the sidewalk spreaders are older models and only have manual shutoffs. In this case, it will be driver error for not shutting it off while stopped at an intersection. Staff has looked into adding manual shutoffs to some of the older models. Mr. Merkley inquired on the status of using beet juice technology. Mr. Ryan stated that using beet juice was not practical. Prices began to increase and there were many complaints regarding the discolouration of everything that touched it, i.e. cars, boots, pants.

Mike Sullivan inquired if the UTRCA tests the water for salt levels at different times throughout the year. Craig Merkley stated that they do test the water, however, does not believe that they test for salt on a routine basis. He stated the Ministry of the Environment may test it as part of their routine, however the closest testing station downstream from Stratford is on Road 20. Councillor Burbach inquired if someone from A.R.E.A could test for salt. Mr. Merkley advised he would contact a representative to inquire. Vanni Azzano added that in the Avon River Watershed report card from 2017, it looked at chloride (road salt) and the levels have increased steadily in the 1980's but have shown improvement in recent years and remain below the Provincial guideline.

Councillor Henderson inquired if Craig Merkley could inquire with A.R.E.A if they could provide E&E an overall water report for the Avon River. Mr. Merkley stated he has the most recent figures and will provide a report to members.

Emily Skelding inquired if a lot of the salt gets captured in the storm drains and gets treated at the treatment facility. Craig Merkley stated that no it does not, and it goes directly into the waterways, which is common for municipalities.

Councillor Henderson inquired if in Southwestern Ontario, whether anyone is completing any studies on how to reduce the use of road salt. Mr. Ryan stated that it is really up to the individual municipalities' preference and the level of service that they want to provide. It is on the radar for all municipalities, and they work towards finding ways to limit the amount they are using, such as automatic spreaders and operator training.

Mike Jorna stated that in the past, one of the greatest improvements of the salinity of

the Avon River occurred when they moved the snow dump away from the Old Grove to the landfill site. He questioned where the snow is taken currently. Mr. Ryan stated that it is still taken to an area near the landfill site.

Updates

Ecological

Craig Merkley reported that the work has been completed along the shoreline, the rocks on the south side near the Tom Patterson Theatre have all been fixed and they reinforced the toe slope.

E&E received the \$5,000.00 grant they applied for with the Invasive Species Council of Canada. The funds will be used over the next couple of years to help control invasive species in the T.J. Dolan area.

Vanni Azzano reported that the Tree Power event is taking place this Saturday and all the trees have been sold.

Craig Merkley stated that on April 23 rd they will be doing a walk around the Lake as part of Green Week to see the recent work completed if anyone wants to join the tour.

Carbon Reduction

Emily Skelding reported that they are in talks with Climate Momentum to possibly set up a table on April 23 rd during their event to talk about the greener homes grant. Councillor Henderson advised she has the E&E banner.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sammie Orr reported that they have been focusing on supermarkets and grocery stores reducing plastics. They are looking at a Green Star type of program to honour businesses for their environmental initiatives, similar to the program in St. Marys.

Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee

Felicity Sutcliffe updated the committee that Sarah Merkel from HPHA held a visioning session with members, discussing items they would like to see included in the transportation master plan as preparation for the upcoming stakeholders meeting.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Land Acknowledgement Update – Councillor Burbach

Councillor Burbach reported that staff has reached out to Indigenous groups in the area and have not received much feedback. Staff will continue to work on consultation activities to properly prepare a land acknowledgement.

Update on Climate Action Plan/Tax Deferral Program to Encourage Green Development in Stratford – Councillor Burbach

Councillor Burbach reported that the Climate Action Plan Working Group is

making progress. The working group is made up of senior staff, with the plan to expand the members if needed. They are currently focusing on defining the staff role of the Climate Co-ordinator. The goal is to have the Co-ordinator hired by June 2022. ++

Mike Sullivan has sent E&E members a document from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities about **creating green development standards** and their suggestion that it should be part of a City's official plan. He inquired if Councillor Burbach approached the Climate Action Plan Working group about E&E doing a presentation. Councillor Burbach stated that they would welcome a presentation from E&E, however, would like to wait until the Climate Change Co-ordinator is hired. As they will be heading the project, it makes sense that they are there for the discussion.

Mike Sullivan inquired about the recent plan to **sell off surplus land to developers for attainable housing for half price** and also half price development charges. It was questioned whether there is any notion of green development standards being applied to this or whether these types of sales are going to slip through before any climate action plan takes place. Councillor Henderson will contact Joani Gerber, CEO of investStratford, to inquire if she can provide some information on what the green component of the grant is.

New biz

FCM – Green Development Standards

Mike Jorna suggested E&E review the document Mike Sullivan provided and prepare for a discussion at the May meeting. The Committee could pass resolution requesting Council consider adopting the report or at the very least the areas that apply to Stratford. ++

2022 May

CANCELLED.

2022 June

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings/Detail/2022-06-02-1600-Energy-amp-Environment-Advisory-Committee/d3c50283-c2ff-4e4a-b84e-af800139c4fa>

Ecological

CM - UTRCA finished decking at two cribs on south shore, in front of Tom Patterson. Water funding for native grass planting along T>J. Dolan. Carried: max \$2,000

CM applied for grant for \$5,000 for invasive species project. Removing phragmites and knotweed. Also, forest area behind Spruce lodge needs thinning.

ICI Waste Reduction

Have met, continuing to connect with local grocery stores.

Sammie Orr reported that the ICI Waste Reduction group has met and they are continuing to connect with local grocery stores, which led them to the Retail Council of Canada and the Canada Plastics Pact. These organizations consist of a large group of stakeholders in the waste reduction and plastic industry with a goal to reduce plastic. Each group or municipality that joins has access to resources and can have discussions with other groups, municipalities, and organization. The I.C.I. Working Group would like to see Stratford join the Canada Plastics Pact and request if the Climate Change Committee could review current waste reduction by-laws, such as the ones Surrey and Victoria BC have in place, as a goal for creating by-laws for the City of Stratford.

Mike Jorna inquired if there were any costs involved with the City joining the Canada Plastics Pact. Sammie Orr stated that they have not come across any fees to join. Ms. Orr and Mike Sullivan will review the information and ensure that there are no costs involved

Motion - request City Council consider joining Canada Plastics Pact to ensure that the issue of plastic waste can be addressed;

Carbon Reduction

Emily Skelding reported that in April they set up a booth at the Climate Momentum event and discussed the energy retrofit program. At their last meeting they discussed the Official Plan and how the process works to have a review of the secondary plans done. Mike Sullivan reported that he inquired on the status of E&E's request to have the secondary plans reviewed by staff. He was informed that they will not be reviewed as part of this Official Plan review. He noted that the Manager of Planning also stated that an RFP is currently being drafted for a consultant to complete a review of the Official Plan, however the City Clerk stated that E&E would not be involved in preparing the RFP. The reason Mr. Sullivan inquired, was that upon reviewing the last RFP City staff prepared for the review of the transportation infrastructure in Stratford had no mention of climate or energy efficiency in the RFP. He wanted to make sure that this RFP did not ignore the climate emergency again

Motion: Council should direct staff to incorporate a climate lens into the request for proposal for consultant services for the 5 year review of the Official plan. Carried.

ATAC update FS

Bike month calendar. Social ride. One of the new bike repair stations has also been installed in Market Square. Every Thursday night the City's Corporate Communication Lead will promote bike lanes and trails. Ms. Sutcliffe will forward the instructions for reporting issues with bike lanes or roads and sidewalks in general. ATAC will be following up on the status of the report card for active transportation, the status of the new signage in T.J. Dolan as part of the wayfinding project and the ongoing issue of trying to lower the speed limit within the City.

Business arising

Queen/Trow - Mike Sullivan - no movement on the site plan. Issues still to be raised.

Municipal Green Development Standards - Bonnie Henderson - may be addressed by the new Climate Change Coordinator. CRWG could take a closer look at the tooling and bring it back to E&E for discussion to pass on to the CC Coordinator. Invite CC Coordinator to Sept. E&E

Transportation Master Plan & Community Engagement - Mike Sullivan and Patricia Osoko participated as the E&E representatives at a recent stakeholder meeting. Mr. Sullivan requested a report from I.B.I. if anything has changed in terms of their terms of reference.

2022 September

Ecological

Craig Merkley updated the E&E Committee on the first planting of native grasses on Centre Street, near T.J. Dolan. Planting conditions were very dry, however there appears to still be at least a 95% survival rate. They plan to extend the project along the pathway between TJ Dolan and the bicycle path and plant another 100 more plants this fall. They would also like to purchase some educational signage for the area to explain what the plantings are and why they are being planted.

The E&E Committee was successful in receiving some funding from the Invasive Species Council of Canada. They will use this funding to continue ridding the Old Grove area of phragmites next year

CRWG and ICI Waste, no updates.

Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Felicity Sutcliffe
Felicity Sutcliffe updated the E&E Committee that ATAC is working on additional bicycle storage options. Members were asked to let them know if they see areas around Stratford that need bike racks. She also reported that ATAC's request to have Lakeside Drive closed again for the summer was not adopted by Council this year. Councillor Burbach noted that there will also be a second round of public consultations regarding the Master Transportation Plan later in September. ATAC continues to work on signage for the TJ Dolan area. There are already some blazes installed along the trail.

Update on Climate Action Plan/Tax Deferral Program to Encourage Green Development in Stratford – Councillor Burbach
Councillor Burbach reported that the new Climate Change Coordinator will be starting later this month. The working group has been continuing on with the plan and moving forward*

Update from Council on Trow Avenue Development

2022 Budget Plans

Members discussed the remaining 2022 budget funds and the projects left to complete this year. Craig Merkley reported that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority will be beginning their shoreline project this winter. City of Stratford staff will be assisting with a review of the areas and most likely will be focusing on the south shoreline.

Vanni Azzano reported that the rain garden project at the Stratford Skate Park is moving ahead this fall. They will be needing funds to purchase plants, materials for the rain garden or possible signage.
Kate Simpson discussed an option to purchase green bins to have on hand for community events. The City would have the bins available for organizers to use

for composting at their events. Ms. Simpson will investigate if a larger size green bin is available.

Motions: spend up to \$1,350 - rain garden project at Stratford Skate Park

Sped up to \$500 for native grass plantings at Dolan

Spend up to 2,500 for educational signage and \$1,150 to purchase green bins for events

2023 E&E Budget Request and Annual Committee Report for Council - \$17,500

Educational Expenses: \$3,750.00

Community Projects & Initiatives: \$3,750.00

Avon River Naturalization Projects: \$10,000.00

2022 October

CANCELLED

2022 November

CANCELLED

2022 December

CANCELLED