

Environment & Climate Change Advisory Committee (ECCAC)

Meeting held October 2, 2025

A meeting of the Environment & Climate Change Advisory Committee is held this day commencing at 5:30 o'clock p.m. in Room 140, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Kieran McKenzie, Chair
Councillor Angelo Marignani
Frank Butler
Mike Fisher
Jennifer Nantais
Michael Schneider

Regrets received from:

Maria Boada

Guest in attendance:

Phillippa von Zeigenweidt

Also, present are the following resource personnel:

Brana Cesljarov, Supervisor Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change
Michelle Moxley-Peltier, CEP Product Administrator
Amy Nevills, Environment & Sustainability Coordinator
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:36 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A, attached hereto matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Minutes

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Frank Butler,

That the minutes of the Environment & Climate Change Advisory Committee of its meeting held July 17, 2025, **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 Environment & Climate Change Budget Overview

The Chair reports that the current balance of the 2025 Operating Budget is \$4,815.

Members are invited to provide ideas for the use of the operating budget as follows:

- Frank Butler suggests tree planting and to provide handouts at the Open Streets 2026 event.
- Jennifer Nantais proposes bird friendly city initiatives such as principles for outreach opportunities, bird friendly window treatments, and window collisions.
- Bird Friendly City has a logo that Nature Canada loans to them. The Chair requests that a budget for bird friendly initiatives be provided for the next meeting.
- Councillor Angelo Marignani proposes tree planting with a QR code that explains the purpose of the Environment & Climate Change Advisory Committee. He also suggests planting wildflowers in the naturalized parks throughout the city.
- In terms of tree planting, Jennifer Nantais suggests including pollinator planting.

The Chair proposes creating placeholders for tree planting, Open Streets and Earth Day, for Bird Friendly City materials as well as general outreach materials.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Jennifer Nantais,
That the following items be earmarked as placeholders for discussion at the next meeting of ECCAC; to be funded from the 2025 operating budget (\$4,815):

- Tree Planting
 - Open Streets and Earth Day – provide handouts
 - Bird Friendly City initiatives
 - Planting wildflowers in the naturalized parks throughout the city.
- Carried.

4.2 Sub-Committee Governing Document

Brana Cesljarov, Supervisor Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change advises that the governing document has been provided as a tool to assist the various subcommittees.

Moved by Frank Butler, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,
That the Sub-Committee Governing Document **BE RECEIVED** for information.
Carried.

4.3 2023 Community and Corporate GHG Inventory

Michelle Moxley-Peltier, CEP Product Administrator provides an overview of the targets, community emissions, and corporate emissions as follows:

City of Windsor Community Energy Plan – Community Targets

- 40% reduction in per capital energy usage and GHG Emissions by 2041 from 2014 baseline.

Corporate Targets

- 40% reduction in GHG Emissions by 2041 from 2014 baseline.

Windsor City Council at its meeting held July 14, 2025, adopted the following motion CR 289/2025:

Moved by: Councillor Kieran McKenzie

Seconded by: Councillor Fred Francis

Decision Number: CR289/2025 ETPS 1067

That the report from the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change department dated November 14, 2024, entitled “2023 Community and Corporate GHG Inventory - City Wide” **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

That the City of Windsor: 2022/2023 Data and Insights Dashboard provided by Enbridge Gas Inc. **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

That Council **AUTHORIZE** administration to report back on the Community and Corporate GHG Inventory Reports to Council biennially (once every two years) consistent with practices in other municipalities in Ontario; and,

That administration **BE DIRECTED** to forward the report to the Environment and Climate Change Advisory Committee (ECCAC) for review and comment.

Carried.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac voting nay.

In response to a question asked by Mike Fisher regarding if the City of Windsor is on the emissions target, Michelle Moxley-Peltier responds that the city is doing well. In terms of the science-based target, she remarks that the city is at that transition point where if we continue where we are will have to accelerate the decline into where it needs to be in 2030.

Michael Schneider suggests that being more energy efficient is one target that should be addressed first and foremost and then gasoline.

The Chair indicates that the role of ECCAC is to advise on environment and climate change, i.e. public transit.

Moved by Michael Schneider, seconded by Michael Fisher,

That in light of the City of Windsor Declaration of Climate Change Emergency, and recognizing the data presented in the Community and Corporate Green House GHG Inventory, including the emissions targets approved by Council, that ECCAC recommends that Council consider stronger investments to improve public transit and active transportation as well as public education surrounding alternative strategies such as carpooling or ride share and that ECCAC also recommends that Council explore ways to increase community adoption of the Windsor Residential Deep Energy Efficiency Retrofit Business Case (R-DEER) Program and similar programs in the market.

Carried.

Michael Schneider expresses concern that 40-foot buses in Windsor are carrying only a few people at a time and suggests smaller buses be utilized at certain times.

The Chair proposes that Transit Windsor be requested to provide a report on the fleet strategy. He alludes to the aging garage and advises that the fleet is larger than the capacity in the garage.

Michael Fisher questions what strategies are on the corporate emissions side as the city is looking to set an example for the community. If the Corporation of the City of Windsor were to see itself as a leader in fighting climate change, he asks what can be done. Michelle Moxley-Peltier responds that the Corporate Climate Action Plan contains 29 actions. The Corporate Energy Management Plan has a target of what can be done in the next four years, i.e. looking at street lighting, LED lighting, enhancing our renewable solar assets, and doing some deep retrofitting to buildings.

Moved by Michael Fisher, seconded by Michael Schneider,

That given the information presented in the Corporate GHG Emissions 2023 Inventory, that the Environment & Climate Change Committee **STRONGLY RECOMMENDS** that Council move forward with initiatives outlined in the Corporate Climate Action Plan and the Corporate Energy Management Plan.

Carried.

4.4 New ECCAC Logo

That the results of the e-mail poll conducted on September 17, 2025 approving the following recommendation **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED** as the required steps have been completed:

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marigani, seconded by Michael Fisher,

1. Confirm colour contrast of the two colours within the logo to be compliant Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with

Disabilities Act (AODA). If not, the colours should be adjusted accordingly. The light green will likely need to be adjusted.

2. Provide final design files for Concept #3 in both horizontal and vertical formats, exported in EPS, PNG, and JPG, in colour and black & white.
3. Develop a one-page visual identity guide including the following:
 - Horizontal and vertical logo versions
 - Minimum width specifications
 - Colour palette in CMYK, RGB, PMS, and HEX
 - Logo versions on white and dark backgrounds, with colour contrast meeting Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).
4. Specify the font used in the logo and recommended for use alongside it.
5. Provide templates for print and digital communications.
6. Submit the above items and this information memo to the Chief Administrative Officer for approval.

Carried.

5. Subcommittee Reports

5.1 City of Windsor Bird Team Subcommittee

Bird Friendly City Report Card – Submitted Responses

Jennifer Nantais, Chair advises that they recently submitted their report entitled “Bird Friendly City Report Card” to renew their Bird Friendly City Certification with Nature Canada.

Jennifer Nantais advises in 2026, the Subcommittee is interested in using the Bird Friendly City Program to help enhance the city for humans and all living things. The goal is to determine the priorities for 2026 and to work on sections of this report.

Mike Fisher asks if there are ways to celebrate the tufted titmouse. Jennifer Nantais refers to the Bird Friendly City Logo designed by Nature Canada and adds that designing tufted titmouse merchandise would be popular. She remarks she will report back on what other municipalities are doing, i.e. using the Nature Canada framework with a municipal lens.

Brana Cesljarov, Supervisor Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change volunteers to reach out to Communications for guidance in this endeavour. Once there is a final design, it will be brought to the CAO for approval.

Moved by Frank Butler, seconded by Mike Fisher,
That the report of the City of Windsor Bird Team Subcommittee including the Bird City Report Card **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

5.2 Planning and Environment Subcommittee

Councillor Angelo Marignani advises that the meeting of the Planning and Environment Subcommittee focused on climate adaptation, the mitigation scoreboard, the EV strategy, and various topics discussed on this day.

Brana Cesljarov reports that an Environmental Perspective Survey has been launched and is available on the City of Windsor's website.

Moved by Jennifer Nantais, seconded by Mike Fisher,
That the report of the Planning and Environment Subcommittee **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

5.3 Public Education and Engagement Subcommittee

Maria Boada, Chair (absent) provides the following Report of the Public Engagement Subcommittee as follows:

- Request for Logo to be approved during the meeting so that we are able to include the logo in marketing items for the different events. Request for the purchase of a banner or tablecloth with the approved logo so that it may be used for these events.

Past Events

Climate picnic

- Since the last time we met we had the climate picnic on July 18, 2025. We had around 20 people of all ages attend, and they had the opportunity to chat about climate issues. One of the highlights of the climate picnic was the climate themes games the subcommittee members came up with:
 - Climate Jenga: Each of the Jenga pieces had a fact on key points from some of the plans that the City has. Climate obstacle course that had a different learning component at each obstacle stage:

- **Creating Emissions:** Write emission sources on newspaper, crumble them into balls to represent different GHGs, and compete on volume.
 - Identify personal emission sources, learn about the greenhouse effect, and compare gas impacts via Global Warming Potential.
- **Adaptation:** Toss emission balls into cups that represent different adaptation measures.
 - Recognize climate change impacts and real-world adaptation strategies like stormwater upgrades and cooling centers.
- **Mitigation:** Carry emissions while answering trivia of the different City of Windsor Environmental Plans to remove cups, then complete physical challenges to simulate mitigation efforts.
 - Learn key emission sectors (transportation, industry, homes, businesses, waste) and ways that the City is working to reduce its own emissions.
- **Ecosystem Services:** Play modified hopscotch, tossing bean bags and collecting rings that symbolize these services.
 - Discover ecosystem services—medicinal resources, recreation, and mental health benefits—and their role in resilience.
- **Profiting from Environmental Care:** Use collected rings in a final toss to earn points reflecting your team's sustainability achievements.
 - Celebrate the benefits of climate action: public health, economic development, social well-being, and environmental resilience.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Open streets: September 21, 2025, 10am-2pm

- An application has been submitted to host a booth at Open Streets Windsor. The booth will serve as a space to showcase the work of our committee and its subcommittees and engage with the public on climate issues.
- All subcommittee members are welcome to participate. We especially encourage subcommittee chairs to attend and highlight the initiatives their groups are working on. This is a great chance to raise awareness, answer questions, and connect with community members interested in environmental action.
- If you'd like to be involved, please email me (maria-camila1@live.com) to confirm

your interest and availability. Please note I may not answer right away as I will be on vacation.

Climate Café: Speed Networking event: October 15, 2025, 5:30 - 8:00 | Walkerville Brewery

- Co-hosted with Windsor of Change, Windsor-Essex Strong Towns and Active Transit Windsor-Essex
- This event is designed to facilitate networking among individuals and organizations with a shared interest in environmental issues. Modeled after the format of speed dating, the core activity involves structured, time-limited conversations that allow participants to meet multiple people in a short period. The goal is to foster connections, exchange ideas, and encourage collaboration on sustainability-related initiatives.
- In addition to the networking component, local environmental organizations will be present to share information about their work. These groups are encouraged to bring pamphlets, flyers, and other materials that outline their mission, current projects, and opportunities for involvement. This may include volunteer recruitment, event promotion, or social media engagement.
- Mini agenda:
 - 5:30 PM – Registration and Showcase of Organizations
 - Participants check in and receive event materials. Local organizations will have informational resources for attendees to browse and discuss.
 - 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM – Speed Networking
 - Rotate through a series of brief, one-on-one conversations. Each round lasts a few minutes, allowing participants to meet a wide range of individuals with shared environmental interests.
 - 7:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Casual Discussions
 - An open format for continued conversation. Attendees may reconnect with individuals they met earlier or engage more deeply with organizational representatives.

5.4 Youth Subcommittee

No report.

5.5 Budget Subcommittee

**Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan
Overview by Frank Butler, Chair**

The subcommittee spent some time considering the various components of the plan, as well as how the document reached Council and the role of ECCAC in this well after-the-fact review of the document.

The consultation exercise & process by the original consultant & the open input from participants showed some progress yet to be realized.

Having the original document (as requested) prior to our work would have been helpful.

The SSSNAP is now a phantom document since the tabling by City Council without asking for questions or direction. Certainly, it is not a working document contrary to how it was described in the Powerpoint presentation to ECCAC.

The revised document received by ECCAC contains several issues, including:

- Equating *sustainable development* with *net zero*, which are not the same.
- Treating a *tabled document* as if it were a *working document*.
- Referring to updates without providing any administrative reports since the mandatory FCM submission in 2024. Going forward, such updates should be a standing requirement at ECCAC meetings.
- Lack of clarity on whether administration has requested the necessary resources (time, staff, and funding) to complete this review task. Given the initiated review by a new consultant of all master plans, a number of questions naturally spring forward:
 - Is the new consultant chosen?
 - If hired, who is the new consultant and what are the timelines for their work? This step likely will take up all of 2025 & major part of 2026. Given the lack of progress on most environmental initiatives, this can be problematic.

The subcommittee notes that some plans are well behind in their original release date. For instance, the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) has not been posted to Let's Talk Windsor though referred to Council in the last quarter. This may delay even further a review of all plans.

THEME #1: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

What Success Looks Like: A naturalized approach to planning, design and infrastructure will enhance community and species resilience in Sandwich South and Windsor. Existing habitats will be protected and enhanced. The design of building sites, movement corridors and open spaces will incorporate space for enhanced planting and biodiversity while managing wildlife movement with existing land uses. Green development policies and guidelines will support the use of natural infrastructure and sustainable materials and solutions to manage stormwater and rain events wherever feasible, creating resiliency with various current and future climate events in Sandwich South. Sandwich South's growth will honour its agricultural heritage, integrating urban design with spaces dedicated to Indigenous heritage, local agriculture, bolstering community food security. Waste produced in Sandwich South, whether it be from construction and

demolition activities or from operational activities, will be tracked and have green performance targets to achieve.

Concerns/Comments

- Enforceability of green development policies in view of provincial legislation: The City needs to either challenge Bill 17, along with AMO, or at least develop green principles or guidelines that it can recommend to developers but not enforce.
- In what ways will SSSNAP honour its agricultural heritage etc., given the increased announcements of industrial projects? E.g. Minth, battery plant
- The City should encourage the hospital to communicate its green performance targets to the public for transparency and to ensure that this is more than lip service.
- How will waste management principles incorporate waste from the hospital?
- Additional biodiversity will attract waterfowl, which will in turn be problematic for the airport. By regulation, no open water structures like storm water retention ponds are allowed near the airport. Canada geese like flat open spaces so areas with planting of trees and native flora will not be interesting for the geese.

THEME #2: GREEN JOBS AND ECONOMY

What Success Looks Like: The evolution of Sandwich South as a sustainable community will support both expanded housing options and the vitality of Windsor's new economy. It will deliver new housing and community infrastructure near existing and future employers. A commitment to green building standards will create opportunities to support and demonstrate local green economy innovators and build knowledge within Windsor's existing development community. Partnerships with local educational institutions, the sustainable construction industry, the Windsor- Essex Acute Care Hospital, Windsor International Airport, and surrounding employers will position the community as a hub for the green economy, showcasing Windsor's innovative advancements in sustainable mobility, energy, healthcare, and construction.

Concerns/Comments

- In what ways can Windsor International Airport be green?
- What discussions are going on today to ensure the new hospital incorporates green standards?
- What is being done to incentivize green housing construction?

THEME #3: CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AND GREEN ENERGY

What Success Looks Like: A coordinated approach to energy, buildings, and infrastructure will enable a climate focused community in Sandwich South and support energy security and climate resilience in Windsor. Proactive planning and

partnership building among the City, landowners, utilities, and other key stakeholders will enable a district-scale approach aimed at drastically reducing energy demand and carbon impacts. The City, in partnership with community members and stakeholders, will champion a shift to low-carbon energy and construction along with efficient, net-zero ready buildings, and pursue innovations in policy and technology in Sandwich South that will enable positive change throughout Windsor.

Concerns/Comments

- Which if any of these principles have been used in the construction of the Minth building already going up on the Airport land?
- How is the new acute care hospital using "green leadership" and how is this being communicated to the public?
- What is the status of the plans for district energy, and how is this green if it's gas powered?
- What is the mechanism by which the city hopes to pursue innovations in policy, given the provincial government legislation that prevents municipalities from mandating green construction?

THEME #4: SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

What Success Looks Like: Sandwich South will be a people-centered neighbourhood with a focus on active mobility (walking, cycling, and rolling) and transit access. Deliberate and consistent design at the neighbourhood and site scales will make transit and active transportation the most attractive means of travel. A seamless integration with Windsor's cycling, pedestrian, and transit systems will facilitate easy connections to, from, and within Sandwich South without the need for automobiles, providing residents with an equitable,

low-cost, and low to no emission form of travel. Transit, pedestrian, and bike connections inside and outside of Sandwich South will be convenient and safe.

Concerns/Comments

- How will active transportation be designed to make it the most attractive means of travel for the thousands of hospital workers and other related staff traveling to and from Sandwich South?
- Why is a parking structure among the first buildings planned for the hospital site, and how can we be assured that this indicates alignment with SSSNAP rather than car-oriented development?
- Will there be safe separated bike lanes linking Windsor's developed neighbourhoods with Sandwich South?
- Are any plans being made to provide staff and/or patient shuttle buses for the new hospital?
- What mode share targets have been established for staff and patient travel to and from the acute care hospital?
- Recent announcements of a parking structure at the hospital is a

departure from previous plans to offer surface parking only. Since parking structures use less land, this raises questions about the often-stated "need" to purchase and develop 60 acres of productive farmland.

THEME #5: COMMUNITY, LAND USE AND DESIGN

What Success Looks Like: Sandwich South will be a community where current and future Windsor residents want to locate and stay in the long term. The mix of land uses, and sustainable connections between them, will enable people of all ages and abilities to meet most of their daily needs within the community. Sandwich South will bolster housing (affordable and attainable) and energy security in Windsor by delivering a full range of housing tenure types and levels of affordability within energy-efficient buildings and landscapes. Increased densities will support housing choice and sustainable design.

Concerns/Comments

- Construction has started in Sandwich South. What are the timelines for this development and how are the SSSNAP objectives and goals being incorporated into the project?

Ideas we particularly like:

- Page 51: Action 4.3. Disconnect the number of required bike parking spaces from the required parking spaces within new development to ensure reductions in vehicular parking do not result in a reduction in bike parking. The subcommittee supports eliminating minimum parking city-wide standards.
- Page 52: Action 4.7. Establish a Sandwich South TOM program that works with local employers and institutions to encourage more sustainable modes of travel. Strategies could include providing corporate transit pass discounts, providing education and training on sustainable travel options, facilitating development of a neighbourhood-focused rideshare program or supporting emergency/off-peak travel. What is being done by the city to provide incentives for employees to take the bus? There was a pass system a couple of years back, but little was done to promote it. As a result, uptake was low.
- Page 64: Action 5.23. Establish incentives for ultra-low energy housing design to reduce energy costs for housing operators, owners or tenants. What is the status of developing such a policy or CIP?

Recommendations on the SSSNAP

- The City needs to either challenge Bill 17, along with AMO, or at least develop green principles or guidelines that it can recommend to developers, even though enforcement will not be possible.
- Green performance targets for the acute care hospital should not be lower than the community or neighbourhood it is in.

- The hospital's green performance targets need to be communicated to the public. The collective impact of the new hospital in the context of the SSSNAP needs to be quantified and incorporated in performance targets. Not doing so diminishes and even negates any positive impacts within Sandwich South.
- How is green leadership defined and what does it look like in practice?
- The City needs to either challenge Bill 17, along with AMO, or at least develop green principles or guidelines that it can recommend to developers, in the knowledge that they are not enforceable.
- Many quotable lines from the Airport Master Plan are open to interpretation. For example: 'The Recommended Land Use Plan: Ensures that land is developed in a manner that is compatible with the adjacent Community;'
-

The Let's Talk Windsor platform is neither current nor user-friendly. A quick assessment and update are needed to make the tool useful.

In the longer term, a more thorough evaluation is needed to determine how this platform is failing residents and what improvements can be implemented.

Momentum by other Canadian Municipalities With Electric Buses

Meanwhile, on other fronts, the subcommittee wants to acknowledge progress made on electrification of bus infrastructure in other Canadian cities, both larger and smaller than Windsor, including the Town of Tecumseh, which recently announced the arrival of its fully electric transit fleet. Yet Windsor has announced no plans for electric buses.

Town of Tecumseh Welcomes Electric Bus Fleet

The Town of Tecumseh is proud to announce the arrival of its fully electric transit fleet, marking a major milestone in the Town's ongoing efforts to build a more sustainable, environmentally responsible future.

Thanks to funding provided in 2023 through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund (RTSF), the Town was able to purchase electric buses that will soon replace its current gas-powered vehicles.

These modern, zero-emission buses will officially begin service on local roads this July.

Frank Butler advises that the Budget Committee will be looking at the Urban Forest Master Plan and its projections. He questions if information can be gleaned from London, Ottawa, and Hamilton as it relates to their budget allotment along with an update of the number of trees planted. The Chair advises that an update was recently provided to City Council with approximately 20% tree coverage in the City of Windsor.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Mike Fisher,

That the report of the Budget Subcommittee **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

Frank Butler requests that a representative from the Legal Department be invited to attend a meeting of ECCAC to address the matter relating to Black Oak Park.

6. Confirm and Ratify E-mail Poll

That the following E-mail Poll sent on September 15, 2025, regarding the approval of an upset limit of \$1,000 for the purchase of the following promotional items **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED**:

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marigani, seconded by Mike Fisher,

- Purchase of Tablecloth for an eight (8) foot table
- Purchase of Pop-up banner with the new ECCAC logo

And further, that a discussion be held at the next meeting to discuss any further expenditures.

Carried.

7. New Business

Mike Fisher suggests that a representative from the Parks Department be invited to attend the next meeting of ECCAC primarily to address Black Oaks Park and the issues around access for a variety of users including options to protect that space. He refers to Peche Island and remarks that ECCAC is supportive of doing a comprehensive management plan of the Peche Island natural area.

Moved by Mike Fisher, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,

That the creation of a comprehensive Management Plan **BE SUPPORTED** for the Peche Island natural area, that considers the ecological features, the natural heritage and full protection while working with the community to identify recreational opportunities.

Carried.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in a room to be determined.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 7:34 o'clock p.m.