

Advisory Committee on the Environment

Report

The 4th Meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Environment
March 4, 2020
Committee Room #4

Attendance PRESENT: R. Sirois (Chair), N. Beaugard, M. Bloxam, K. May, M. Ross, J. Santarelli, D. Szoller, A. Thompson, A. Tipping and B. Vogel and J. Bunn (Committee Clerk)

ABSENT: J. Howell, M.D. Ross and R. Pate

ALSO PRESENT: T. Arnos, M. Fabro, D. Hsia and A. Rozentals

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 The Blue Community Project

That the following actions be taken with respect to the attached presentations from the Council of Canadians, the Blue Community Project and A. Rozentals, Division Manager, Water Engineering with respect to the City of London becoming a Blue Community:

a) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to review the above-noted presentations with respect to actions required for the City of London to become a Blue Community;

b) the above-noted presentations and the documents appended to the agenda from the Council of Canadians and the Blue Community Project, with respect to this matter, BE RECEIVED; and,

c) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to look into selling reusable water bottles at public events in the city (e.g. SunFest and Rib Fest) as well as at all public facilities (e.g. concession stands at arenas) and at vendors outlets at public events.

3. Consent

3.1 3rd Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it BE NOTED that the 3rd Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment, from its meeting held on February 5, 2020, was received.

3.2 2nd Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 2nd Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on February 20, 2020, was received.

3.3 Municipal Council Resolution - Appointments to the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution, from its meeting held on February 11, 2020, with respect to Appointments to the Advisory Committee on the Environment, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Bird Friendly London Policy Update

That it BE NOTED that a verbal update on the Bird-Friendly London Policy lead by D. Szoller was received.

5.2 ACE Promotion

That it BE NOTED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) held a general discussion with respect to ACE promotion at events.

5.3 W12A Landfill Open House

That the following actions be taken with respect to the W12A Landfill:

a) the verbal update on the W12A Landfill Open House event from R. Sirois, BE RECEIVED; and,

b) monitoring of the W12A Landfill expansion project BE REFERRED to the Waste Sub-Committee.

5.4 City of London Budget - ACE Comments

That the following actions be taken with respect to the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) comments on the City of London Multi-Year Budget:

a) the document, as appended to the agenda, outlining the comments made on behalf of the ACE at the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee Public Participation Meeting for the City of London Multi-Year Budget, held on February 13, 2020, BE RECEIVED; and,

b) A. Dunbar, Manager III, Financial Planning and Policy BE INVITED to attend a future ACE meeting and give an update on the City of London Multi-Year Budget.

5.5 ACE 2020 Work Plan and Budget

That it BE NOTED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) held a general discussion with respect to the ACE 2020 Work Plan and committee budget.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Blue Community Project

Background

The Blue Community project, begun in 2009, is jointly supported by the Council of Canadians , Blue Planet Project and CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees). The purpose of the Blue Community is to recognize municipalities that take three steps which enshrine water as a common resource (like air, necessary for life), requiring safe keeping and accessibility . Water is agreed to be a public trust with public interests having priority over private for-profit interests.

Request for consideration of the program for London was made on May 02, 2018 to the Advisory Committee on the Environment by Julie Pickens-Cooper of the London branch of the Council of Canadians. To become a Blue Community the following resolutions are passed :

Resolution 1: water is and sanitation are recognized as a human right

Resolution 2: sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and events is phased out or banned

Resolution 3: promote publicly owned and operated water and waste water services

The recommendation that followed – That the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to report back to the appropriate committee with respect to the feasibility of implementing the Blue Communities Program in London: it being noted that the Advisory Committee on the Environment received a verbal presentation from J.Pickens-Cooper with respect to this matter.

A City staff response was directed to the Civic Works Committee March 18, 2019 with the following action (<https://pub-london.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=63261>).

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental and Engineering Services and City Engineer, the report dated March 18,2019 with respect to the Council Of Canadians' Blue Communities Project and its application to the City of London BE RECEIVED for information. (2019-E08)

This was directed back to the ACE on the April 2019 agenda with staff responses. It was noted that many of the City's existing operations and programs align with the Blue Community resolutions however changes to core business processes were seen to be required to fully comply. In particular, Blue Community literature states that:

“If a municipality has a policy that cuts off a resident's water or waste water services, this

would go against the human rights to water and sanitation resolution and the municipality would not be eligible to become a Blue Community”.

With respect to resolution 1 - Staff note that service disconnection is used as a last resort with water bills severely in arrears. They also referred to the Customer Assistance Programs which assists residents struggling to pay for water services and that in 2017 and 2018 there had been no such cuts to services. Staff recommended a feasibility review in order to meet the requirements of Blue Communities and to understand the financial implications of the initiative. This could include contacting other Blue Communities.

With respect to resolution 2 , the phasing out or banning of bottled water at city sites, staff noted that this policy already exists. They added that vendors at events are encouraged to not sell bottled water when the Thirstmobile and Thirststations are present but that this could be more fully enforced.

With respect to resolution 3, promotion of public ownership of water services, staff noted that the City of London water and waste water systems and the Lake Huron and Elgin Area Primary Water Supply Systems are publicly financed, owned and operated. Thus Resolution 3 can be met without changes to existing operations.

Next Steps

The Chair of the London Blue Communities Committee for the Council of Canadians is Lynn Brown. On behalf of the project she and her colleagues want to reopen consideration of the Blue Community designation for London.

To date, (January, 2020), 52 municipalities around the globe have decided the Blue Community designation is in their interests. These include Bayfield, Kingston, Niagara Falls, Paris, Brussels, Berlin and most recently Los Angeles. In addition, 16 communities have made this commitment including the Sisters of St. Joseph here in London. (Please see list of Blue Communities attached, Appendix A).

We recognize the City’s forward thinking in declaring environmental crisis as reality and having this lens for future planning . We further recognize the City’s declaration of housing as a human right. We maintain that becoming a Blue Community is in accord with these values and would offer a degree of protection in the future of the public trust of water services when it could be anticipated that there will be greater pressure on water resources . This could include pressure to privatize water services as has happened in Australia, parts of Europe, U.S. etc. (Please see Appendix B re negative effects of privatization of water resources.)

The major concern noted by City staff appeared to be around declaration of water as a human right and the commitment to refrain from cutting off water services due to struggles to pay. We note that this is not a major problem due to the Customer Assistance Program managed by the City and its partners. It is

possible that this may suffice to meet the meaning of resolution #1 . The fact that water shut offs have not occurred in 2017 and 2018 suggest the City is acting with recognition of the human right to water.

We ask that :

the City staff explore the feasibility of making this commitment through contact with other Blue Community municipalities. We offer that Bayfield , a Blue Community since 2011, has not reported water shut offs (Council of Canadians , national office). No Blue Communities have lost their designation due to a change in water bill payment patterns. We also offer that Welland deals with unpaid water bills by attaching the arrears to property taxes, a possible solution for those who can afford to pay. We offer that Nanaimo did complete such a feasibility study before becoming a Blue Community.

Resolution 2- phasing out /banning sale of bottled water at City facilities and events has already been decided in 2009. The City has measures in place to provide flowing water and staff indicate this could be more fully upheld. We appreciate the staff ideas re encouraging third party vendors to respect this commitment. We offer that a campaign to “bring your own” could be helpful. The emission effects of producing plastic bottles and the reality of 1/9 recycling success are well known. The proliferation of water born plastics is another. We note also, an encouraging example at the Boys and Girls Club. The fountain there installed 2 years ago tracks water use in bottle equivalency. They record the equivalent of 68,000 bottles NOT USED by the seniors, children and staff who use the fountain and reuse mugs and bottles.

We ask that:

The City campaign for a ‘bring your own” water bottle culture at City events and facilities in keeping with the recognition of the climate emergency. Further , we ask that water refill stations be further expanded in the city.

Resolution 3- promotion of public ownership and operation of water services. London is already in compliance with this resolution and it is understood that Ontario has strict legislation regarding drinking water with attendant liabilities making private ownership of these services unattractive to private interests at present (Municipal Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, etc.)

We ask that:

The City make this resolution with which it is compliance in practice.

Conclusions

London is well placed to seek the Blue Community designation and thereby set in place a level of protection for the future. The values and intents of the Blue Community policy appear aligned with those of our city. London has recognized a climate crisis and will plan with the climate lens henceforth. London has recognized housing as a human right. London makes every effort to support water delivery which should also be upheld as a human right. London has already banned the sale of single use bottled water at it’s sites and events. London’s water service is already in the public domain.

Taking the remaining steps to seek Blue Community designation would be another declaration of London's forward thinking and intent to position as a progressive city, an attractive destination for like-minded business, students and residents in the future economy.



List of Blue Communities:

- Saint-Alexis-des-Monts, Quebec, January 23, 2020
- Saint-Félix-de-Kingsey, Quebec, December 9, 2019
- Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium, November 29, 2019
- Los Angeles, California, U.S.A, November 6, 2019
- Saint-Félix-de-Valois, Quebec, November 6, 2019
- Roberval, Quebec, November 4, 2019
- Plessisville, Quebec, October 29, 2019
- Longueuil, Quebec, October 22, 2019
- Kempten, Germany, October 15, 2019
- Gossau St. Gallen, Switzerland, September 10, 2019
- Victoriaville, Quebec, September 4, 2019
- Saint-Fulgence, Quebec, June 5, 2019
- Saint-François-de-Sales, Quebec, June 4, 2019
- La Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM), Quebec, May 22, 2019
- Richmond, Quebec, May 7, 2019
- Jericho House, Youth Leadership, Justice & Spirituality Centre, Niagara Region, Ontario, May 6, 2019
- Medina Sidonia, Spain
- Mòstoles, Spain
- Javea, Spain
- Thermaikos, Greece
- Monseigneur-A.-M.-Parent High School, Saint-Hubert, Quebec – became the first Blue School, April 18, 2019
- Trois-Rivières, Quebec, March 25, 2019
- Augsburg, Germany, March 24, 2019
- City of Montreal, Quebec, March 22, 2019
- McGill University, Quebec, March 22, 2019
- Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec, February 15, 2019
- Nicolet, Quebec, February 11, 2019
- Town of Danville, Quebec, January 28, 2019
- Cádiz, Spain, November 23, 2018
- Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland, October 19, 2018
- Marburg, Germany, July 9, 2018
- Thessaloniki, Greece, June 4, 2018
- Reformed Church of Nydegkirche, Bern, April 15, 2018
- AEOPAS (a national Spanish network), Blue Communities Ambassador, April 9, 2018
- Berlin, Germany, March 22, 2018
- Neuchâtel, Switzerland, March 12, 2018
- Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada, December 10, 2017

- Munich, Germany, October 18, 2017
- Northampton, Massachusetts, June 1, 2017
- EYATH in Thessaloniki, Blue Community Ambassador, November 28, 2016
- World Council of Churches, October 25, 2016
- City of St.Gallen, Switzerland, September 26, 2016
- University of St.Gallen, Switzerland, September 26, 2016
- Evangelisch-Reformierte Kirchgemeinde Spiez, September 1, 2016
- Federal University of Lavras, Brazil, May 13, 2106
- Paris, France, March 21, 2016
- District of Lunenburg, NS, December 8, 2015
- Thunder Bay, ON, March 23, 2015
- Tsal'alh, St'át'imc Territory – became the first Indigenous Blue Community, January 12, 2015
- Bayfield, ON, October 24, 2014
- Cambuquira, Brazil, March 11, 2014
- Tay Township, ON, April 9, 2014
- Amqui, QC, September 16, 2013
- City of Bern, Switzerland – designated the first Blue Community outside of Canada, September 18, 2013
- University of Bern, Switzerland, September 18, 2013
- Evangelisch-reformierte Kirchgemeinde Bern-Johannes Church, Switzerland, September 18, 2013
- Thorold, ON, July 2, 2013
- Welland, ON, November 6, 2012
- Comox, B.C., October 4, 2012
- Cumberland, B.C., July 9, 2012
- Nanaimo, B.C., June 25, 2012
- St. Catharines, ON, May 28, 2012
- Niagara Falls, ON, April 25, 2012
- North Vancouver, B.C., February 6, 2012
- Ajax, ON, December 2011
- Kingston, Ontario, September 20, 2011
- Tiny Township, ON, September 12, 2011
- Victoria, B.C., June 24, 2011
- City of Burnaby, B.C. – became Canada's first Blue Community on World Water Day, March 22, 2011.

Institutional members (not municipalities):

- The sewage company in Barcelona
- The Gihasa water company in Huelva, Spain

The most up-to-date list of Blue Communities can be found in the sidebar on this page:
<https://canadians.org/bluecommunities>

Negative effects of privatizing municipal water systems

Council of Canadians water campaigner Vi Bui [writes](#) that privatizing drinking water and sewage treatment services directly threatens our human right to water. P3 projects cost more, eliminate jobs, lack transparency and exclude municipalities from the decision-making process.

Abram Lutes writes in a NB Media Co-op [article](#) that P3s tend to increase user fees in order to make the operation of services profitable for private companies, and the private ownership of the water means those who do not pay their water utility bills can be cut off, presenting potential threats to the human right to clean water.

CUPE [reports](#) that in the last 15 years, municipalities in more than 35 countries have cancelled or not renewed over 180 water privatization contracts.

A [study](#) of 500 U.S. municipal water systems found that private providers charge on average 59 per cent more per household for water and 63 per cent more for sewer than the public option.

In 2004, the City of Hamilton-Wentworth ended a water and wastewater P3 after ten years of environmental problems and mismanagement by several private water corporations. Despite the promises of local economic development, new jobs and cost savings, the workforce had been cut in half. Millions of litres of raw sewage had spilled into Hamilton Harbour and flooded homes, and major additional costs were incurred. In 2008, when the city brought the services back in-house, cost savings were estimated at \$575,000 for that year alone.

In 2016 the District of Sooke, BC, decided not to renew its wastewater treatment operations contract with EPCOR. By eliminating the profit margin from what EPCOR charges for service, the district projected annual savings of \$225,000.

In 2013, the City of Berlin bought back water multinational Veolia's shares in the city's public water authority. After privatization, water rates had risen dramatically. A significant part of the increases went to corporate profits, not to operating or improving the system.

In 2010, the City of Brussels ended a privatization contract with Aquiris, a Veolia-led consortium. Aquiris had deliberately dumped wastewater from 1.1 million people into the river Zenne for 10 days while in a dispute with public authorities.

In 2003 the City of Atlanta, Georgia, ended a 20-year contract with Suez subsidiary United Water. Under privatization, the private company and the city were inundated with complaints of poor and unresponsive service. The system was plagued with breakdowns, water main breaks and "boil only" alerts.

Jakarta Indonesia's water system was privately operated for 17 years, 1998-2015. During this time, residents suffered exorbitant fees and a chronically inadequate supply of clean, drinkable water. Privatization also impaired the government's ability to monitor water quality.

Buying back water systems can be prohibitively expensive. The Washington Post [reports](#) that when residents of Mooresville, Ind., grew frustrated with rate hikes, the city tried to buy the system from American Water but the court-approved price — \$20.3 million — was more than the town of 10,000 was willing or able to pay.

Missoula, Mont., took back ownership of its water system after winning a fight that left the city of 70,000 facing an \$88.6 million bill, plus millions of dollars more in expenses. Under private ownership, the system had leaked so badly that half of the water flowing through its pipes was lost. Yet investors in the Carlyle Group, one of a series of private owners, had received millions of dollars in dividends.

Perhaps most alarming is the prospect of a trade deal that would prevent Canadian municipalites from buying back water systems from private ownership. In a 2017 [blog](#), Brent Patterson quotes The Transnational Institute: "TiSA [the Trade In Services Agreement] will make it impossible for governments to reverse privatization or decrease the influence of the private sector. Governments will only be able to choose to maintain privatized services as they are or to extend liberalization." TiSA negotiations have been suspended but may be resumed. In a 2016 [blog](#) Council of Canadians warns that the ISDS mechanism in CETA might allow a company to sue if a municipality tries to buy back its water services. In 2015 Argentina was ordered by the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes to pay \$405 million to the French transnational Suez for cancelling the corporation's water and sewage services contract.

Canadian cities to watch:

In 1999 the City of Moncton NB signed a deal with Veolia, a French multinational corporation, to build, finance and operate a new drinking water treatment plant for 20 years. According to [CUPE](#), the deal cost at least \$8.5 million more than a public project in expensive private borrowing costs alone. Now that the contract is up and the Moncton owns the plant, the city is looking for a private corporation to run and maintain the plant for another 15 years. Moncton's water delivery system and wastewater treatment are fully public.

Saint John NB is building a P3 "Safe Clean Drinking Water" project with the Province of New Brunswick, Infrastructure Canada, and private equity partners including Acciona, Brookfield, and North America Construction. Port City Water Services has a 33-year contract to operate the facility. Completion of part of the project has been delayed. [CBC reports](#) "In July [2019], the city announced the [future] switch after it was discovered the South Bay well field that provides water to west Saint John had fallen a metre below sea level, putting it at risk of taking in salt water or brackish water. In September 2017, west

side residents were switched over to a new water system — the now-sinking well field — but a month later, the city started receiving complaints about leaking pipes, high pressure, poor taste and hardness of the well water.” Another CBC [article](#) reports that a class action lawsuit has been launched against the city by residents who were affected by the switch to hard water from the South Bay well field. It caused major damage to dishwashers and other appliances and necessitated costly investments in water softeners to prevent further damage.

Irving Pulp and Paper is being given a ‘sweetheart deal’ in low water rates. New water rates [announced](#) in November 2019 will charge residential customers 2.3 per cent more *per year every year* from 2021 to 2029. Irving Pulp and Paper will pay a little more than before, but the Irving Oil Refinery and NB Power's Coleson Cove power plant will pay less, leading to an overall loss of about \$250,000 per year in revenue for the city. Even with the increase, Irving Pulp and Paper gets a generous break. The company drains huge amounts of water from Spruce Lake, putting residential water supplies at risk. The system was built to deliver untreated water to the plant, separate from the treated water system. Doug James of the NB Media Co-op [writes](#) “If the powers to be were to raise the industrial rate for water even to a still ridiculously low rate of 40 cents per cubic meter [by comparison, the [City of Toronto](#) charges industrial customers \$2.77 per cubic meter and the [City of London](#) charges \$0.95 for volumes over 50,000 cubic meters], the City of Saint John could wipe out its entire projected 2021 deficit of \$12 million and have substantial additional revenue coming into the public purse year after year to pay for public transit, road repairs, lifeguards etc., instead of having to cut services as planned.” “Ever since the late industrialist, K.C. Irving, demanded and got a 25-year ‘sweetheart’ deal for the pulp mill in Saint John in 1957, the family has continued to negotiate ‘special agreements’ with the city that provide a steady flow of cheap water to fuel their industrial enterprises. The more they use, the less they pay.”

Recommended reading: [Back In House. Why Local Governments Are Bringing Services Home](#)

[Water Privatization: Facts and Figures](#)

Compiled by Norah Fraser, Council of Canadians London Chapter

Remunicipalisation of Water Service – Berlin, Germany

In 1994 Berlin Waterworks was moved from a municipally owned water service, to a cooperation model, (Water Remunicipalisation Tracker 2014) and in 1999, despite widespread opposition, 49.9 percent of the company was sold to a consortium of the German RWE group and the French firm Vivendi (today Veolia). This contract, which was secret, was opposed by many social justice groups on the basis that water is a human right, and that there was no transparency.

In February of 2011, after years of mobilization and alternative proposals, a citizen referendum passed and the city bought back the shares of RWE. After ongoing lobbying the city bought back the shares of Veolia in 2013. The impacts of privatization which were listed were potential surface water pollution, decreasing water quality, groundwater pollution of depletion, increase of water prices, and decrease of service.

<https://ejatlas.org/conflict/remunicipalisation-of-water-service-in-berlin-germany>

Berlin bought back its shares despite a high level of debt. This has happened in eight other Germany cities as well, including Stuttgart. France's Suez and Veolia are interested in privatizing Greece's utilities, despite the fact that 49 cities in France have bought back their water since 2000.

A 2014 report by the Transnational Institute's Satoko Kishimoto named 180 cities worldwide who have remunicipalised their water supplies. "A public water company is much more tightly regulated and obliged to provide water services for all," said Kishimoto.

Beveridge, R., & Naumann, M. (2013). Global norms, local contestation: Privatisation and de/politicisation in Berlin.

Ross Beveridge, Frank Huesker, Matthias Naumann, From post-politics to a politics of possibility? Unravelling the privatization of the Berlin Water Company, Geoforum, Volume 51, January 2014, Pages 66-74

<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/aug/14/germanys-hypocrisy-over-greece-water-privatisation>

<https://ejatlas.org/conflict/remunicipalisation-of-water-service-in-berlin-germany>

Make London a Blue Community



Blue Communities co-founder Maude Barlow will be Brescia's Chancellor



LOCAL NEWS

Author, activist Maude Barlow named Brescia University College chancellor

Award-winning author and activist Maude Barlow has been named the next chancellor at Brescia University College at Western University.

Barlow, who has received 14 honorary doctorates, is also the honorary chairperson of the Council of Canadians and co-founder of the Blue Project, a global clean-water initiative.

London Free Press, January 7, 2020

The Council of Canadians, the Blue Planet Project and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) initiated the Blue Communities Project in 2009.

Blue Communities Philosophy

Enshrine water as a common resource, essential to life, for safe keeping and accessibility – a public trust, with public interests having priority over private for-profit interests.

57 municipalities and 16 communities world-wide have become Blue Communities, with more to come.

A Blue Community resolves:

- That water and sanitation are human rights
- That bottled water in municipal facilities and events will be phased out or banned
- To promote public ownership and operation of water and waste water services

The Blue Community London proposal was presented to ACE in 2018, and referred to staff for consideration.

City staff reported to the Civic Works Committee in March 2019. The Committee voted not to proceed with a feasibility study. The project was referred back to ACE.

We are here today to respond to the concerns that were raised by staff and the Civic Works Committee.

London is very close to qualifying as a Blue Community.

Bottled water in municipal facilities and events will be phased out or banned:

London has already banned bottled water in municipal facilities.

Fountains and bottle refill stations have been installed in public places.

[Thirstmobiles and Thirststations](#) provide drinking fountains and water bottle refill stations at outdoor events during the summer.

Public ownership and management of water and waste water services will be promoted:

London's systems are publicly owned, so London is already meeting this standard. (See the Municipal Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act)

We have provided a report on the dangers of privatization in other municipalities:



Document

Municipalities are under constant pressure to sell our valuable municipal services (e.g. the new federal Infrastructure Bank encourages P3s).

The resolution would be a statement of intent to keep London's water systems in public hands.

Regarding **water as a human right**, staff referred to a possible feasibility study re: costs to the city

- No municipality has lost the Blue Communities designation due to water shut-offs.
- No municipality has reported an increase in unpaid bills after becoming a Blue Community.
- London has a Customer Assistance Program, paid for by rate-payers, that helps customers who struggle with paying their water and hydro bills.
- Other municipalities (e.g. Vancouver) add unpaid water bills to property taxes.
- We ask that staff undertake the feasibility study, and possibly consult with Nanaimo, who have already done so and became a Blue Community.

London can join with Canadian Blue Communities such as

Bayfield (2014)

The Sisters of St. Joseph (2017)

Niagara Falls (2012),

St. Catharines (2012)

Trois Rivières (2019)

Montreal (2019)

... in all, 42 Canadian municipalities and communities to date

And globally, Berlin, Paris, Bern, Los Angeles etc.

List of Blue Communities



Document

London becoming a Blue Community is doable and virtually cost free.

We're almost there! Two out of the three requirements are already in place due to Council and staff's forward thinking.

Becoming a Blue Community aligns with London's stated intents and values:

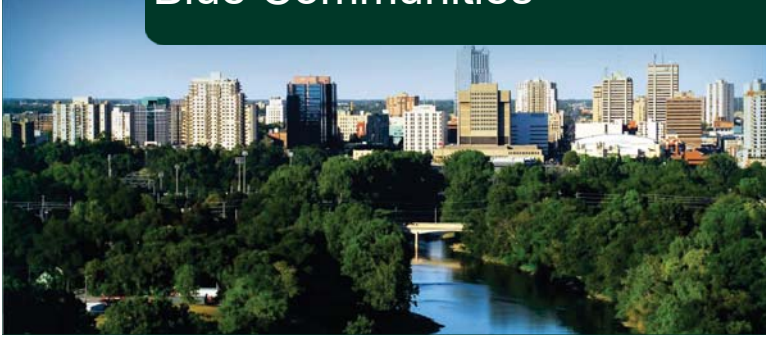
- London recognizes the climate emergency
- London recognizes housing as human right
- London already bans bottled water in city facilities and events
- London already has public ownership of water services

"Blue Community" designates a municipality that enshrines water as a human right. As the Sisters of St. Joseph say, "water is the first medicine" and as First Nations neighbours say, "water is life".

Please protect our water!



Blue Communities



Aaron Rozentals, P.Eng., GDPA
Division Manager, Water Engineering



Overview

Three steps to become a Blue Community

Council must pass resolutions to:

1. Declare water/sanitary a human right
2. Ban or phase out bottled water sales
3. Support public water and wastewater system



Resolutions

Three sample resolutions available

- Some components are philosophical/political

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [name of municipality] will call on the federal and provincial governments to enshrine the human rights to water and sanitation in federal and provincial law.

- Some components effect management of the water system

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [name of municipality] will refrain from shutting off water and wastewater services in any residence where residents have an inability to pay their bills, and furthermore that [name of municipality] will make every effort to work with the resident to remediate the debt.



Water as a Human Right

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [name of municipality] will refrain from shutting off water and wastewater services in any residence where residents have an inability to pay their bills, and furthermore that [name of municipality] will make every effort to work with the resident to remediate the debt.

- Resolution is specific to “where residents have inability to pay their bills”



- Salvation Army Crisis Support
- City funded support program for water bills
- Payment Plans

Staff position that this will not change system management



Water Bottle Ban

London was an early adopter on this:

[August 2008 City of London Water Bottle Ban](#)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a) single-use bottled water will no longer be sold in the City Hall cafeteria, from City-owned or City administered concessions and vending machines in public facilities where easy access to municipal tap water exists; b) single-use bottled water will no longer be purchased and provided at meetings where easy access municipal tap water exists; c) the availability of water jugs with municipal tap water will be increased, where required; d) a City staff and public awareness campaign be developed to support the rationale for these important changes including the need for Londoners to do their part; and e) the following implementation schedule be followed subject to an assessment that tap water is readily accessible at these locations:



Public System

- The water and wastewater system under Council control is publically financed, owned, operated, and managed
- No effect on the management of our water/wastewater system
- May want tweaks to wording due to complex public governance of Regional System



Next Steps

- Staff willing to work with Council of Canadians to confirm interpretation, wording
- Council of Canadians can bring resolutions to Civic Works Committee as a delegation
- Staff will present on the impacts on the management of the water/wastewater system



Blue Communities

Questions?

Advisory Committee on the Environment

Report

The 3rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee Environment
February 5, 2020
Committee Room #4

Attendance PRESENT: R. Sirois (Chair), M. Bloxam, K. May, M. Ross, M.D.
Ross, D. Szoller, A. Thompson and A. Tipping and J. Bunn
(Committee Clerk)

ABSENT: J. Howell

ALSO PRESENT: T. Arnos, G. Barrett, M. Fabro, J. Grinstead,
C. Smith and J. Stanford

The meeting was called to order at 12:17 PM.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 Introduction to the Position of Manager of Sustainability and Resiliency

That it BE NOTED that a verbal presentation from M. Fabro, Manager, Sustainability and Resiliency, with respect to an introduction and update on the position of Manager of Sustainability and Resiliency, was received.

3. Consent

3.1 2nd Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it BE NOTED that the 2nd Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment, from its meeting held on January 8, 2020, was received.

3.2 Municipal Council Resolution - 1st Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution, from its meeting held on January 14, 2020, with respect to the 1st Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment, was received.

3.3 Letter of Resignation - K. Soliman

That it BE NOTED that the letter of resignation from the Advisory Committee on the Environment, dated January 17, 2020, from K. Soliman, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 Energy Sub-Committee Report

That the ~~attached~~ Energy Sub-Committee Report BE FORWARDED to the Planning and Environment Committee and the Cycling Advisory Committee for consideration.

4.2 Waste Sub-Committee Report

That the ~~attached~~ Waste Sub-Committee Report BE FORWARDED to the Planning and Environment Committee for consideration.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Climate Action Presentation by D. Saxe at Green in the City Event

That it BE NOTED that the communication, as appended to the agenda, from R. Sirois, with respect to the Climate Action Presentation by D. Saxe that was given at the Green in the City Event in November, 2019, was received.

5.2 Information Update - London's Premier Zero Waste Festival, June 13, 2020

That it BE NOTED that a verbal update from R. Sirois with respect to London's Premier Zero Waste Festival, to be held on June 13, 2020, was received.

5.3 Review and Affirmation of Sub-Committees

That it BE NOTED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) held a general discussion with respect to a review of the ACE Sub-Committees.

5.4 ACE 2020 Budget

That it BE NOTED that the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) held a general discussion with respect to the ACE 2020 Budget.

5.5 ACE 2020 Work Plan

That the revised, ~~attached~~ Advisory Committee on the Environment 2020 Work Plan BE FORWARD to Municipal Council for consideration.

5.6 ACE Non-Voting Membership Request

That the City Clerk BE REQUESTED to remove the non-voting membership positions for the Institute of Catastrophic Research (Western University) and the Biodrome (Western University) and to replace them with a non-voting position for a faculty or graduate student in a relative discipline, such as environmental studies, sustainability or geography; it being noted that the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) found that the existing positions were not able to participate and, therefore, the ACE would like to widen the field of possible candidates in order to be able to benefit from university expertise.

5.7 Request for Delegation Status - Blue Community Project

That the request for delegation from L. Brown, Chair, Blue Community London, as appended to the agenda, with respect to the Blue Community Project, BE APPROVED for the March 4, 2020 Advisory Committee on the Environment meeting; it being noted that the delegate will be given 15 minutes to speak.

5.8 Request for Delegation Status - Student Presentation Regarding the Climate Change Emergency Plan

That the request for delegation from B. Vogel, Western University, dated January 28, 2020, with respect to the Climate Change Emergency Plan, BE APPROVED for the April 1, 2020 Advisory Committee on the Environment meeting; it being noted that the delegates will be given 15 minutes to speak.

5.9 City of London Multi-Year Budget Discussion

That a Working Group BE CREATED to draft comments for a representative of the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) to present at the upcoming Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee (SPPC) Public Participation Meeting on February 13, 2020, with respect to the City of London Multi-Year Budget; it being noted that the draft comments will be circulated to the entire ACE for review prior to the above-noted meeting of the SPPC.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 PM.

Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

Report

The 2nd Meeting on the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee
February 20, 2020
Committee Rooms #1 and #2

Attendance PRESENT: S. Levin (Chair), E. Arellano, I. Arturo, A. Bilson-Darko, A. Cleaver, S. Esan, P. Ferguson, L. Grieves, S. Hall, S. Heuchan, B. Krichker, I. Mohamed, S. Sivakumar, R. Trudeau and M. Wallace and H. Lysynski (Clerk)

ALSO PRESENT: M. Fabro, S. Hudson, J. MacKay, L. McDougall and B. Verscheure

ABSENT: L. Banks, A. Boyer, R. Doyle, J. Khan, K. Moser, B. Samuels and I. Whiteside

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that M. Wallace disclosed a pecuniary interest in clause 4.1, having to do with the Working Group comments relating to the properties located at 7098 and 7118 Kilbourne Road, by indicating that the proponent of the application is a member of the London Development Institute, his employer.

2. Scheduled Items

None.

3. Consent

3.1 1st Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 1st Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on January 16, 2020, was received.

3.2 Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on January 28, 2020, with respect to the 1st and 2nd Reports of Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on January 28, 2020, with respect to the 1st and 2nd Reports of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, were received.

3.3 Letter of Resignation - C. Dyck

That it BE NOTED that the resignation of C. Dyck was received with regret.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 7098 and 7118 Kilbourne Road

That the ~~attached~~ Kilbourne Road Working Group comments BE FORWARDED to the Civic Administration for consideration.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Proposed Amendments to the Dog Brochure

That the ~~attached~~, revised, "You, Your Dog and Nature" brochure BE APPROVED; it being noted that a previous version of the brochure was approved by the Municipal Council in 2019.

5.2 Attendance at Go Wild Grow Wild Event - April 18, 2020

That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee BE ADVISED that A. Cleaver and S. Sivakumar will be in attendance for the 2020 Go Wild Grow Wild event.

5.3 (ADDED) 2019 Work Plan

That, the ~~attached~~, revised, 2020 Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee Work Plan BE FORWARDED to the Municipal Council for consideration; it being noted that the proposed ~~attached~~ "London's Bird Friendly Skies" brochure, related to a Work Plan item, was provided at the meeting.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 PM.



P.O. Box 5035
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON
N6A 4L9

London
CANADA

February 12, 2020

Chair and Members
Advisory Committee on the Environment

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its meeting held on February 11, 2020 resolved:

That the following individuals BE APPOINTED to the Advisory Committee on the Environment for the term ending June 30, 2021:

Robert Pate
Joseph Santarelli
Natalie Beauregard
Brennan Vogel (4.1/4/CSC)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Saunders'.

C. Saunders
City Clerk
/hw

cc: R. Pate
J. Santarelli
N. Beauregard
B. Vogel

February 13 2020 - City Budget Public Participation meeting

Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) submission on the 2020-2023 City draft budget

We thank the City for letting ACE comment on the City's second multi-year budget. Similar to 2016, we wish to focus on select investment cases. We believe these investments advance the City strategic areas of focus of **Strengthening our Community, Building a Sustainable City, Growing our Economy and Leading in Public Service** and that they help define the budget through both a sustainability and a climate change lens.

Recognizing the City has endorsed a net zero target for greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, we understand priority setting and prudent fiscal management will be needed to make the best use of limited financial resources. We ask that greenhouse gas emission reduction milestones be given the highest consideration when devising the means by which to achieve the net zero target by 2050.

ACE fully supports efforts that continue to profile London as an environmental champion through investment in sustainable infrastructure, and related policies and programs and that allow flexibility within its new Climate Emergency* Action Plan and other energy efficiency strategies to reach city, provincial and federal targets. (** Going forward, the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) is going to incorporate the City's Community Energy Action Plan*).

BUSINESS CASE 1 –

ACE commends recent City deliberations supporting business case #1, a 60% waste diversion action plan for London that includes a 'green bin' program. London's commitment to the province to recover 70% of our food waste and organics by 2025 enables the possibility of avoiding or at least deferring the higher cost alternative of a new landfill.

Given that more than 40% of residential waste in London is organic, as you know, food waste diversion can have one of the largest reduction impacts in volume. The committee is also in favour of the City following data from other municipalities that have successful diversion programs, and pursuing the removal of textiles, bulky plastics and small appliances from the waste stream. Lastly, the committee encourages the adoption

of 'resource technologies' (such as anaerobic digester facilities, biogas, landfill gas recovery) where the end products can be used as a source of energy.

BUSINESS CASE 5 A/B –

ACE applauds, that as of January 28, 2020, London is one of 1,325 jurisdictions in 26 countries to recognize and declare a climate emergency.

The committee fully supports the City's climate emergency draft plan goals which include working with each City service area to review all existing and proposed projects using a Climate Emergency evaluation tool. **The committee congratulates** the City for including advocacy for climate emergency action at the provincial and federal government levels; and advancing actions in Council's strategic plan to address Climate Emergency through existing budgets in the coming year.

Council's direction to establish both a net zero community greenhouse gas emissions target by 2050 and a corporate target of same **will require dedicated funds** in each year of this four year budget.

A recent presentation as part of the 'Green in the City series' by Dr. Dianne Saxe, November 19, 2019 gave a number of actions for London to consider. The ideas were wide ranging, from the use of by-laws to incent behavioural change (e.g., ban car idling or the construction of any future drive-thrus) to joint purchasing with other municipalities to have greater buying power for investments in solar or other sources of renewal energy. As Dr. Saxe so well stated, knowledge + action = hope. There is hope for the future with opportunities the municipality and community have to work collaboratively toward climate solutions.

Lastly, we would note that our committee recently reviewed the Cycling Advisory Committee's (CAC) Cycling Master Plan input in the context of climate issues. Although we are not familiar with their modelling used to determine mode split targets, we see that a commitment to cycling definitely deserves attention and priority given its relative affordability and the results possibly being game-changing (per CAC's analysis).

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT - 2020 WORK PLAN

(Updated February 5, 2020 – The status column reflects the actions of the renewed committee, established in Sept. 2019) ACE looks forward to reaching its full complement of members in March/April 2020.

Project / Initiative & Background	Lead/ Responsible	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Actual Expenditure	Link to Strategic Plan	Status
<p><u>Waste</u></p> <p>Managing organic waste</p> <p>1. Review & prioritize leading edge waste management systems that focus on waste as a resource technology (biogas, anaerobic digester, landfill gas recovery – e.g. Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence)</p> <p>2. Follow the progress of City regarding development of a Resource Recovery Centre for London (invite staff members speak to ACE)</p> <p>3. Continue research into organic waste diversion and bring successful models to attention of the City</p> <p>Resource Recovery</p> <p>4. Monitor & review on-going resource recovery initiatives with a particular focus on diversion of textiles, plastics and small appliances.</p> <p>Landfill Expansion</p> <p>5. Monitor & review landfill expansion, including plan to get to 60% diversion.</p>	Waste sub-committee	On-going	\$0		<p>Building a Sustainable City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Robust Infrastructure -Increase resource recovery/ long-term disposal capacity/ reducing community impacts <p>Building a Sustainable City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strong and Healthy Environment -Support resident/community driven initiatives <p>Growing Our Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Local, Regional and Global Innovation -Lead development of new ways to resource/energy recovery 	Detailed review of Additional Investment Business Case #1 – 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan –ratified at Feb 5 ACE meeting. The review will form part of the ACE feedback on the 2020-2023 multi-year budget.
<p><u>Sustainability</u></p> <p>6. Support actions in regards to sustainability & resiliency.</p> <p>6 a) Plan to establish a resiliency sub-committee when ACE achieves a full complement of members (four seats to be filled in the coming months).</p>	ACE	Ongoing in 2020	\$0		<p>Building a Sustainable City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strong and Healthy Environment 	<p>Submitted to PEC a climate action and renewable energy recommendation pertaining to the City-wide Urban Design Guidelines (Dec. 2019).</p> <p>Participation in start-up Bird-Friendly Development Working Group – D. Szoller (ongoing)</p> <p>Participation in the development of the EEPAC Environmental Management Guidelines – D. Szoller (ongoing)</p>

Project / Initiative & Background	Lead/ Responsible	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Actual Expenditure	Link to Strategic Plan	Status
6 b) Act as a resource group to London citizens and organizations engaged in sustainability initiatives.						London Chapter of the Council of Canadians has requested delegation status at March/2020 ACE meeting regarding the Blue Community Project. City staff will be invited in order to provide update on City actions.
<p><u>Community Education</u></p> <p>7. Support community events to increase awareness of environmental issues and that help to mobilize citizens to consider their carbon footprint.</p>	ACE	Ongoing in 2020	Up to \$750		<p>Strengthening Our Community</p> <p>Building a Sustainable City</p>	<p>ACE sits on planning committee for London's Premier Zero Waste Festival & Conference, June 13, 2020 - R. Sirois (ongoing)</p> <p>Participation in various events such as Go Wild Grow Wild Green Expo, April 18, 2020 (TBD)</p> <p>Set-aside of funds (see proposed budget) to collaborate with community ENGOs on events that advance city commitments related to environmental resilience, sustainability and the city climate change action plan.</p> <p>Reprinted <i>Pollinator Friendly Gardens</i> brochure for use at public events. (\$350 – 2019 budget)</p> <p>Supported Green in the City lecture series, Fall 2019 (\$500 – 2019 budget)</p>
<p><u>Corporate Energy Management Program</u></p> <p>8. Provide feedback on Corporate Energy Management Program as part of the City's annual review.</p>	Energy sub-committee	2020	\$0		<p>Building a Sustainable City</p> <p>-Robust Infrastructure</p> <p>-Strong & healthy environment</p>	
<p><u>Climate Emergency Action Plan</u></p> <p>9. Monitor and provide input to the development of the new London Climate Emergency Action Plan.</p> <p>9 a) Act as a resource group to London citizens and organizations engaged in climate change</p>	<p>Energy Sub-Committee and</p> <p>ACE</p>	2020	\$0		<p>Building a Sustainable City</p> <p>-Robust Infrastructure</p> <p>-Strong & healthy environment</p>	<p>In the context of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through active transportation, reviewed the Cycle Advisory Committee's Input to Cycling Master Plan – submitted comments and recommendations to PEC (February 2020)</p> <p>Delegation from graduate students in the Centre for Environment and Sustainability, UWO – April 2020 meeting. Will learn their research findings related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. City Staff invited.</p>

Project / Initiative & Background	Lead/ Responsible	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Budget	Actual Expenditure	Link to Strategic Plan	Status
<p><u>City Budget</u></p> <p>10. Review and provide feedback on 2020-2023 multi-year budget</p>	ACE	February 2020	\$0		Leading in Public Service	Participation at February 13, 2020 Public Participation Meeting
<p><u>Committee Member Education & Development</u></p> <p>11. Assist ACE members with registration fees for conferences pertaining to ACE mandate</p>		2020	Maximum of \$750		ALL	<p>R. Sirois attended Zero Waste Conference October 2019 – presentation delivered to ACE with City officials in attendance, January 2020. (\$250 ACE subsidy – 2019 budget)</p> <p>D. Szoller attended Trans-Disciplinary Theory, Action and Practice Conference - October 2019 – Presentation to ACE in March 2020 (\$300 ACE subsidy – 2019 budget).</p>