

ESACAC Workplan (March - November 2026)

The Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee proposes to include the following topics in the annual Workplan for 2026, noting that this list is not exhaustive and other items may be directed to the committee over the term.

#	Quarter	Item	Description
1	Q1-Q2	Request that the business licensing manager attend a committee meeting to discuss requirements for pet shops and seasonal sales businesses	The committee requests that the business licensing manager attend a committee meeting to discuss the Business Licensing By-law. The committee may then issue recommendations aimed at reducing costs and risks associated with introductions of invasive species from local pet and horticultural trades into the environment.
2	Q1-Q2	Feedback on Bicentennial Tree Planting	The City has indicated there will be a planting of “200 Trees for 200 Years” for the bicentennial. The City of London has also been designated as the 2026 Forest Capital of Canada. The committee wishes to discuss this plan with staff and provide feedback.
3	Q2	Urban Agriculture Strategy	<p>In November 2017, the Municipal Council for the City of London adopted an Urban Agriculture Strategy.</p> <p>As food insecurity in the region has grown, and the City recently updated its by-law regulating landscaping on private property to be permissive of strategies for growing native plants and crops, the committee would like to revisit the 2017 Strategy to check on the status of its implementation.</p> <p>The committee will request a status update on the Strategy from City staff on this strategy (including seeking updates on how the City is progressing) and may provide recommendations for Council consideration.</p>
4	Q3	Ontario Blue Box Program	In January 2026, there was a province-wide transition to shift the responsibility of recycling collection from cities to producers. Recycling collection in London is no longer managed by the municipality; instead, recycling collection is managed by Circular Materials.

			<p>This change resulted in service disruptions to over 500 local small businesses, places of worship and nonprofits. It is unclear how this change is impacting recycling and waste diversion practices at these locations. Meanwhile, residents using the new Blue Box program are expected to adjust which materials they sort into the recycling stream. Little information is available for the public from Circular Materials about their operation of the new program (e.g., rates of contamination, what happens to materials in the Blue Box).</p> <p>The committee will research how this transition is being received by the London community and report back with questions for City staff and potential recommendations aimed at improving compliance with the Blue Box program.</p>
5	Q3	Improving awareness of the City’s environmental programs and services among community organizations	The committee will prepare a report with specific recommendations for the City to improve its communications about environmental programs and services, aiming to promote awareness and improve uptake and access by Neighbourhood Associations and community groups.
6	Q3	Explore opportunities for advancing CEAP in local food systems	The committee will develop recommendations for the City to support reductions in community greenhouse gas emissions associated with local food production and consumption, by collecting feedback from the local plant-based agrifood business sector about needs and opportunities.
7	Q4	Review City policies with implications for soil health and sustainability	<p>The City of London is situated on land with high quality soils that are relatively rare in Canada. Sustaining our soil is essential for environmental health and food security. However, urban and agricultural soils in our region face a variety of pressures and long-term risks associated with human activities, many of which are regulated by the municipal government.</p> <p>The committee will review existing City policies and programs relating to management of urban and agricultural soils (e.g., the Site Alteration Bylaw, Biosolids Management Master Plan) to compare with beneficial management practice guidelines, and report back with recommendations.</p>