

We thank the City for letting ACE comment on budget items of interest to ACE. In terms of budget decisions, we ask that the following environmental issues be prioritized:

CLIMATE CHANGE-

1. ACE asks that while the City is seeking a zero increase tax target, efforts continue to profile London as an environmental champion, particularly as it relates to climate change. London is to be commended for its climate change adaptation strategy on stormwater, based on a 2007 Western University study on the Thames River's vulnerability to flooding. This strategy is recognized nationally and internationally.

We realize that Council has approved the 2013 Water and Wastewater & Treatment budgets in November 2012. **ACE asks** that the study team involved on the stormwater strategy continue to focus on long term climate considerations and infrastructure funding opportunities while gaining community input.

As an example, a 2011 Senes Consultants study on future weather and climate drivers expected to impact the City of Toronto reiterates the need for municipalities to plan for more intense storms and flooding by building, renewing and replacing its infrastructure. The report states that by 2050 although winters will bring less snow, fewer storms and reduced wind chill occurrences, summers will bring more rain, more heat waves, and an expectation of approximately 40 humidex days over 40 degrees C in the Toronto area.

Climate oscillations are becoming more common in large-scale atmospheric pressure patterns. It is therefore, necessary for cities to plan, design and maintain electrical and road infrastructure differently as well as sewers and water systems. Cities need to fully understand the scale and importance of unexpected climate and weather changes such as cold snaps, extreme wind events (tornadoes), intense precipitation events, drought and freeze-thaw cycles, and to factor in population growth and carbon based fuel consumption. www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2012/pe/.../backgroundfile-51664.pdf.

Community Environmental Initiatives.-

2. The City is to be commended for maintaining specific London Transit Commission services, bike lanes, ash tree protection and ReThink London opportunities in its budget deliberations as of January 25, 2013.

ACE asks that London's environmental considerations be prioritized as quality of life issues.

In Housing Development, ACE would like to see every effort made to preserve or relocate trees in cooperation with ReForest London.

ACE encourages housing development upwards versus outwards including core areas to avoid urban sprawl.

ACE asks that the City continue to support initiatives such as 'Hire One' designed to provide financial resources to local small and medium businesses (90% of London's business sector).

3. ACE supports recommendations from the Transportation Advisory Committee, February 5, 2013 meeting that asks that the City reexamine and reconsider the capital reduction to the Bike Lane Program #32 and to the Capital reduction of the Audible Pedestrian Signal Program #32.1.

Financial Savings –

ACE asks that the City and staff continue to look closely at other similar sized municipalities and budgets as well as to find ways to reduce capital budget expenses rather than cut back on new services and key assets for the future.

We understand the challenges in finalizing this year’s City budget. **ACE notes** Council’s Strategic Plan mandate (2011-2014) indicates the City is entrusted with the responsibility of providing services that enhance London’s quality of life through 5 key results – a strong economy, a vibrant and diverse community, a green and growing city, a sustainable infrastructure, and a caring community.

ACE asks what better way to make London attractive and protect the health of citizens, expand businesses and education than to demonstrate strong leadership to ensure: clean air, clean water, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, a healthy forest cover, protected wetlands and quality recreational space. In addition, ensuring access to education and training to establish new technologies and research that increase the City’s competitive edge in the long term.

4. The City’s current allocation of gas tax funds appears to be evenly distributed over gas tax eligible projects within public transit, water, wastewater, solid waste, local roads, bridges and tunnels, including active transportation infrastructure, capacity building and community energy systems.

ACE asks that the 2013 gas tax funds be redistributed such that a greater proportion is given to clean air, clean water and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. This would be in line with the City of Hamilton’s distribution of gas tax funds (2005-2011). This would mean a reduction of gas tax funding to road rehabilitation projects.

The City should instead engage the community regarding new innovations on municipal properties over time such as green purchasing, permaculture, green buildings, sustainable agriculture and architecture, green technologies, gardens, renewables, green roofs, rainbarrels, mixed-mode air conditioning, solar walls and energy-efficient lighting/heating to offer broader appeal for community-wide application.

5. **ACE asks** that the City continue to negotiate with provincial and federal governments for funding, particularly for new ‘green’ initiatives, which focus on long-term goals. In this regard, **ACE encourages** City staff to examine every opportunity for leveraged funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ (FCM) Green Infrastructure Fund for higher standards of air, water, soil quality, and climate protection. Examples of sustainable transportation projects might include: active transportation networks and facilities, transportation demand management, land-use planning, modal integration, public transit systems and technologies, complete streets and traffic calming measures.

Leading municipalities go beyond compliance and understand the cost of protecting the environment totally outweighs the long-term cost of not protecting it. **ACE asks** the City of London to always consider the legacy for future citizens as the responsibility of current decision makers toward a sustainable community.

Presentation to the City public meeting February 13, 2013 by,
City of London’s Advisory Committee on the Environment