

Building a Sustainable City Sub Committee Report to the Advisory Committee on the Environment

Committee Members

Kevin May, Joseph Santarelli

Date

April 3rd, 2021

Committee Objective:

To present and provide comment on objectives related to "Building a Sustainable City", as identified as an area of focus in the London Strategic Plan.

Minutes:

- Committee agreed to meet once a month.
- Meetings will involve discussions on current events, with updates and action items for long term projects.
- With membership currently low, the committee will focus on one or two larger projects.

Mass Timber

We have decided to investigate the potential applications of Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) and other mass timber products within London.

Mass timber construction is built using engineered wood products typically made of large, solid wood panels, columns, or beams often manufactured off-site for load-bearing wall, floor, and roof construction.

This technology is carbon negative, both sequestering carbon and reducing high emission materials like steel and concrete. Paired with its utilization of sustainable timber harvesting, it is an innovative solution for any city that is being pushed by the pressures of a housing explosion and a climate emergency.

In addition to the benefits to the environment, mass timber has local manufacturing and design partners looking for a friendly city to implement these ideas and fits into the Ontario government's forest sector strategy. Combined with the most recent National Building Code of Canada changes allowing 6-story wood structures, the forest city could live up to its name while showing the rest of Ontario that greening city projects can help be a driving force behind economic recovery and innovation.

Action items:

- Request from staff, an update on cities position on Mass Timber, along with any current/future projects involving renewable building materials.
- Reach out to industry experts and determine ROI and environmental impact of Mass Timber.
- Provide a Mass Timber backgrounder to committee. Target date May/June 2021

Next Meeting:

Saturday, May 1st, 2021 *tentative