

May 15, 2022

Welcome to the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee from previous Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) members

We would like to mention some history to give you guidance on what was worked on for the last few years by ACE to aid Council on new policy and advisory input to help you in moving new recommendations to Council. Some items could benefit from additional work. It was expected some ACE members would return this term and explain more fully, noting only one has signed on. We wish you well as you help create a more Sustainable Resilient London and demonstrate the scope of this committee's mandate.

Please note ACE had cross over representation on other advisory committee and received their minutes such as Forestry, Cycling, Agriculture and Transportation. This was helpful in knowing what other committees were doing and sharing of issues to allow more collaboration and reflection. As a note, the Urban Agriculture (UA) Steering Committee also requested an ACE rep to attend its meetings in its Terms of Reference. We suggest to continue the (UA) appointment if possible, it does not meet monthly.

From our observation of Forestry committee minutes, some topics included the City's tree protection by-law, community planting projects, RFL's aftercare program and Green Legacy Project, oak wilt, input to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Complete Streets and monitoring of tree website, tree inventory, urban forest strategy, asks for social housing planting options, input to urban design peer review, trees in parking lots.

Each year we developed a workplan. This ensured accountability and results to Council including timelines, budget and topic links directly to the City's strategic plan. We also encouraged electronic circulation of agendas to reduce paper and a plant-based vegetarian option for advisory lunches to reduce our carbon footprint.

ACE traditionally provided opportunity for Council to assign topics to it to research and make recommendations on, for the committee to develop its own areas of concern and issue working groups, and for the public to give presentations to gain feedback and/or support in moving their specific issue forward.

Please note the City's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) is of strong importance to your work. Please note London's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets were approved as: 15% reduction from 1990 levels by 2020; 37% reduction by 2030; and, net-zero emissions by 2050. Also to note nationally, Net Zero by 2050 is irrelevant globally if we miss peaking by 2025 and dropping in half by 2030 as emphasized by U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Sincerely, past ACE members

ACE highlights

As of mid-March 2020, advisory committee face-to-face meetings at City Hall were cancelled until further notice given Covid-19 constraints. They restarted February 2021 remotely for the term to end June 30, 2021. Mid-April 2021, Council extended that timeline to the year end. As the City's governance committee was still addressing considerations and ACE was being updated on City issues, ACE meetings continued until the end of February 2022. Given a year of being shutdown and various dates ACE anticipated it would need to wrap up, it was a challenge to take on larger issues during 2021 and the time was spent more on gaining updates and providing comments.

2022

Presentations were received on the City's new Mobility Master Plan and the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) progress. One member tabled the following draft statement as a motion for consideration from the new committee to move forward.

"Be it resolved that based on the information from the December 1 presentation from Michael Watt (TEC Canada, Walker Industries) at ACE, that Staff at the City of London provide ACE, or a future environmental advisory committee, with a Staff report, to be included as an addendum to final version of the CEAP, providing a preliminary business case for RNG project development at the W12A landfill site commensurate with: comparative case study analysis of best practices at other Ontario landfill facilities (e.g. City of Toronto, City of Hamilton, Niagara); City of London CEAP objectives, work plans and net zero emissions goals for 2050; and the commensurately related 2022 W12A landfill expansion permitting goals, and expedient, 2022 implementation of City-wide programs for organic waste management diversion."

2021

Various topics were presented to ACE including the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan, green bin progress, the proposed draft environmental assessment study for the expansion of the W12A landfill, City service area workplan (2021), the Pottersbury Sanitary Trunk Sewer EA, Dingman Creek's Subwatershed study, and Windermere Road improvements EA. Groups also updated ACE – the Circular Economy Club London chapter, London Environment Network on its Greener Homes London program, and Jack Gibbons, Ontario Clean Air Alliance - phasing out gas fired power production.

ACE recommended Council request the Government of Ontario place an interim cap of 2.5 MT per year on greenhouse gas pollution from Ontario's gas-fire power plants and a plan to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation by 2030 to help Ontario and London meet their climate targets; joining 28 other municipalities with similar requests.

ACE members gave a comprehensive response in March to a staff CEAP primer seeking input (we suggest this 64 page document be shared separately with the new committee as a guiding document to interests ACE identified). ACE's workplan was initially discussed with the intent to align with the CEAP, although the workplan could not be fully developed given expectation ACE would initially wrap up the end of June. Ongoing updates on CEAP are found at <https://getinvolved.london.ca/climate>.

ACE created a working group to discuss Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments Encouraging the Growing of Food in Urban Areas – City-wide; and a Sustainable City working group to review applications of cross laminated timber and other local products.

London Hydro presented at an ACE meeting to answer ACE questions on: • future infrastructure improvements to assist with climate change reductions; • alternative energy sources to provide power to the city; • fuel forecasting to support the CEAP and net zero targets; and • DSM strategy and on-bill financing for home energy retrofitting.

ACE invited Enbridge Gas Inc. to present on low carbon solutions. ACE heard from the Centre for Zero Energy Building Studies on Net-Zero Ready Building Codes, received a delegation from the Commissioner, BC Utilities Commission. ACE also heard from TEC Canada on renewable natural gas given ACE concerns on it being a solution.

ACE recommended that the Wharncliffe Road South Improvements project explore all avenues to avoid road widening to provide more traffic lanes for motor vehicles; noting alternative methods that provide better traffic flow and improved options (public transit, cycling, walking, etc.). ACE also recommended unsuccessfully Council revisit the issue of moving the property located at 100 Stanley Street to find a way to move the house across the street. ACE encouraged that, as we are in a climate crisis and have declared a climate emergency ourselves, this means we must do everything possible to mitigate negative environmental impacts, for example, demolishing homes and making room for more motor vehicles, is the exact antitheses to this declaration. ACE encouraged the City to move rapidly on Green Bin program, acknowledging the pandemic has caused delays.

2020

ACE only met for 3 months but was able to discuss the multi-year budget, confirm a rep on a June zero waste conference (subsequently cancelled given Covid-19), and comment on a Cycling Advisory Committee report pertaining to climate change, input to London pursuing a Blue Communities designation and clarification on impacts of privatizing municipal water systems.

ACE received updates from the City Manager of Sustainability and Resiliency on planning issues related to the CEAP. Our working groups/budget did not get off the

ground although a draft was established similar to past years with additions being: a Resiliency subgroup proposed in coming months and review of the City's Corporate Energy Management program. The waste group continued to monitor organic waste management progress and strategies.

2019

Various topics were presented to ACE: the EA for Expansion of the W12A landfill, the West London Dyke Erosion Control, and the Lambeth Community improvement plan.

ACE recommendations included London become a Bee City, adopting the Blue Communities designation, input to bird-friendly development, input to Parks and Recreation's Master plan, an unsuccessful request to make Toilets are not Garbage Cans stickers mandatory at all city facilities (still voluntary given resources needed), a Precautionary Principle on City purchasing decisions guided by protection against risk of harm to the environment. ACE was pleased to spearhead a successful Declaration of a Climate Emergency motion (approved Apr 23, 2019).

ACE discussed, recycling in the downtown core, the City website including pollinators, Urban Agriculture, resiliency, City indigenous communities representation on City advisory committees, updates on gas tax distribution, Urban Design guidelines, farm gate sales within urban growth boundary, environmental programs update - 60% waste diversion action plan, Hefty Energy Bag pilot project, Community Energy Action Plan.

ACE asked for input with respect to adapting the Dark Sky Communities Guidelines in smaller communities/neighbourhoods within the City and consideration for feasibility of a new park on South Street be off-grid in terms of energy use.

Energy/Build – discussed Wonderland Rd. expansion, winter ice management to avoid further use of road salt recognizing beet brine has been a part of the solution, continued investigation of viability of PACE program, renewable topics, CEAP, green roof by-law.

Sustainability – staff updates regarding Resiliency Strategic plan, Sustainability office.

Waste – voluntary commercial recycling reporting system similar to health dine safe program passes, indicating their recycling efforts (staff response at this time was that no resources were available and provincial laws are in place for businesses). Discussion on single-use plastic water bottles. Continued focus on managing organic waste, resource recovery initiatives, and monitoring of London's landfill expansion.

Natural Environment – continued monitoring progress of Urban Agriculture Strategic plan and City's approved Pollinator Sanctuary status/updates and related issues.

2018

ACE received updates on the City Pollution Prevention and Control Plan, W12A landfill, City Council based waste management working group, City's Environmental programs progress, stormwater management, input to ReThink Zoning Terms of Reference and evolution of Dark Sky policy/standards (working group includes members of Animal Welfare, EEPAC and ACE committees), City budget. ACE gave comments on proposed public nuisance by-law amendment to address odour. Barry Orr, Sewer Outreach and Control Inspector gave overview of issues with respect to what goes down the drain.

Urban Forestry staff delegation discussed practices relating to tree watering, cutting down of trees and planting of trees near hydro lines followed by ACE recommendation to maintain budget projections for a 34% canopy target and additional funding ensure maintenance and watering to extend life of existing trees in next multi-year budget.

Appointment of members confirmed to: attend Bird-Friendly Development meetings, Municipal Advisory Group related to Rapid Transit, and Urban Agriculture Steering Committee meetings. ACE attended Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee's guest talk by Deputy Commissioner of Ontario on a variety of issues.

Waste - reviewed waste management systems – biogas, anaerobic digester facility, landfill gas recovery. Continued to monitor issues from 2017 - City residential waste disposal strategy and Resource Recovery strategy. Presentation was given to ACE members from the City of Markham which maintained an 81% curbside waste reduction target. ACE interested to explore feasibility of same in London.

Sustainability (ad hoc) – updates on City Resiliency Strategic Plan and support for further actions encouraging a London sustainability statement, staff, sustainable map.

Built Environmental/Energy – monitored Community Energy Action Plan progress, sewage overflows. Continued to encourage renewables on City buildings, hydro-electric power along Thames River, Bill 135, LICs, Cheerio, green roof by-law.

Natural Environment/Food (ad hoc) continued monitoring Urban Agriculture strategy progress. Support to pollinator sanctuary status, receive staff updates including related issues. Continued to explore inclusion of ecosystem services concept for staff planning processes, environmental master plan, and low-impact development strategies.

Finance and by-laws, not a sub-group but addressed ad hoc. For example, Dark Sky continued from previous year.

ACE members attended River Summit conference led by London Environmental Network (LEN), ACE committee a contributor. Also a series of LEN community green workshops were delivered that ACE supported.
