



## GREEN ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MINUTES

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Friday, September 22, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Tay Valley Municipal Office – 217 Harper Road, Perth, Ontario  
Council Chambers

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### ATTENDANCE:

#### Members Present:

Chair, Councillor, Greg Hallam  
Councillor, Angela Pierman  
Bob Argue  
Jennifer Dickson  
Douglas Barr  
Gilbert Rossignol  
Peter Nelson

#### Members Absent:

David Poch

#### Staff Present:

Noelle Reeve, Planner  
Allison Playfair, Building & Planning Administrative  
Assistant/Recording Secretary

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m.  
A quorum was present.

### 2. AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- i) Addition under Communications – News Article from the Peterborough Examiner.

The Agenda was approved as amended.

### **3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None at this time.

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **i) Minutes – August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

The minutes of the Green Energy and Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, were approved as circulated.

### **5. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

None.

### **6. BUSINESS**

#### **i) Climate Action Plan Update.**

- Discussion of Asset Management Plan

The Planner explained the 10-year Capital Plan had just been adopted by Council and it identifies when assets will be replaced and, therefore, the opportunities for replacement of fossil fuel uses. The discussion that followed mostly focused on vehicle replacement and moving forwards with purchases of electric vehicles. Also, discussed were opportunities for building replacement and renovations using more energy efficient choices as per the recommendations of the Climate Action Plan.

The Planner commented that the road resurfacing that was completed on some Township roads this year was determined by research by the Public Works Department to reduce Green House Gases because less gravel maintenance is required on the roads.

P. Nelson expressed concern that the new Council members were not familiar with the commitments in the Climate Action Plan adopted by the previous Council. He was concerned that Councillor opinions were accepted as fact without the responsibility of every Councillor to have evidence on the item that is being discussed.

- Preliminary Discussion on Life Cycle Assessment/ Total Cost of Ownership

The Planner noted this November will be the first full year of the new Council. She commented that three reports will be brought to the Committee of the Whole in October: an update on the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and direction GHG emissions are headed; a report on Total Cost of Ownership; and a report on using a Climate Lens.

The Planner has asked for feedback from the Working Group on the Life Cycle Assessment/Total Cost of Ownership handout to include in her report to Council.

B. Argue expressed that a Climate Lens is not the same as the mini tool calculator. You need to use a Climate Lens to bring a climate perspective to discussions of any topic. The Climate Lens Calculator Tool will assist you with specific calculations of GHG emissions for various activities or products. The Working Group was given a quick example of how the Climate Lens Tool is used and it was suggested that Council receive a quick reminder how it works for the new members.

It was mentioned that the Procurement Policy should be updated to allow for the Life Cycle Cost/Total Cost of Operation of the product or project rather than the lowest bid. The initial purchase cost potentially could be higher up front, but the Life Cycle Cost could be less for the length of time the asset would be in use.

B. Argue suggested the savings over the lifetime of the asset could be placed in a reserve to compensate for the initial higher purchase price.

- Website Content/Did You Know? Series

The Planner reminded the Working Group about submitting any content for the Did You Know? series for the website.

## ii) **Communications**

- Lanark County Climate Change Committee Update.

The Planner provided the Working Group with an update on the Lanark County Climate Change meeting. The County will be completing a joint application with lower tier municipalities to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for the Home Retro Fit Program. The Chief Administrator Officer of Lanark County, has been working with their consultant, Dave Greenwald, on the application to provide the municipalities with the funding to help residents complete Home Retro Fits to their homes.

Tay Valley Township Council will still need to pass a Local Improvement Charge by-law for the program. The County is working towards submitting the application in November 2023. The Planner will need to discuss with the Township's Treasurer about the percentage of funding the municipality would need to contribute.

- Street Lights that are Solar

Councillor Greg Hallam informed the Working Group that he did provide the Public Works Manager the information on Solar Powered Street lights. The

lights can be expensive, and the information is available for future purchases by the Township. It was recommended to add the information to the website for individual residents to potentially purchase for their own properties.

- News Article from the Peterborough Examiner

Working Group member P. Nelson provided a brief article on the possibility of a Battery Energy Storage System to be developed in Peterborough, Ontario. P. Nelson views this type of battery storage as an important step in local resiliency to climate change disruptions of the electrical grid- *attached, page 6.*

**7. NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

Next Meeting: October 20, 2023

**9. DEFERRED ITEMS**

*\*The following items will be discussed at the next and/or future meeting:*

- None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Working Group adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

  
Chair

  
Secretary

# **BUSINESS**

## Battery energy storage system planned for north of Peterborough

*Public meeting planned for Tuesday (Sept. 19th) over plan for 10-acre site in Selwyn Township near the Dobbin Transformer Station.*

By Brendan Burke, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, *Peterborough Examiner*  
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023; updated same day.

A Texas-based company is in the early stages of developing a battery energy storage system on a 10-acre site off Lily Lake Road, just west of Fife's Bay Road in Selwyn Township, just north of the city.

The still-in-the-works project has not yet been given the green light from the province or local governments, but a public meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, beginning at 6 p.m., at the Peterborough Curling Club's Stonehouse Hall on Lansdowne Street West, just west of the city.

Representatives from the Houston company, **Plus Power**, will have representatives at the meeting to introduce themselves and provide information about the facility, which they have named "Armour Hill Energy Storage."

In an email to *The Examiner*, Selwyn Township Mayor Sherry Senis said she's still being brought up to speed on the budding, Selwyn-bound business, but that she plans to attend a public meeting that is scheduled to be held by Plus Power that's slated to take place later this month.

According to the company's website, the **200 MW/800MWh** project would be a state-of-the-art, standalone battery energy storage system adjacent to Hydro One's Dobbin transformer substation that would interconnect with "critical electric infrastructure" to "provide clean, firm capacity to Ontario's electricity system."

The site is also near the Peterborough Utilities Group's Lily Lake **Solar Farm**.

Under traditional electricity systems, energy must be used as it is made, or it will be lost.

A battery energy storage system (BESS) uses a group of batteries to store excess electrical energy from renewable sources — wind and sun — and injects it back into the electrical grid when it is needed during increased demand.

In December, Plus Power plans to submit a proposal for the project to the **Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)** for Ontario, with the hope that it will receive a long-term capacity contract by the spring of 2024.

If successful, Plus Power would proceed in 2024 and 2025 with planning and environmental approvals, engineering and construction of the project.

It would initiate a class environmental assessment for minor transmission facilities with the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks which would assess the environmental impact of the Armour Hill project, including cultural and archeological features, according to the company.

The anticipated construction start is 2026, with plans to begin operating in 2027.

"The Armour Hill Energy Storage (Armour Hill) project will enhance grid reliability by drawing and storing energy from the grid during off-peak periods and releasing it back to the grid when energy demand is at its highest," the company's website explains.

According to the David Suzuki Foundation, demand for electricity in Ontario is forecast to increase by two per cent each year over the next 20 years due to electrification, decarbonization and economic growth.

Plus Power says its project would be **an asset to the community for decades to come**, providing electricity capacity to the province with **nearly zero polluting emissions and reducing the need and costs associated with gas-fired power plants**.

The facility would have a small land footprint, have minimal visual impact, and cause no light pollution or added traffic to the area, the company says. The project would also create high-paying construction jobs.

The IESO notes on its website that "(battery) storage is particularly useful in **supporting the wide-scale integration of renewable resources, like wind and solar**, because it can help smooth out changes in energy output caused by unpredictable weather."

Plus Power has two other battery energy storage systems in Ontario, one in Clarington and one in Pickering. They are not yet operational, but are expected to be up and running by 2027.

*The Examiner* reached out to Selwyn Township's planning department for comment but did not receive a reply by deadline.

Representatives from Plus Power at its Houston headquarters could not be reached for comment. [But see an excerpt from their website, "Community Benefits," on the next page. – PJN]

**Brendan Burke** is a staff reporter at *The Examiner*, based in Peterborough. His reporting is funded by the Canadian government through its Local Journalism Initiative.

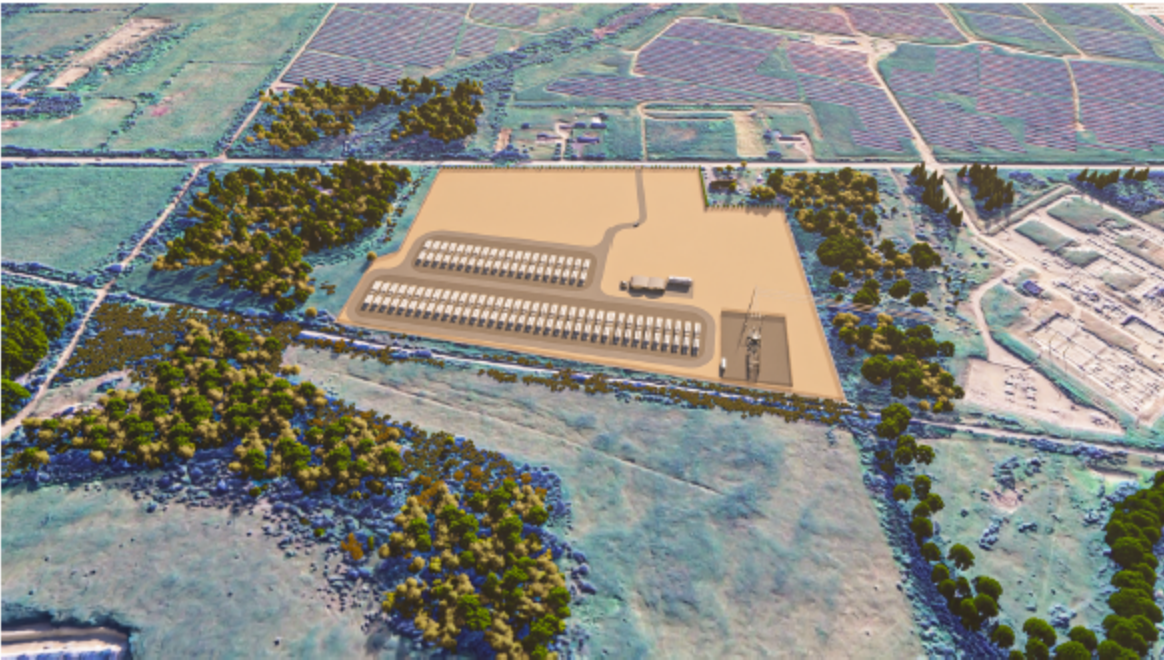
Link:

[https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news/peterborough-region/battery-energy-storage-system-planned-for-north-of-peterborough/article\\_a701dfc9-dafa-5392-ab64-ff0143bfa2dc.html](https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news/peterborough-region/battery-energy-storage-system-planned-for-north-of-peterborough/article_a701dfc9-dafa-5392-ab64-ff0143bfa2dc.html)

## Community Benefits

Armour Hill will be a good neighbor and a valuable asset to the surrounding community for decades to come. The Project will provide necessary capacity to the province with nearly zero polluting emissions. Additionally, Armour Hill will have little impact on neighboring businesses or the community at large; as a static facility, the Project generates insignificant traffic and creates minimal demand for municipal services. Significant project benefits to the community include:

- High-paying construction and O&M jobs
- Enhanced resiliency from a new, state-of-the-art power resource
- Expanded property tax base for the local district



From Plus Power's website. Link:  
<https://www.armourhillenergystorage.com/>

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Next page: An earlier news item from the *Toronto Star*, entitled:

**“ ‘This is the future of a clean grid’: Ontario ramps up battery — and natural gas — capacity”**  
By Marco Chown Oved, Climate Change Reporter, Tuesday, May 16, 2023



Link:

[https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/this-is-the-future-of-a-clean-grid-ontario-ramps-up-battery-and-natural-gas/article\\_3c636b22-937c-557d-ab11-7f8024a1ffb.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/this-is-the-future-of-a-clean-grid-ontario-ramps-up-battery-and-natural-gas/article_3c636b22-937c-557d-ab11-7f8024a1ffb.html)

Selected quotes:

*"A double-barrelled announcement, Tuesday, left some clean-energy advocates struggling to separate and weigh the long-term potential for more wind and solar, versus the immediate increase in carbon emissions." -- author.*

"Tuesday's announcement sees Ontario's storage capacity more than quintupling in the next three years to 1,217 megawatts, and moving heavily into battery technology. And we're not going to stop there."

-- Chuck Farmer, vice-president of planning, conservation and resource adequacy at the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO).

Ontario will need between 5,120 and 6,470 megawatts of storage to achieve a net-zero grid by 2035, according to a study put out by **Energy Storage Canada** last year. [Link: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/61f81e15f490ed3db8dadda2/t/6345a24b3ee2440f883c885f/1665507916398/2022+Energy+Storage+-+A+Key+Pathway+to+Net+Zero+in+Canada.pdf>]

"We know that the future of this system involves the phasing out of the gas fleet and we need to make sure that we do it in a careful and planned way."

-- Chuck Farmer.

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News from the *Hanover* (Ontario) *Post* (<https://www.thepost.on.ca/>):

### **West Grey council supports proposed battery storage project**

By Greg Cowan, Published Jun 27, 2023

Excerpts:

Ontario's Independent Energy System Operator (IESO) released a long-term request for proposals in 2022 to procure year-round energy capacity in the face of a looming supply crisis. As part of its plan, the IESO is hoping to procure 1,600 megawatts of energy storage resources, and that's where projects like Shift Solar's Project Sparrow come into play.

West Grey council voted to endorse a municipal support resolution for Solar Shift's Project Sparrow. The resolution is non-binding but allows Solar Shift to take its plan to the IESO with the local municipality's support to bolster its chances of securing a provincial contract to continue with the project in the competitive request for proposal process.