



GREEN ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Friday, December 8th, 2023

2:00 p.m.

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

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present:

Chair, Councillor, Greg Hallam
Councillor, Angela Pierman (arrived 2:10 p.m.)
Bob Argue
David Poch
Jennifer Dickson
Douglas Barr
Peter Nelson

Members Absent:

Gilbert Rossignol

Staff Present:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.
A quorum was present.

2. AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- i) Addition under Climate Action Plan Update: Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant.

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 – September 22, 2023.**

The minutes of the Green Energy and Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on September 22, 2023, were approved as circulated.

5. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

None.

Councillor Pierman arrived 2:10 p.m.

6. BUSINESS

i) **Climate Action Plan Update.**

- Discussion of Council reception of Climate Action Plan Update Report recommendations.

The Planner updated the Working Group on the Climate Action Plan Update Report to Council and shared the resolution:

Suggested Recommendation to Council:

“THAT, the Climate Action Plan be used to inform the Asset Management Plan;

THAT, the following specific implementation actions be included as part of the 2024 budget process:

- *Allocate the County grant and Tay Valley funds on an organics only waste audit, develop a plan for composting and develop training for waste site attendants and education for residents on composting;*
- *Confirm the electric vehicle purchase timeline and educate the public on Total Cost procurement.*
- *Prioritize energy-efficient upgrades from the Building Condition Assessment report; and*
- *Enact tree planting as a nature-based climate solution;*

AND THAT, the Reeve request the provincial Minister of Health to track heat deaths as Quebec and British Columbia do.”

Working Group Members offered to provide sample composting brochures from various areas to help with the content.

- Discussion of Council reception of Total Cost of Ownership Report

The Planner read the motion passed by Council – Total cost of Ownership report:

Suggested Recommendation to Council:

“THAT, the Total Cost of Ownership be used in Township procurement to represent the true cost of a purchase over the lifetime of an asset;

AND THAT, as part of the Reserve Policy to be presented to Council, where an initial higher purchase price may be required for an asset that produces less Greenhouse gases, the savings that accrue over the lifetime of that asset be returned to a reserve established for the purpose of covering the up-front cost difference, be included.”

The Working Group suggested creating a reserve for green projects and any savings over the next 5-10 years to be added back into the reserve.

- Discussion of Council Reception of Climate Lens and Climate Lens Tool

The Planner advised the Working Group that the Climate Lens and Climate Lens Calculator Training report was received for information.

- Composting Options – Public Works Managers Report

The Planner noted that the Public Works Manager brought a report to Council to discuss composting options.

- Composting Education Outreach Suggestions – *deferred to the next meeting.*

- Discussion of Draft Budget to Capital and Operating Budgets

The Planner summarized the Draft Budget to the Working Group that was presented to Council. She noted the proposed increase to the levy would be 4.7%. It was noted that the Treasurer provided a table in the presentation that explained the costs.

- Update on Climate Emergency Declaration

Deferred to February 2024

- Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant

The Planner advised the Working Group that the Township was notified of the EV ChargeON program on October 20, 2023, via email from the Ministry

of Transportation. The Public Works Manager took a report to the Committee of the Whole on December 5, 2023.

The program requires that a minimum of four (4) Level 2 ports are installed per site or a minimum of one (1) Level 3 ports, if co-located with a level 2 port. The site needs to be available to the public 7-days a week, 24 hours a day and therefore staff are recommending that two- Level 2 chargers (2 pedestals with 4 charger ports) are installed at the Municipal Office.

A Level 3 charger cannot be installed at the Municipal Office as Level 3 chargers require 400 Volts/100amp service and the Municipal Office only has a 240Volt/20 amps service. Level 2 chargers can provide approximately 35km of range per hour of charging.

The application period closes on January 31, 2024, and successful recipients will be notified in the spring of 2024. Recipients have 24 months to complete the project and there is a requirement that annual usage reports are submitted to the Ministry showing the usage data for the previous 12 months for 5-years following the completion of the project.

The Working Group provided feedback to use the cheaper chargers than the more expensive ones and the location is not in a high traffic area and out of the way for users to wait for their cars to be charged.

Look at fees and transaction fees and see if that is cost effective.

The Planner will look into other municipalities that are also applying for the grant or have turned it down for their reviews.

ii) **Communications**

- Lanark County Climate Change Committee Update.

The Planner updated the Working Group on the Lanark County Climate Change Committee that held their meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2023. The Committee is moving forward with the Better Home Grant that helps residence upgrade their house to be more energy efficient.

- CNL Climate Concierge Update

Received a grant to set up groups of people in different towns and they will act as a concierge and help people know what grants are available to them to retro fit their home so make them more efficient.

- Enbridge Request for Support for Gas Pipeline Expansion

The Planner brought the letter to the Working Group to explain the motion they recommended for Council to pass:

Suggested Motion by Councillor Angela Pierman:

“WHEREAS, Ontario Residents are struggling with energy bill increases and need relief;

AND WHEREAS, Natural gas is no longer the cheapest way to heat homes because electric heat pumps are now much more efficient, can provide all heating needs even in cold climates, and result in far lower energy bills compared to gas heating;

AND WHEREAS, Natural gas is methane gas, which is a fossil fuel that causes approximately one-third of Ontario's GHG emissions and must be phased out because it is inconsistent with all climate targets, while heat pumps powered by low-carbon electricity result in the lowest GHG emissions and are consistent with a zero-carbon future;

AND WHEREAS, The Natural Gas Expansion Program provides subsidies to bring natural gas to communities across Ontario but currently cannot be redirected by municipalities toward the best option for their residents – upgrading the electricity grid and supporting heat pumps;

AND WHEREAS, Far more residents could achieve far lower energy bills if municipalities were allowed to redirect those subsidies toward heat pumps for their residents, which would also benefit existing natural gas customers by reducing the financial risks they bear in relation to the gas expansion projects;

AND WHEREAS, The Government of Ontario is considering requests from Enbridge Gas Inc. to reduce oversight by the Ontario Energy Board over gas expansion and other pipeline projects at a time when the Ontario Energy Board's technical and financial expertise is critical as the energy transition takes place;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Corporation of Tay Valley Township petitions the Ontario Government to expedite the implementation of the following recommendations:

THAT, the Government of Ontario amend the Natural Gas Expansion Program to allow municipalities to redirect funds toward electricity grid upgrades and heat pumps, including for ongoing Phase II projects;

THAT, the Government of Ontario maintain the existing Ontario Energy Board oversight mechanisms and thresholds for gas pipeline projects; and
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THAT, the Government of Ontario ask the Ontario Energy Board to determine in gas expansion leave-to-construct applications which option would result in the lowest energy bills-directing the subsidy to gas expansion or to electricity grid and heat pump subsidies;

AND THAT, this resolution be circulated to the President of AMO, Colin Best, Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Energy, Todd Smith, The Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy and to all regional municipalities from whom Enbridge has requested support of the proposed changes.”

- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Webinar

The Planner explained the ICLEI and asked if the Working Group would like to read the drop box and discuss at a later meeting in the new year.

7. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Next Meeting: Friday, February 9th, 2023

9. DEFERRED ITEMS

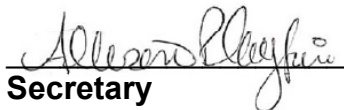
**The following items will be discussed at the next and/or future meeting:*

- *Composting Education Outreach Suggestions*
- *Update on Climate Emergency Declaration*

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Working Group adjourned at 3:27 p.m.


Chair


Secretary