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**GREEN ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP  
MINUTES**

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Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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  
David Poch  
Gilbert Rossignol

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Noelle Reeve, Planner  
Allison Playfair, Recording Secretary

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.  
A quorum was present.

**2. AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved as presented.

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

None at this time.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

i) **Minutes – June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

The minutes of the Green Energy and Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were approved as circulated.

#### 5. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

None.

#### 6. BUSINESS

i) **Climate Action Plan Update.**

- **Budget 2025**

The Planner advised the Working Group that the Tay Valley Township preliminary budget should be available in October 2024. The Planner noted the 10-Year Capital Plan will be reviewed to see what needs to be added to the budget and new or replacement assets or projects will consider climate impacts.

D. Poch suggested the Climate Lens be formally used to review the budget.

B. Argue noted that Perth had used the Climate Lens to review the recent purchase of an electric Zamboni and that although the initial purchase price was higher, over the long run the electric Zamboni was cheaper.

ii) **Communications**

- **Lanark County Climate Change Committee Update**

The Planner informed the members that Lanark County was successful in receiving federal funds from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Therefore, all Lanark County Climate Change Committee meetings were cancelled for August, September and October to allow them to focus on facilitating the design of the program to offer loans to homeowners for deep energy retro-fits.

Working Group members suggested doing workshops on the loan process to help promote the program to Tay Valley residents.

The Planner had distributed excerpts from the County website about Climate Change but these will be discussed at the next meeting – *attached page, 6.*

- **Composting Education Morning Evaluation**

Since the date was moved, the Working Group did not discuss how to make the day better. Instead, the Planner explained the process for the morning and location of the tent set up to sell composters at half price and educate residents on composting.

The Planner informed the Working Group members that money received from the County subsidized the costs of the composters. This allows Tay Valley residents to purchase them at a reduced rate of \$25.00 and receive a free green bucket for under the sink collection.

- **Seniors for Climate Action**

The Planner circulated a poster to promote an event called Seniors for Climate Action that will be held on October 1, 2024 at the corner of Highway 7 and Wilson Street - *attached page 19*.

This event will promote the urgent need to address climate change and raise awareness of the need for local governments, the province and federal government to take action. There is a website to help people get involved.

A Working Group member asked if staff could look for a bumper sticker that says, "My next car will be an EV" these could be handed out at different events to promote Climate Change actions.

- **Update on Maberly Hall Potential Heat Pump**

The Planner noted that the Public Works Manager presented the Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan 2024-2029 to the Committee of the Whole on September 10<sup>th</sup> and it can be reviewed on the Township's website. It identifies suggested upgrades to Township assets, including a suggestion of a Heat Pump for Maberly Hall to replace the three air conditioners that are failing.

**7. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

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

Next Meeting: Friday, November 8, 2024

**9. DEFERRED ITEMS**

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

- *None at this time*

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Working Group adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

  
Chair

  
Secretary

# **BUSINESS**

## Climate

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### Climate Change in Lanark County

Climate change affects human health and the health of our environment. Without climate action, Lanark County may experience:

- More frequent and extreme weather events
- Damage to ecosystems and the environment
- Food insecurity
- The spread of invasive species
- Increase in diseases

At Lanark County we recognize the impact that climate change has within our community. We are tackling the issue of climate change through a Climate Action Plan and other climate initiatives.

### Climate Action Plan

The County of Lanark is committed to making an impact on climate change through the development and implementation of the Climate Action Plan. With support from the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) we will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions using the [Partners for Climate Protection](#) (PCP) five step milestone process. This process aims to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions both as a corporation and in the community.

#### Milestones

**Milestone 1:** Create a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and forecast for corporate emissions and community emissions.

**Milestone 2:** Set an emissions reduction target.

**Milestone 3:** Develop a local action plan.

**Milestone 4:** Implement the local action plan or set of activities.

**Milestone 5:** Monitor progress and report results.

On November 8, 2023, County Council adopted the final draft of the Climate Action Plan, which marks the completion of Milestone 3. The plan includes corporate goals related to education, transportation and equipment, buildings and energy, waste diversion and management, and the Lanark County Housing Corporation. Community goals are related to transportation, buildings and energy, natural heritage and resources, waste diversion and management, and planning. The final draft incorporates feedback received during a seven-week public comment period. During this time, local municipalities, organizations, community groups, businesses, and community members were encouraged to provide their feedback.

[Lanark County Climate Action Plan](#)

[Lanark County Climate Action Plan Quick Reference Guide](#)

## Climate Action Working Group

The Climate Action Working Group includes three elected official representatives from Lanark County Council. Representatives from each local municipality, Smiths Falls, and Climate Network Lanark are included as needed. The working group's mission is to provide direction for the implementation and reporting of Lanark County's Climate Action Plan.

[Climate Initiative Dashboard](#)

[Corporate Climate Action Table](#)

[Community Climate Action Table](#)

## Climate Initiatives

If you have any questions about Lanark County's Climate Action Plan or climate change initiatives please send us an [email](#) or call us at 613-267-1353.

## Climate Action Seminar Series

In November 2022, Lanark County hosted a climate action seminar series that provided information from experts on how to take climate action, an introduction to sustainable agriculture, and a climate action information session. To view the recordings, visit: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuTz7eaoahlu0\\_Jl1IUICbNqWU8uUz0N\\_](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuTz7eaoahlu0_Jl1IUICbNqWU8uUz0N_)

## Tree Planting

Lanark County's One Million Tree Program aims to plant one million trees over the next ten years in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). Trees play an important role in carbon capture to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions throughout the community.

We want to promote tree planting in Lanark County. If you want to plant more trees on your property, you can apply to RVCA's [tree planting program](#). RVCA's tree planting program provides subsidized trees and custom planting plans for landowners with a minimum of 1.25 acres of suitable land.

## **Tree Giveaway**

## Plastic Reduction

Lanark County has banned single use plastic bags and straws as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Compliance with the local ban is voluntary. Businesses and residents are asked to voluntarily make the switch from plastic bags and straws to alternative reusable products. The local plastic ban applies to:

- Plastic shopping, checkout, and takeout bags
- Single use plastic straws

At the end of 2021, the Federal Government is banning selected single use plastic products. The Federal [single use plastic ban](#) will include plastic bags, straws, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery and food ware as part of their plan to achieve [zero plastic waste](#) by 2030. To achieve this, the federal, provincial, and territorial governments have adopted a [Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste](#).

## Updates

To get updates about climate initiatives in Lanark County, please subscribe to this page below and view our [Climate Newsletter](#).

Follow us on Facebook at the [Lanark County Climate Action Information Page](#).

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## Contact Us

### **County of Lanark**

99 Christie Lake Road, Perth ON K7H 3C6

Phone [613-267-4200](tel:613-267-4200)

Toll Free [1-888-9-LANARK](tel:1-888-9-LANARK)

[Email Us](#)

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## Take Action!

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Discover ways you can support climate action in the community and reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.

### On the Go

#### Electric Vehicles (EV)

The transportation sector is the second largest emitter of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Canada. For those looking to invest in a new vehicle, explore the option of an electric vehicle.

Check out [this list](#) of electric vehicles that are eligible for the Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles (iZEV) Program incentive, which offers up to \$5,000 for certain new electric vehicles. This program will be available until March 31, 2025 or when the funding has been exhausted

With the number of charging stations increasing throughout Ontario and Lanark County, it's even easier to plan your route with an electric vehicle. To see what charging stations are available near you, visit [PlugShare](#).

#### Active Transportation

Active transportation is a great way to improve your health, help the environment, and save money! Incorporate walking, biking, jogging, wheel chairing, and other forms of active transportation into your travel plans and lifestyle. Going the distance? Take a look at our [trail network](#) to see what routes you can travel to get from point A to point B throughout Lanark County.

#### Car Pooling Lots and Programs

Reducing the number of vehicles on the road by carpooling is a great way to help lower Lanark County's community greenhouse gas emissions. Share a ride through the new Community Car Pool [website](#). You can also meet up and share rides by parking at one of the existing Park N Ride lots in the [County](#).

## **At Home**

### **Renovating and Retrofitting**

Buildings, including homes, are one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Lanark County. By completing a home energy assessment, you can learn more about upgrades that can improve the efficiency of your home. Completing home energy retrofits can reduce carbon emissions produced from your home, reduce energy loss, increase home comfort, and result in cost savings on your energy bills.

To learn more about improving your home's energy efficiency, check out our [Retrofitting and Green Energy](#) page.

### **Enhance and Create Naturalized Landscapes**

Rethink traditional lawn and garden maintenance and convert your property from a carbon emitter to a carbon sink. A study from the California Air Resource Board shows that a gas-powered commercial leaf blower running for an hour generates the same amount of pollution as driving 1,770 kilometers in a new light-duty passenger car. Some simple ways you can reduce the carbon footprint of your lawn include;

- Reduce your area of maintained lawn
- Leave the leaves on your lawn and help support wildlife. Sending leaves to the landfill creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
- Plant native and perennial shrubs, grasses, plants, and trees. This not only creates habitat and food for wildlife (birds, pollinators, etc.) but can also help filter and capture rainwater. Due to their deep root systems and they are also better at sequestering carbon than annual plants.

## **Waste Reduction & Diversion**

### **Composting**

Diverting organic waste from landfills can help reduce community greenhouse gas emissions. By composting organic waste, this not only decreases methane

production from landfills but also provides a valuable soil amendment for your garden.

Check out these composting resources to learn more about composting:

[The Four Seasons of Composting](#)

[The Home Composting Handbook](#)

Visit your municipality's website to learn more about local waste and recycling programs:

- [Waste Collection - Carleton Place](#)
- [Organics Diversion - Mississippi Mills](#)
- [Waste Management - Beckwith](#)
- [Compostable Material - Tay Valley Township](#)
- [Garbage & Recycling - Smiths Falls](#)
- [Garbage and Recycling - Drummond North Elmsley](#)
- [Garbage and Recycling - Montague](#)
- [Waste & Recycling Information - Lanark Highlands](#)
- [Garbage and Recycling - Perth](#)

If you're a resident or business of Almonte and you're interested in managing your food scraps, check out [Just Good Compost](#). Just Good Compost is a local pilot project that collects your food scraps and turns them into compost for your garden. Just Good Compost will be extending services into Carleton Place in 2024.

## Shorten Your Food Supply Chain

Shortening your food supply chain reduces the amount of energy that is put into getting food from farms to plate. The energy that goes into production, harvesting, transporting, and packaging of food generates approximately 3.3 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. Globally it is estimated that 30-40% of all food produced is lost in the food supply chain from harvest to final consumer. Food that is lost along the food chain due to spoilage or damage, has a greater environmental cost due to the costs incurred during processing, transport, storage, and cooking on top of the initial production costs.

To see a comprehensive list of local food suppliers by visiting the links below:

[Home | Lanark Local Flavour](#)

[Home - Farm Directory of Leeds and Grenville \(farmdirectory-leedsgrenville.com\)](#)

## Savour Ottawa Buy Local Food Guide – Savour Ottawa

Some other ways you can reduce food waste include:

- Plant a vegetable garden
- Preserve food through means of fermentation, freezing, and canning
- Maintaining a clean fridge to increase the longevity of produce
- Follow a list when shopping

## Consume Wisely

The demand for consumer goods puts pressure on resources like energy, water, land and the natural environment. The steps required to get products to the consumer contributes to emissions in transportation, energy, industrial production, services, construction and agriculture. To help lessen these emissions, its recommended to:

- Buy only as much as you need or consider bulk purchasing for things you consume a lot of
- Buy second-hand or renewable products
- Purchase from local retailers
- Reduce, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle

## On the Farm

Check out our [Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture seminar](#) to learn more about different ways you can make your farm more sustainable.

## ALUS Lanark

[ALUS Lanark](#) supports farmers in the creation of an array of ecosystem projects, including reforestation, windbreaks, riparian buffers, wetland projects, tallgrass prairie, pollinator habitat and more. These projects contribute to the health of the farmers' privately-owned landscape, while also benefitting the broader environment by providing support for biodiversity; reducing downstream flooding in neighbouring communities and ecosystems; and mitigating the impacts of climate change through carbon sequestration. Initiated by Climate Network Lanark and Lanark County, ALUS Lanark is administered by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.

## Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario

Visit the [Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario](#) to learn more about climate-friendly farming practices that can help farmers become more resilient in the face of the changing climate.

## For Businesses

### Retrofitting and Renovating

To learn more about improving your businesses energy efficiency, check out our [Retrofitting and Green Energy](#) page.

### Sustainably.eco

Lanark County has joined the [Sustainably.eco](#) Strategic Associate Program. Sustainably.eco aims to connect conscious businesses and people committed to sustainability by promoting sustainable actions and products through their platform. Businesses can apply for and be awarded for 12 badges upon fulfilling the requirements. If your business is interested in becoming a Sustainably.eco member, send us an [email](#).

## Get Involved

Community groups inspire local change and can help mobilize climate action. Regardless of your groups focus, most causes can be examined through a climate perspective. Join a local community group or encourage your group to incorporate climate action into your mission.

### Community Volunteer Opportunities

Lanark County is home to some great organizations working on climate action. To learn more about them or to get involved, visit their websites:

[Carleton Place Environmental Advisory Committee](#) - The Carleton Place Environmental Advisory Committee provides environmental advice, recommendations and information to Council concerning all aspects of environmental issues related to public policies, programs, and projects.

[Perth Climate Change Advisory Panel "The Green Scene"](#)- The Green Scene is an initiative led by the Perth Climate Change Advisory Panel. The Green Scene provides

information, tips, and reminders for residents to make Perth a greener place to live, work, and play.

[Climate Network Lanark](#) - Climate Network Lanark was established by the Lanark County Stewardship Council to connect, coordinate, facilitate and support collaborative community efforts to address climate change. The Climate Network Lanark provides advice and support towards the development of Lanark County's Climate Action Plan. For more information on how to get involved, please visit [Climate Network Lanark's web page](#).

## Stay Informed

Every day, positive progress is being made on climate change. Staying informed on local, provincial, national, and international climate action will help you understand what can be done to tackle climate change. Speak up and talk to your friends, family, community and local government about taking climate action together.

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## Retrofitting and Green Energy

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### Retrofitting Resources

To learn more about improving your home's energy efficiency, check out our [Retrofitting in Lanark Resource Sheet](#) or watch our seminar on [how to take climate action at home](#).

[Climate Network Lanark](#) hosts a Climate Concierge Project to help guide homeowners through the retrofit and incentive process. To learn more about this project, visit their website or contact the Project Coordinator Sadie Brule at [sadie@climatenetworklanark.ca](mailto:sadie@climatenetworklanark.ca) or 613-323-2553.

### Incentives for Homeowners

#### **Renovate Lanark**

- One-time assistance of up to \$15,000 per household for eligible homeowners
- Assist in financing major home repairs and/or accessibility renovation
- To learn more, visit: [Renovate - Lanark County \(esolq.ca\)](#)

#### **Canada Greener Homes Grant**

- Co-delivered by Natural Resources Canada and Enbridge in Ontario under the Home Efficiency Rebate Plus (HER+) program
- Grants from \$125 to \$5,000 on eligible home retrofits
- Up to \$600 contribution toward the total costs of your pre and post retrofit EnerGuide evaluations
- Enbridge customers may be eligible for up to \$10,000 in grants

- To learn more, visit: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/canada-greener-homes-initiative/canada-greener-homes-grant/canada-greener-homes-grant/23441>

### **Canada Greener Homes Loan**

- Loans of a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$40,000
- To learn more, visit: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/canada-greener-homes-initiative/canada-greener-homes-loan/24286>

### **Enbridge Home Winterproofing Program**

- A free home energy assessment by a trusted delivery agent
- Free energy-efficient upgrades, including insulation, draft proofing and a smart thermostat
- To learn more, visit: [Home Winterproofing Program | Enbridge Gas](#)

### **Energy Affordability Program**

- Provides support to income-eligible electricity consumers by helping them to better manage their monthly electricity costs and to increase their home comfort.
- To learn more, visit: [Energy Affordability Program | Save on Energy](#)

### **Air Source Heat Pumps (NEW)**

- Provides free cold climate air source heat pumps to income-eligible electricity consumers.
- To learn more, visit: [Air Source Heat Pumps | Save on Energy](#)

### **Incentives for Businesses**

- **Save ON Energy - Small Business Program**
  - Designed to help small businesses across Ontario make equipment improvements to reduce their energy consumption at no cost
  - Up to \$2,000 for eligible lighting equipment and up to \$2,500 for eligible non-lighting equipment
  - To learn more visit: [Small Business Program | Save on Energy](#)
- **Save ON Energy - Retrofit Program**



- Offers businesses incentives to upgrade equipment, reduce energy bills, lower carbon footprints and enhance staff comfort
- Financial incentives are offered through 3 streams: Custom, Prescriptive, and Greenhouse
- To learn more visit: <https://saveonenergy.ca/For-Business-and-Industry/Programs-and-incentives/Retrofit-Program/About>

## Green Home Builders and Service Providers

The Green Home Builders and Service Providers is a list of businesses within our region that provide green building services to home, business, and building owners in Lanark County.

**DISCLAIMER:** This directory is meant to serve as a guide for homeowners. The County of Lanark does not endorse these businesses and is not responsible for the performance and/or quality of work provided.

For updates to listings or if you are interested in being listed on this directory, please email [climate@lanarkcounty.ca](mailto:climate@lanarkcounty.ca).

## Table of Acronyms

| Acronym | Meaning  |
|---------|--|
| ASHP    | Air source heat pumps - use the difference between outdoor air temperatures and indoor air temperatures to cool and heat your home |
| DFHP    | Dual fuel air source heat pumps - air source heat pump that uses fossil fuels on the coldest days                                  |
| GSHP    | Ground source heat pumps- uses the earth and/or ground water as a source of heat in the winter and to cool your home in the summer |
| HPWH    | Heat pump water heaters  |

**Last Updated:** 2023-10-18

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99 Christie Lake Road, Perth ON K7H 3C6

Phone [613-267-4200](tel:613-267-4200)

Toll Free [1-888-9-LANARK](tel:1-888-9-LANARK)

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**Join us for a national day  
of climate action!**

**Tuesday, October 1, 2024  
Hwy 7 at Wilson Street, Perth  
11:45 am to 1:15 pm**

For more information, or for a ride contact:  
[seniorsforclimateperth@gmail.com](mailto:seniorsforclimateperth@gmail.com)  
Doug Norman - co-chair  
Anita Payne De Gaia - co-chair



**All welcome  
Let's make this the biggest climate demonstration ever!**