



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

Friday, February 14th, 2025

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
Bob Argue
Jennifer Dickson
Douglas Barr
David Poch

Members Absent:

Gilbert Rossignol

Staff Present:

Noelle Reeve, Planner
Genevieve Neelin, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.
A quorum was present.

2. AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

i) Addition to New/Other Business: Forest Trail Energy Node Content

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 – November 29th, 2024.**

The minutes of the Green Energy and Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on November 29th, 2024 were approved as circulated.

5. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. BUSINESS

i) **Climate Action Plan Update.**

- Lanark Better Homes Retrofit Program Notice

The Planner summarized the Lanark Better Homes project, which will offer loans up to \$40,000 for home improvements which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Up to \$5,000 of the loan may be converted to a grant for low-income households or those in energy poverty.

- J. Dickson asked if there is a one-page summary of the project available to educate homeowners on the program, the application process and timeline, and eligibility requirements. The Planner suggested that, if Lanark County does not provide such a summary before the launch date of the project, Tay Valley Township staff will create one.
- J. Dickson suggested that we need to increase public awareness of the program by informing community groups and the local homebuilder association.
- The Planner identified as an issue that the application forms may be difficult for homeowners to complete. B. Argue suggested that we might host information sessions at the Tay Valley Township municipal office.
- G. Hallam suggested that the Township should publish a list of organizations which can conduct energy audits, as an audit will be required as part of the application process.
- The Planner said that paying up front for the energy audit may be an obstacle for some applicants and suggested that the Township could establish a rotating fund to lend the approximately \$600 required. She stated Council appeared to want the loans to be funded from the \$7,500 annual grant from Lanark County for green initiatives.

- Climate Action Report Card 2024

The Planner presented the draft Climate Action Report Card 2024 to the Working Group, asked for feedback, and reviewed Actions that still need to be completed.

- J Dickson asked about the timeline for switching the municipal offices away from fossil fuels.
- D. Poch suggested that the energy use data in the Report Card be weather normalized.
- Could explore with the Community Services Coordinator about having a space at the Maberly Fair where members can display their Electric Vehicles and discuss them with the public.
- The Planner committed to following up with Northland about planting their required trees.
- B. Argue indicated that the Report Card needs to reference solar energy. The Planner suggested including solar energy under the Action categories “Retrofit Township Facilities” and “Design Low Carbon Communities”.
- An educational initiative could be to distribute “What to do” Wildfire fact sheets from the Intact Centre for Climate Change.
- B. Argue recommended the Energy Use graph use carbon equivalents rather than BTUs to show the amount of carbon the Township is addressing, in line with assessing how close we are to meeting the targets of the Climate Action Plan.
- D. Poch asked whether FCM or any other organization provides guidance to municipalities on climate friendly investments. D. Barr asked whether the Treasurer uses the Climate Lens for investing municipal funds.

- Set Priorities and Targets from Strategic Plan and Climate Action Plan

Members agreed that this topic had been covered in discussing the Climate Action Report Card.

ii) **Communications**

- Lanark County Climate Change Committee Update

The Planner informed members that Lanark County is starting a Natural Heritage Systems Study, beginning with public consultation in 2025, and that Lanark will be joining ICLEI Canada’s Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) program, which she hopes will provide guidance to the Township on Green Building Standards.

- Material for Township Website

The Planner indicated that due to the recent increase in staffing, the Planning department should have the capacity to add Green Energy and Climate Change content to the Township website. She asked members to send links they would like to see included. It was suggested that this content should include videos, plain language, testimonials, and infographics.

- Greener Neighbourhood Pilot Programs by Natural Resources Canada

Presentation by G. Rossignol deferred to the next meeting.

7. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

i) Forest Trail Energy Node Content

- B. Argue suggested information on how the Township is moving away from using fossil fuels – “we are doing it, you can too!”
- G. Hallam suggested providing a QR code to direct visitors to more information.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Next Meeting: Friday, April 11th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

9. DEFERRED ITEMS

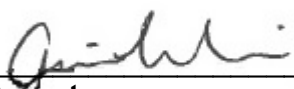
**The following items will be discussed at the next and/or future meeting:*

- Greener Neighbourhood Pilot Programs by Natural Resources Canada – G. Rossignol

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Working Group adjourned at 3:15 p.m.


Chair


Secretary