



Climate Change and Environment Committee Agenda

March 20, 2025, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Conestoga Room
City of Kitchener
200 King Street W, Kitchener, ON N2G 407

People interested in participating in this meeting can email Committee Administrator, Eda Islemecioglu at eda.islemecioglu@kitchener.ca. Please refer to the delegation section on the agenda below for the registration deadline. Written comments received will be circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting and will form part of the public record.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request. If you require assistance to take part in a city meeting or event, please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994.

Co-Chairs: V. Nhio-son & K. Charlesworth

Pages

1. Commencement

The meeting will begin with a Land Acknowledgement given by the Chair.

The City of Kitchener is situated on the traditional territory of the Chonnonton, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee Peoples.

We recognize our responsibility to serve as stewards for the land and honour the original caretakers who came before us. Our community is enriched by the enduring knowledge and deep-rooted traditions of the diverse First Nations, Metis and Inuit in Kitchener today.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

Members of Council and members of the City's local boards/committees are required to file a written statement when they have a conflict of interest. If a conflict is declared, please visit www.kitchener.ca/conflict to submit your written form.

3. Delegations

Pursuant to Council's Procedural By-law, delegations are permitted to address the Committee for a maximum of five (5) minutes. All Delegations must register by 12:00 p.m. on March 20, 2025, in order to participate in the meeting.

4. Discussion Items

4.1	High Performance Development Standards, DSD-2025-120	15 m	1
	<i>J. Oosterveld with the City of Kitchener and N. Ing with the WR Community Energy will provide a 5-minute presentation on this matter.</i>		
4.2	Kitchener Utilities Transition Project Update, INS-2025-119	20 m	5
	<i>K. Daley with the City of Kitchener will provide a 5-minute presentation on this matter.</i>		
4.3	LT2 Overview, CAO-2025-121	20 m	9
	<i>S. Sweazey with the City of Kitchener will provide a 5-minute presentation on this matter.</i>		
4.4	Pivot Net Zero Update, DSD-2025-122	20 m	12
	<i>F. Wade with the City of Kitchener will provide a 5-minute presentation on this matter.</i>		
4.5	2024-2026 Committee Work Plan, DSD-2025-117	10 m	14

5. Information Items

6. Adjournment

Eda Islemecioglu
Committee Administrator

Staff Report



Development Services Department

www.kitchener.ca

REPORT TO: Climate Change and Environment Committee

DATE OF MEETING: March 20, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Natalie Goss, Manager, Policy and Research, 519-783-8933

PREPARED BY: Janine Oosterveld, Manager, Customer Experience and Project Management, 519-783-8942

WARD(S) INVOLVED: All Wards

DATE OF REPORT: March 4, 2025

REPORT NO.: DSD-2025-120

SUBJECT: High-Performance Development Standards Discussion Draft

RECOMMENDATION:

For Discussion.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Climate Change and Environment Committee (CCEC) on the High-Performance Development Standards (HPDS) and to seek feedback on the discussion draft.
- The key finding of this report is that engagement is underway to support the development of the HPDS across the seven area municipalities in Waterloo Region with the support of the Region of Waterloo, local utilities and under the leadership of WR Community Energy to support climate action and other environmental objectives.
- There are no financial implications identified in this report.
- Community engagement for the HPDS includes both community and development industry-focused opportunities supported by a project engagement webpage.
- This report supports Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.

BACKGROUND:

Under the leadership of WR Community Energy, the City of Kitchener is collaborating with municipalities in Waterloo Region as well as local utilities including Kitchener Utilities to establish a harmonized approach to creating standards for new development that undergo a Planning Act approval. These standards are proposed to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, support adaptation to a changing climate and other environmental objectives. Taking a simple, consistent approach across the region is intended to create a level playing field for developers while collectively addressing community climate goals.

*** This information is available in accessible formats upon request. ***
Please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994 for assistance.

As background, WR Community Energy formed a Land Use and Energy Working Group in 2021 with the purpose to integrate energy considerations into the planning process. The City of Kitchener was a founding member. In 2022, the group established a subcommittee to study the impacts of establishing a green development standard for cities in Waterloo Region. The subcommittee currently includes representatives from the Region of Waterloo, all three Cities, Enova Power Corp., GrandBridge, and Kitchener Utilities. In the spring of 2023, the three Cities and the Region of Waterloo reported back to their respective Councils to launch Phase 2. Kitchener City Council unanimously endorsed proceeding with a harmonized approach advancing a standard (refer to DSD-2023-109). Concurrently, WR Community Energy invited to the Region's four Townships to participate in this harmonized approach. All four rural municipalities have joined the subcommittee creating a unique opportunity in Waterloo Region to establish a harmonized standard across the region's seven urban and rural municipalities. To support this project, WR Community Energy in collaboration with the subcommittee received a grant from Natural Resources Canada to fund this work including hiring a Community Energy Planner staff position as the project lead to coordinate the overall work plan, consultant work, community and industry engagement and preparation of the draft standards, as well as support the future training and implementation roll-out.

In June 2024, formal consultation was initiated including community education and design workshops, booths at community events, a development industry workshop, and discussions at CCEC (DSD-2024-267) and Kitchener's Development Liaison Committee. The purpose of the initial engagement was to identify and prioritize categories for the first version of the standard.

The information from the initial phase of engagement informed a discussion draft which was introduced at an All Councils meeting on December 6, 2024, and posted on the project webpage, launching the second phase of engagement described in this report.

REPORT:

This report provides an update on the HPDS project engagement program this spring and seeks feedback from the Climate Change and Environment Committee on the discussion draft content.

Project Timeline. Key project milestones include the following:

- Spring 2024: Engagement launch to garner initial feedback seeking feedback on priorities among potential focus areas;
- Fall 2024: [Discussion Draft](#) release through the [project webpage](#) presented at the All Councils meeting on December 6th;
- Winter-Fall 2025: Engagement on the discussion draft and refined standards to prepare for decisions among each municipality later in 2025 or early 2026; and,
- 2026: Anticipated implementation including staff and industry training.

The current phase of engagement has included a series of five in-person community engagement events held throughout the region including a joint Kitchener and Waterloo session on February 19th. The project webpage includes a survey for an online opportunity to provide feedback. Development industry engagement has included on-going discussions with Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association and Ontario Home Builders'

Association representatives, attendance at Build Urban meetings as well as Kitchener Development Liaison Committee and an industry workshop in March. The project team will gauge industry interest in establishing a working team for more in-depth discussions on the draft standards in the next phase of engagement.

The overall approach to the High-Performance Development Standards is to make it harmonized, simple, effective:

- **Harmonized:** consistency across local area municipalities in the region to support its integration into development review.
- **Simple:** Make it easy for developers and municipal staff.
- **Effective:** Support the region’s climate action goals and other sustainability objectives.

The discussion draft includes 14 draft categories grouped in three sections as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Potential categories for high-performance standards

Built Environment	Natural Environment	Energy Efficiency
Develop safe, inclusive, and accessible spaces that address the inequities that serve as barriers to inclusive communities	Recognize the importance of the natural environment and require mindful consumption and resource use to minimize the contributions to GHG emissions	Require energy efficient and resilient developments and structures
B1. EV Parking and Charging Infrastructure B2. Active Transportation B3. Exterior Lighting B4. Refuge Area B5. Sustainable Roofing	N1. Vegetation and Landscaping N2. Waste N3. Water Efficiency N4. Bird Friendly Design N5. Stormwater	E1. Embodied Carbon E2. GHG Emissions Reduction E3. Airtightness E4. Local Energy Generation

Additional categories may be incorporated in future versions consistent with other municipalities with established standards (e.g., Toronto Green Standard is currently version 4).

Questions for CCEC:

- Does the CCEC have overall or high-level feedback on the approach to the HPDS in the discussion draft?
- Would the CCEC be interested in providing more in-depth feedback on the discussion draft or future iterations?
- If so, how would the CCEC like to provide more in-depth feedback? (e.g. subcommittee, focused discussions at CCEC meetings by topic)

Kitchener's representatives on the project team will continue to update and seek feedback from CCEC throughout this project. Staff anticipate the next update to this committee will occur in late Q2 or Q3 of 2025 as the draft HPDS is refined with further detail on each metric category.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report supports Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Capital Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Capital Budget.

Operating Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Operating Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the committee meeting. Additionally, the project webpage can be found at <https://www.engagewr.ca/high-performance-development-standards>

CONSULT – To date, there have been two phases of engagement which have included in-person and online engagement opportunities with outreach to both the community and development industry. Community engagement events held throughout the region including a joint Kitchener and Waterloo session on February 19th as well as an online survey. Development industry engagement included workshops in the summer and fall of 2024 with the next workshop planned for late March. Additionally, industry engagement includes discussions at Build Urban and municipal Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association (WRHBA) Liaison Committees in Waterloo, Cambridge and Waterloo Region as well as Kitchener's Development Liaison Committee which includes both WRHBA and as well as commercial/high rise developer representatives.

COLLABORATE – WR Community Energy is collaborating with development industry representatives to analyse the impacts of the draft HPDS and will be gauging interest in a development industry working team for in-depth discussions as the standards are developed and refined.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

- [DSD-2023-109](#) - Harmonized Green Development Standards Phase 2 Project Launch
- [DSD-2024-067](#) Harmonized Green Development Standards Project Update
- [DSD-2024-267](#) Waterloo Region High Performance Development Standards Engagement Launch
- Planning Act

Staff Report



Infrastructure Services Department

www.kitchener.ca

REPORT TO: Climate Change and Environment Committee

DATE OF MEETING: March 20, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Natalie Goss, Manager Policy & Research, 519-783-8933

PREPARED BY: Kate Daley, Senior Strategist, Carbon and Energy Planning, 519-503-5307

WARD(S) INVOLVED: Ward(s)

DATE OF REPORT: March 6, 2025

REPORT NO.: INS-2025-119

SUBJECT: KU Clean Energy Transition Strategy – March 2025 Update

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Phase 2 of the Kitchener Utilities Clean Energy Transition Strategy, which is underway. This phase consists of collaboratively assessing options for the City's community-facing energy businesses in light of the clean energy transition and recommending an integrated business approach based on the information gathered.
- The key finding of this report is that staff have developed distinct scopes of work for several consultants to advance investigation of the identified potential business activities. These activities fall under four main themes of: [1] providing energy products and services; [2] planning for and reporting on our gas distribution system; [3] providing the gaseous fuels of tomorrow, and [4] providing system-scale energy services. The results of these investigations will form the basis of the Kitchener Utilities Clean Energy Transition Strategy.
- There are no financial implications at this time.
- Community engagement was extensive during Phase 1 of the project in 2023, with customers, community members, stakeholders, Kitchener committees, staff, and councillors. This engagement, combined with stakeholder and staff engagement in early 2024, has provided a large list of energy business activities that could be pursued. Plans for community engagement during this next stage of the project will be developed with support of consultants.
- This report supports **Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.**

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BACKGROUND:

This project will develop a strategy to guide us as we evolve our energy business to continue to be financially successful and provide valued services throughout the energy transition. The project’s scope includes the City of Kitchener’s community energy businesses, which include natural gas delivery and rental water heaters, and which are housed in the Gas and Water Division of the Infrastructure Services Department.

Table 1: Project Phases

Project Phase	Timing	Focus on...	Achieved through...
Phase 1	2023	building relationships and understanding around values, goals, and scope of the strategy	relational engagement with Council, staff, stakeholders, community members, and customers
Phase 2	2024-2026	determining the way forward together	detailed, collaborative option assessment and recommendation of an approach
Phase 3	2026+	building consensus on the implementation plan to 2030	developing a phased long-term implementation strategy to 2050 and a detailed first phase implementation plan to 2030

In December of 2023, Council endorsed guiding principles for the project that were based on extensive engagement with the public, stakeholders, City committees, staff, and councillors:

As we evolve our energy business to continue to be financially successful and provide valued services throughout the energy transition, we will...		
Guiding Principles	Our intention	Objectives
1: Make responsible, accountable, and financially rewarding business decisions	“We will work to responsibly position our community-owned business for success as things change around us.”	1.1: Follow sound business practices 1.2: Take action quickly to manage risk and maximize opportunity 1.3: Assess value holistically to find our best contribution
2: Serve customers as an affordable and reliable partner in the energy transition	“We will work to empower customers and community members as their trusted partner in the energy transition.”	2.1: Pursue affordable, reliable, and predictable energy services 2.2: Empower customers with choice and with trustworthy, accessible information 2.3: Bring people along as things change
3: Contribute to a thriving community	“We will work to make our community even stronger.”	3.1: Collaborate with partners 3.2: Do our part to address climate change 3.3: Use clear metrics and align them with community-scale goals

4. Plan for multiple energy futures with flexibility and focus	“We will work to prioritize solutions that can adapt to and provide value in all energy futures.”	4.1: Rely on safe bet technologies and prepare for long shot technologies 4.2: Prepare for a broad range of net-zero carbon futures 4.3: Iterate, experiment, and learn
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REPORT:

Identifying Potential Business Activities

Matching the breadth of ideas that were received during Phase 1 engagement, along with a dedicated stakeholder workshop early in Phase 2, staff have identified a broad range of potential energy business activities, which fit under four main themes:

<p>We could... (themes)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">provide energy products and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing energy equipment services. • providing energy transition support services. • running a district or neighbourhood utility. • helping commercial and industrial customers meet their energy needs. 	<p style="text-align: center;">plan for and report on our gas distribution system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing policies and programs for our assets. • evaluating and future-proofing our gas rates. • developing forecasts, scenarios and models to help us plan. 	<p style="text-align: center;">provide the gaseous fuels of tomorrow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making, buying, or delivering biofuels (e.g. renewable natural gas). • making, buying, or delivering hydrogen. • advancing our work to track and contain gas in our system. 	<p style="text-align: center;">provide system-scale energy services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generating and selling renewable energy at a large scale.
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<p>This might look like... (types of potential business activities)</p>
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Identifying Bodies of Work for Consulting Support

Each identified business activity requires further investigation to determine its potential integration into the overall strategy. Significant work was undertaken by staff in 2024 to determine what questions about these business activities could be answered internally using staff expertise, and which would require consultant support.

Staff have developed distinct scopes of work for several consultants to advance investigation of the identified potential business activities. These scopes of work are currently in various stages of the City’s procurement processes.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report supports **Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while**

transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None at this time.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City’s website with the agenda in advance of the council / committee meeting.

CONSULT – During Phase 1 of the project in 2023, extensive consultation took place with customers, community members, stakeholders, Kitchener committees, staff, and councillors. This engagement, combined with stakeholder engagement in January of 2024, has provided a large list of energy business activities that could be pursued, which have formed the basis of the scope for the various consultants on the project.

Plans for community engagement during this next stage of the project will be developed with support of consultants.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

- [INS-2023-199](#) Kitchener Utilities Clean Energy Transition Update (Community and Infrastructure Services Committee)
- [INS-2023-489](#) Phase 1 of Kitchener Utilities Clean Energy Transition Strategy (Climate Change and Environment Committee)
- [INS-2023-508](#) Phase 1 report and guiding principles for the Kitchener Utilities Clean Energy Transition Strategy (Community and Infrastructure Services Committee)
- [INS-2024-198](#) Kitchener Utilities Clean Energy Transition Strategy Phase 2 Update (Climate Change and Environment Committee)
- [INS-2024-224](#) Phase 2 Update – Kitchener Utilities Clean Energy Transition Strategy (Community and Infrastructure Services Committee)

APPROVED BY: Denise McGoldrick, General Manager, Infrastructure Services

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

Staff Report



Chief Administrator's Office

www.kitchener.ca

REPORT TO: Climate Change and Environment Committee

DATE OF MEETING: March 20, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Natalie Goss, Manager Policy & Research, 519-783-8933

PREPARED BY: Sloane Sweazey, Senior Policy Advisor, 519-783-8988
Kate Daley, Senior Strategist, Carbon & Energy Planning, 519-783-8039

WARD(S) INVOLVED: ALL

DATE OF REPORT: March 4, 2025

REPORT NO.: CAO-2025-121

SUBJECT: Staff Energy Working Group update

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the creation of a staff Energy Working Group, and on its initial work to address the City's role in the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)'s recent long-term energy procurement process.
- There are no financial implications associated with this report.
- This report supports **Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.**

BACKGROUND:

In the latter half of 2024, the Province of Ontario signaled the prioritization of a pro-growth, clean energy transition agenda with significant investments and regulation anticipated in the energy sector from 2025 onward.

The City of Kitchener plays a unique role in the energy sector. As both a local planning authority and owner of a community-scale gas distribution utility, the province's pro-growth, energy transition agenda will have direct implications on Kitchener that extend beyond those faced by other municipalities.

The province's pro-growth agenda is expected to remain a core priority of the government. To effectively navigate this agenda, Kitchener's corporate leadership team established an energy working group comprised of staff across the corporation to focus on engaging effectively with the energy file as it evolves.

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As one of its initial priorities, the energy working group is seeking input on key factors that Kitchener should consider following the launch of the province's second Long-Term (LT2) procurement process in January 2025.

REPORT:

As part of the plan to meet growing electricity demand, the Province of Ontario has tasked the IESO with managing a series of competitive electricity resource procurements focusing on delivering new electricity generation and capacity (e.g. storage) resources. Municipal governments have an important role in these procurements, determining whether to host projects in their communities, and overseeing local development approvals. Without municipal approval of projects where they make sense, the province may be unable to procure enough electricity to meet demand.

On the direction of the Minister of Energy and Electrification, all electricity project developers are required to obtain written confirmation of municipal support for energy projects within municipal boundaries under the Long-Term 2 (LT2) procurement. This requirement is intended to ensure that municipalities have control over what electricity projects they wish to host within their communities.

To deliver on this direction, the IESO requires project developers to engage early with municipalities to better understand local preferences and needs. Engagement will occur at different stages of the process, including pre-engagement consultation, municipal support confirmations, and downstream approvals. Municipalities have an opportunity for ongoing engagement and communication of local expectations to developers throughout the development process.

The request for proposals opened in January 2025, with proposal submissions likely to be awarded in Q3 2025 and final contract awards anticipated by early 2026.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the council / committee meeting.

CONSULT – LT2 details are being presented to the CCEC for their input and feedback on the potential implications for the City of Kitchener, as well as any considerations that should inform staff's developing work on this issue.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

There are no previous reports/authorities related to this matter.

Staff Report



Development Services Department

www.kitchener.ca

REPORT TO: Climate Change and Environment Committee

DATE OF MEETING: March 20, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Natalie Goss, Manager Policy & Research, 519-783-8970

PREPARED BY: Anna Marie Cipriani, Corporate Sustainability Advisor, 519-783-8933

WARD(S) INVOLVED: All

DATE OF REPORT: March 3, 2025

REPORT NO.: DSD-2025-122

SUBJECT: Introduction to Pivot: Net-0

RECOMMENDATION:

For discussion.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The purpose of this report is to introduce the committee to a body of work approved by Kitchener City Council in April 2024 and to position the committee to engage in this work as per the committee Terms of Reference
- This report supports **Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.**

BACKGROUND:

In April 2024, Council approved Pivot: Net-0, the City of Kitchener's second-generation Corporate Climate Action Plan. A plan to drive down corporate greenhouse gas emissions. *Pivot: Net-Zero* received Council's support of a Net-Zero 2050 target while maintaining our current 2026 target of an 8% reduction from our 2016 baseline. There are 47 actions identified in the plan from 2024-2027 along with the anticipated year of budget requests, target completion dates and the divisions that will lead and support these actions. These actions are foundational to developing a roadmap that will align Net-Zero actions best with multiple priorities across the organization (e.g., deferred maintenance, asset renewal, capital planning), streamlining the most strategic approach to making progress on a new Net-Zero target. Staff intend to report on progress indicators. Scaling up and directing funding sources within municipal control to accelerate corporate climate action work is needed in addition to seeking outside support (e.g., through advocacy and grants).

REPORT: Staff will provide an introductory overview of Pivot: Net-0 with the intention of positioning the committee to engage in this work as per the Committee Terms of Reference.

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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report supports **Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.**

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no direct financial implications of this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City’s website with the agenda in advance of the council / committee meeting.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

- DSD-2024-074 [*Pivot: Net-0 and the City’s 2023 Corporate Greenhouse Gas emissions inventory.*](#)

Staff Report



Development Services Department

www.kitchener.ca

REPORT TO: Climate Change and Environment Committee

DATE OF MEETING: March 20, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Natalie Goss, Manager Policy & Research, 519-783-8933

PREPARED BY: Carrie Musselman, Senior Environmental Planner, 519-783-8940

WARD(S) INVOLVED: All Wards

DATE OF REPORT: March 3, 2025

REPORT NO.: DSD-2025-117

SUBJECT: 2024 - 2026 CCEC Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Climate Change and Environment Committee (CCEC) Work Plan 2024-2026 appended to DSD-2005-117 as Attachment A, be approved.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Per the terms of reference for the Climate Change and Environment Committee, this workplan outlines priority environmental matters of interest to the committee and associated actions.
- There are no financial implications associated with the workplan.
- Community engagement included informing the public by posting the report on the City's website with the agenda in advance of the meeting.
- This workplan supports Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with the [Committee's Terms of Reference](#), the committee in cooperation with staff are required to develop a Work Plan to be implemented in the current term. Accordingly, members were invited to provide suggestions on the types of things they would like to see the committee undertake. Staff then put together a Work Plan based on the committee's identified interests.

REPORT:

At the February 20, 2025, committee meeting, members were asked to provide suggestions for the 2024-2026 Committee Work Plan. Members were reminded that priority

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environmental issues should relate to and assist with advancing Council's strategic priorities, as well as priorities outlined in related guiding documents, such as:

- [Strategic Plan](#)
- [Strategic Plan for the Environment](#)
- [Corporate Climate Action Plan](#)
- [TransformWR Climate Action Strategy](#)

Actions should also link to the environmental issues identified and be consistent with the duties of the Committee, such as:

- Provide input on relevant environmental issues, policies, projects, or programs that are within the jurisdiction of the municipality.
- Serve as a forum for delegations to provide public input on environmental matters.
- Discuss new, relevant, or unexplored environmental or climate change issues.
- Assist Council and staff in identifying research needs and environmental data gaps, assist in gathering data, undertaking research, and formulating a strategy to improve the information available for private and public use.
- Support approved municipal initiatives with respect to the education of citizens on matters of environmental significance.
- Undertake other environmental projects assigned by Council from time to time.

Priority Environmental Issues – Work Plan

Members discussed potential priority environmental issues, consistent with the duties of the committee and the City's overall environmental objectives, and agreed upon the following for the 2024 – 2026 Work Plan:

- Environmental Rodent Control Impacts
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Committee/Council Report Template Change(s)

The 2024 – 2026 Work Plan has been attached to this report as Attachment A. The work plan may be updated throughout the term as priority environmental issues are added or completed and removed.

Priority Environmental Issues - Sub-Committees

The Work Plan is composed of actions to address priority environmental issues, which are often best fulfilled through members participating within a sub-committee. Each sub-committee will report through the committee.

Recognizing that committee members bring a wide variety of skills, knowledge and experience with them, a sub-committee can provide members with meaningful work that suits their skills and goes beyond merely discussing issues at a committee meeting.

The Co-Chairs may be considered an alternate member of all sub-committees, allowing them to attend a sub-committee meeting in place of one of its appointed members when it is deemed crucial to advance the Committee's business. A sub-committee cannot meet or exceed quorum.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report supports Cultivating a Green City Together: Focuses a sustainable path to a greener, healthier city; enhancing & protecting parks & natural environment while transitioning to a low-carbon future; supporting businesses & residents to make climate-positive choices.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The recommendation has no impact on the Capital or Operating Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City’s website with the agenda in advance of the meeting.

PREVIOUS REPORT(S):

- [DSD-2025-069 2024-2026 CCEC Work Plan Discussion](#)

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – 2024-2026 Work Plan

Priority Environmental Issues and/or SubCommittee	Committee Member(s)	Action No.	Description	Start	End	Guiding Documents / Studies / Reports	Staff / City Resources
Environmental Rodent Control Impacts	J. Clary-Lemon	1	Define the problem			<u>Nature Canada - Defending Nature From Chemical Rodent Control</u>	Staff - Facilities Management Division - Infrastructure Services Dept.
	C. Corcoran	2	Research applicable Policy and Laws (Federal, Provincial, Municipal)			<u>Nature Canada - Bird Friendly Application - Section 1: Threat Reduction: 1.4 (B) Pesticide Use - Insect/Rodents</u>	
	Councillor S. Stretch	3	Investigate possible solutions			<u>Using pesticides in Ontario</u>	
		4	Investgate how best to implement the solutions			<u>Pest control products (pesticides) acts and regulations in Canada</u>	
		5	Report to CCEC committee				
		6					
Sustainable Food Systems		1	Define the problem			<u>Official Plan (Community Garden, Temporary Farmers' Markets and Urban Agricultural)</u>	Staff - Planning and Housing Policy Division - Development Services Department (Policy and Research)
		2	Research applicable Policy and Laws (Federal, Provincial, Municipal)			<u>Community Gardens</u>	
		3	Investigate possible solutions			<u>Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems</u>	
		4	Investgate how best to implement the solutions			<u>Sustainable Food Systems in Canada</u>	
		5	Report to CCEC committee			<u>Goal 2: Support a healthier and more sustainable food system</u>	
		6					
Committee/Council Report Template Change(s)	K. Charlesworth	1	Define the problem			<u>2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan</u>	Compass Kitchener Citizen Advisory Committee
	P. Boot	2	Research applicable Policy (Municipal)			<u>United Nations Sustainable Development Goals</u>	Staff - Legislated Services Division - Corporate Services Dept.
	P. Nojo	3	Investigate possible solutions			<u>Chapter 25 - Procedure</u>	
		4	Investgate how best to implement the solutions				
		5	Report to CCEC committee				
		6					