



Agenda

Climate Action Committee
Tuesday, July 13, 2021 – 10 a.m.
Virtual Meeting

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1. Call to order
 2. Declarations of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof
 3. Minutes

Recommendation:

That the Climate Action Committee hereby adopts the minutes of June 8, 2021, as circulated.

4. Business items

- 4.1 Update regarding 2021 Enhanced Ontario Community Environment Fund Grants – Laura

- 4.1.1 Previous Action: Committee members to send additional ideas to Laura.

- 4.2 FCM PCP update - Climate Action Plan – Laura/Beth

- 4.3 Update from Council and CAO on West Grey Climate Initiatives, including answers to some member questions (see attached questions)

- 4.4 Action Items from Previous Meeting

- 4.4.1 Action: Nikki will submit comments to Planner Spencer as an individual, then the committee will comment as a group on the next draft of the OP.

- 4.4.2 Action: To prepare a climate change awareness program for West Grey, beginning with a delegation to council. (See Item 4.5)

- 4.4.3 Action: Laura will get more information about the current Fire permits by-law and bring it back to the next meeting.

- 4.4.4 Action: Eric and Liz to incorporate health impacts of pollution into education plan. (ongoing)

- 4.4.5 Action: L. Johnston and Councillor Hamilton will be following up on the

(2) April 30, 2021

climate action section of WG website with the new communications person.

4.5 Request invitation through Laura for the new WG Communications Manager to attend our next meeting to discuss what we can expect in the way of including not only West Grey initiatives but also recommended climate information to promote awareness to residents.

4.6 Delegation discussion of strategy and presentation material – All

5. Adjournment

Recommendation:

That we hereby adjourn at _____ a.m. to meet again on _____ at _____ a.m.

(3) April 30, 2021

Item 4.4.5

An excellent suggestion for awareness on the website, provided by Nikki, is this website which includes both introductory videos and more in depth videos that will help everyone understand the environmental and economic benefits of our natural infrastructure.

https://www.greenbelt.ca/natural_solutions?utm_campaign=may_2021_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=greenbelt

Item 4.3 Questions (in no particular order)

The reasons for these questions are so we can all understand where everything currently stands and also to prevent us from undertaking any discussions or recommendations that are already done or in progress.

What climate change motions/recommendations have been approved by Council?

What climate change actions have been undertaken by WG staff.

Wooden bridges update – Geoffrey?

Is WG considering the Green Development Standards that have been put in place in Halton Hills for developers?

MNAI update – partnership with GH – Beth?

**What are the four strategic priorities referred to at the last meeting - one being asset management. What kind of assets do they mean?
What are the other three and are they prioritized?**

WG made Climate Action one of its top four priorities? True?

In 2020 WG allocated a \$50,000 budget to Climate Action – what for specifically?

WG joined the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

WG Council agreed to follow the Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities (BARC) ‘milestone’ planning model

What was membership fee for joining these groups? Did it come from the \$50,000

We joined Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) which is a free membership.

CAO Laura Johnson will be the leader and Councillor Hamilton the Champion in their commitment to create a West Grey Climate Action Plan.

They need to:

Move through the Milestone Framework within 10 years of joining

Report on progress at least once every two years, with the support of PCP

(4) April 30, 2021

Is there any point in time that the committee would be called upon to provide input to this process?

The PCP Hub is an online networking tool that provides a direct line of communication with other PCP municipalities across Canada, as well as PCP staff and regional climate advisors. By participating in the Hub, you'll receive real-time updates on activities and funding opportunities to support your local climate change work. You can also share the projects you're working on, ask questions to the network and find relevant resources.

Can members of the committee access the PCP hub also or just Beth and Laura?

Is WG also intending to follow the mitigation planning process developed by ICLEI Canada's Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) to reduce GHG emissions?

What is the timing for the first steps of the climate action plan?

WG attended a recent Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference and met with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Mayor Robinson reported that she was pleased with the session. What was the outcome?

When a developer builds a new subdivision, what costs do they absorb in doing so? Infrastructure, roads, old infrastructure upgrades?, road repairs if damaged? What if town water is affected or neighbouring wells? Etc....

Commenting on a WG council agenda item from a climate perspective.

I (Bev) feel it would be beneficial to comment on some agenda items as a committee, but timing of agenda does not allow for us to comment. There is a comment period at the beginning, but once agenda is issued, we cannot submit correspondence or a report for the consideration of council at the same meeting. Some items undergo 1st, 2nd and 3rd reading at the same meeting, meaning public is not made aware of them before the agenda package comes out? We can speak during comment period individually, but would possibly have more impact if able to comment as a committee. Any advice on how this might be accomplished? Intent would not be to undermine the work that staff has undertaken, but to try and add value and hopefully aid in demonstrating how to use the climate lens in everything we do as a municipality. Ideally, it would be more beneficial to comment to staff, through Laura, before it even gets to council. Wondering if Laura has any ideas for this?



Minutes
Climate Action Committee
Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – 10 a.m.
Virtual Meeting

Attendance: Councillor Geoff Shea, Lee Papineau, Eric Saunders, Bev Falco, Liz Murray, Nikki May, Councillor Beth Hamilton,

Staff: Kodey Hewlett, Laura Johnston

1. **Call to order** – Bev Falco called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.
2. Declarations of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof - none
3. **Minutes**

Resolution 10-2021

Moved by: Liz Murray

Seconded by Lee Papineau

That the Climate Action Committee hereby adopts the minutes of May 11, 2021, as circulated.

Disposition: Carried

4. Business items

4.1 First two recommendations sent to Council – G. Shea

First: Natural Infrastructure: first meeting was recorded. Recommendation was defeated after Planner Spencer stated that she thought the Official Plan sufficiently covered the issue already.

Second: Climate Lens in OP was adopted. Support from Planner Spencer and CAO Johnston was key.

Council highly values the advice of staff.

Action: Nikki will submit comments to Planner Spencer as an individual, then the committee will comment as a group on the next draft of the OP.

Asset management is one of the main goals in the Strategic Plan.

4.2 **Update regarding 2021 Enhanced Ontario Community Environment Fund Grants** – L. Johnston

Laura and Beth saw an introductory webinar. Looking for ideas from committee. These included pollinator gardens, naturalizing parks and restoring river banks with partners. Beth mentioned working with SCVA or Trout Unlimited on municipal land beside the river.

Action: Committee members to send additional ideas to Laura.

4.3 **FCM PCP update** - Climate Action Plan – L. Johnston

Intro -first workshop for Beth and Laura in a couple of weeks. To learn about step 1: Initiate of a 5-step program.

4.4 **Education Plan discussion**

A plan to raise awareness of the climate emergency and the need for early action was discussed. The first steps will be to share our concerns with council so that they understand where we are coming from and support climate action priorities. We need to set up a climate change awareness culture at town hall.

Action: To prepare a climate change awareness program for West Grey, beginning with a delegation to council. Committee

4.5 **Fires/Air Quality discussion-** L. Papineau

Lee presented a request for more clarity about the outdoor fire by-law.

Action: Laura will get more information about the Fire permits by-law and bring it back to the next meeting.

Lee proposed that information about outdoor burning as a major contribution to pollution and how it affects the health of people should be included in the education plan.

Action: Eric and Liz to incorporate health impacts of pollution into education plan.

4.6 **Official Plan** - How best to provide specific examples of climate change initiatives that could be incorporated into the Plan – B. Falco

Best approach is to just send detailed comments directly to planner. The more specific the better.

4.7 **Georgian Bluffs Climate Action Road Map** – L. Murray

A good model for us to look at.

It might have been council or staff initiated.

It was presented at joint council/committee meeting.

Committee members agreed that it was a good plan and West Grey should have something similar. We already have some similar initiatives. One thing that can be moved on quickly is to create a section on the WG website showing what the municipality is doing with regard to climate action.

Action: L. Johnston and Councillor Hamilton will be following up on this with the new communications person.

5. Adjournment

Recommendation:

That we hereby adjourn at _12 p.m. to meet again on __July_13, 2021 at 10 am.