



**AGENDA**  
**WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
held on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**Meeting at 5:30p.m at the Ojibway Nature Centre**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

4. **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – **emailed separately.**

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

5.1 **Peter Garforth Green Speaker Presentation Honorarium Ratification**

*"That APPROVAL BE GIVEN to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,000 (Canadian Funds) as an Honorarium for Peter Garforth, Green Speaker Series who will present on Community Energy Planning and its associated environmental and economic benefits on March 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre."*

5.2 **Jason Thistlethwaite Green Speaker Presentation Funds Ratification**

*"That APPROVAL BE GIVEN to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$1,000 (Canadian Funds) for costs associated with transportation, meals, accommodation and room rental for Dr. Jason Thistlethwaite, Green Speaker Series who will provide a presentation on Sustainable Flood Risk Management and its associated socioeconomic considerations to be held on May 3, 2016 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre."*

5.3 **Pat on the Back Awards Funds Ratification**

*"That APPROVAL BE GIVEN to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$2,500 (Canadian Funds) for costs associated with the Pat on the Back Awards to be held on June 6, 2016 which includes four awards in the amount of \$500 each and the purchase of a plaque to commemorate the winner."*

5.4 **WECEC Domain Renewal**

The invoice from eliquidMEDIA is **attached.**

5.5 **Green Speaker Selection and Funds Request**

5.6 **Priorities for the Duration of 2016**

6. **COORDINATORS REPORT**

6.1 WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report – **attached.**

**7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 7.1 Air
- 7.2 Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- 8.1 Update on City of Windsor environmental initiatives
- 8.2 Update on Essex County environmental initiatives

**9. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 9.1 Ontario Climate Action Plan - *attached*
- 9.2 Climate Change Mitigation and Low-Carbon Economy Act - *attached*
- 9.3 Marathon Refinery - *attached*
- 9.4 Nomination of Radionuclides as a Chemical of Mutual Concern under the GLWQA - *attached*
- 9.5 AMO Conference 2016 - *attached*
- 9.6 Windsor-Essex Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - *attached*

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is September 29, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

# eliquidMEDIA

www.eliquidmedia.com

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## INVOICE

# 13406

GST #: 896239019

**Issued:** 2016-07-19**Windsor Essex County Environment Committee**

WECEC c/o Averil Parent  
4155 Ojibway Parkway  
Windsor, Ontario  
N9C 4A5, Canada  
Phone: 519-523-7111  
Fax: 519-253-0464

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Item Total
<i>Domain Renewal:</i> Annual fee for Domain Renewal. Regular price is \$75.00 courtesy discount applied -\$50.00 = \$25.00 + Tax	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Subtotal:			\$ 25.00
HST13:			\$ 3.25
<b>INVOICE TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$ 28.25</b>
Payments and/or Adjustments:			\$ 0.00
<b>BALANCE DUE:</b>			<b>\$ 28.25</b>

*\*After 30 days from the invoice issued date, eliquidMEDIA will apply 2% interest compounded monthly until full balance of past due invoices has been paid.\**







– JULY 2016 –

## ONGOING INITIATIVES

### 1. Communications

#### A. Green Speaker Series

Peter Garforth, Principal of Garforth International, llc, delivered a captivating Green Speaker Presentation titled "*Community Energy Planning - Catalyst for Sustainability and Economic Development*" at the Ojibway Nature Centre on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The presentation focused on the multifaceted merits of community energy planning, including the significant economic, social and environmental benefits which may occur from the implementation of world-class standards. Approximately 20 members of the public – including two WECEC members and former Windsor CAO Helga Reidel – attended the 1-hour presentation. The presentation was followed by a lively 1-hour Q&A session.

Dr. Jason Thistlethwaite, Associate Professor, University of Waterloo and Director of the Climate Change Adaptation Project, is scheduled to provide a Green Speaker presentation titled "*A Financial Survival Guide to Climate Change*" at the Ojibway Nature Centre on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. Approximately 20 members of the public were present for the 45-minute presentation and hour-long question and answer period. The severe socioeconomic risks of flooding demand attention by city managers across Canada. Dr. Thistlethwaite's presentation notes are attached as **Appendix B** to this report for future review.

#### B. Marathon Refinery

WECEC's motion to have City and County Councils contact the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change regarding the propose upgrade to the Marathon Refinery in Michigan has generated significant media attention, with CBC, CTV and the Windsor Star running a total of five articles to date on the topic.

Following significant backlash, Marathon Petroleum has announced that it will revise its upgrade proposal to reduce air pollution emissions.

#### C. Earth Day

WECEC's booth was on display at the 2016 Windsor Earth Day event, looked over by Derek Coronado. The event is estimated to be the best-attended in the history of the City of Windsor, providing good exposure for WECEC.

#### D. 2016 Environmental Advisory Committees of Ontario Symposium

Dustin Carey and Debby Grant attended Environmental Advisory Committees of Ontario Symposium in Ajax on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. The symposium focused on the role of environmental advisory committees in local environmental governance, and a number of environmental initiatives and policy options which cities may implement to improve sustainability. Windsor-Essex was praised, in particular, for the extensive work which has been done implement community gardens across the country, including on multiple property types. Dustin Carey's report on the outcomes and policy recommendations from the symposium is attached as **Appendix A**.

## E. Pat on the Back Awards

WECEC's annual Pat on the Back Award ceremony was held on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. 10 submissions were received this year, from which 7 were invited to present to the judges panel. The primary criterion for short-listing groups was whether they were receiving significant funding already. Following 5-minute presentations, the judges panel – made up of Mike Nelson, Karina Richters and Dustin Carey – selected the following four groups to receive a \$500 cheque to implement their proposal, as well as a plaque commemorating their win:

- Leamington District Secondary School EcoTeam for hardware procurement to develop an app that aids with amphibian sampling in wetlands.
- F.J. Brennan Catholic High School for the development of an accessible community garden for special education students.
- Compass Expulsion Program for supplies to construct two additional plots at the Wigle Park Community Garden to be run by students who have been expelled from their schools and are in need of novel educational experiences.
- The Windsor Public Library and the Windsor-Essex Community Garden Collaborative for supplies to facilitate the expansion of a Seed Lending Library program operated through library branches.

Each group has volunteered to appear at the 2017 ceremony to provide an update on the progress/successes of their proposal, if invited.

## 2. Reports to Council

### Report No. 93 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

*The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee at its meeting held January 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 approved the following Report as follows:*

Moved by D. Grant, seconded by J. Passa,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that City/County Councils BE REQUESTED to send a letter to Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change regarding the proposed upgrades to the Marathon Petroleum Facility.

Carried.

Moved by Mr. Bachetti Seconded by Mr. McNamara

That a letter **BE FORWARDED** to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change regarding the proposed upgrades to the Marathon Petroleum facility.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Borrelli, seconded by Councillor Payne

That Report No. 93 of the Windsor-Essex Council Environment Committee (Marathon Petroleum) **BE RECEIVED** for information

Carried.

*This report was moved at the February 17 Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting.*

Moved by Councillor Bortolin, seconded by Councillor Elliott



**–July 2016 –**

Windsor City Council adopted the following resolution at its meeting held March 29, 2016:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that City/County Councils **BE REQUESTED** to send a letter to Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change regarding the proposed upgrades to the Marathon Petroleum facility.

**WECEC BUDGET – SUMMARY**

<b>2016 Budget</b>			
<b>Expense</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Status</b>
2016 Budget	\$8,000.00		
Pat on the Back		\$2,400	Spent
Green Speaker #1		\$1,000	Spent
Green Speaker #2		\$425	Spent
Green Speaker #3 (&4)		~\$1,575	Proposed
Website Hosting Fee		\$400	Committed
Website Domain Renewal		\$28.25	Committed
Earth Day		\$35	Spent
EAC Symposia		\$615	Spent
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$6,478.25</b>	
ESTIMATED SPENT		\$4,475	
ESTIMATED COMMITTED SPENDING		\$428.25	
ESTIMATED PROPOSED SPENDING		\$1,575	
<b>ESTIMATED NON-ALLOCATED REMAINING</b>			<b>\$1,521.75</b>

## Appendix A

### **Report to the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee on the 2016 Environmental Advisory Committees of Ontario Symposium**

Dustin Carey

2016 Symposium – Local Food and Stewardship

Saturday May 14th, 2016 9.30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Greenwood Discovery Centre - 2290 Greenwood Rd, Ajax, ON

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Disclaimer: Excerpts from the Symposium included in this report are specifically pertinent to environmental policies and initiatives which may be undertaken within a municipal environment

#### **Session 1: About the Ajax Environmental Advisory Committee – Sarah Moore & David Hogg**

The Town of Ajax and its Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) have committed to ensuring the mainstreamed integration of sustainable considerations in municipal operations. To this end, the Town has identified its corporate buildings as a significant point of focus. Over the last 10-or-so years, Ajax has prioritized that new Town buildings are either built to receive LEED certification, or otherwise contain some significant investment to reduce the environmental footprint associated with its construction. Examples of environmental investments include geothermal heat pumps to offset the need for natural gas heating, greywater systems including the use of greywater in high-efficiency toilets, and the installation of photovoltaic solar systems on the roofs of municipal properties.

Like the City of Windsor, the Town of Ajax was approached by the Council of Canadians to join the Blue Communities initiative, and has successfully implemented its framework. As a result, the Town acknowledges drinking water as a fundamental human right, disavows private ownership and public-private partnerships of fundamental water infrastructure, and has proceeded to stop the sale of bottled water in municipal buildings and at municipal functions. Rather, the Town supports the use of reusable water bottles and tap water.

On a yearly basis Ajax's EAC establishes an annual work plan, which guides the expended effort of the committee's priority agenda items for the duration of the year. Flexibility is allowed, however, to accommodate emerging issues. The EAC has also instituted a "Buddy system" for new committee members, wherein they are partnered with serving committee members in order to facilitate the necessary learning of pertinent information and protocol.

Ajax's EAC has identified itself as a conduit for education and an inducing factor for community environmental action. To this end, it partakes in education outreach events and runs environmental workshops for town residents on topics such as urban gardening.

#### **Session 2: Planning for Community Gardens – Stev Andis**

Community agriculture is viewed by the Town of Ajax as component of social resiliency to shocks and change. A sharp rise in the price of fresh produce, for instance, can be somewhat ameliorated on a community scale through access to locally produced food. In addition, local food and urban agriculture foster healthier, more liveable communities. This notion has become sufficiently entrenched in the Durham Region, which includes Ajax, that access to local food was a tenet of the Durham Food Charter.

The Town of Ajax projects essentially all development over the next 20 years to be intensification and densification. While this development trend can help facilitate healthier communities through the improved efficiency of public transit and greater walkability, careful planning must be done in order to ensure that prized greenspace – which has multifaceted benefits for communities, including allowing the development of urban agriculture – is maintained. Acknowledging this, the Town of Ajax has an embedded subpoint for urban agriculture in its Official Plan, and has developed policies aimed to expand access. For instance, if a developer requests for concessions from the bounds of permissible development, community gardens have been approved as a social betterment method which the developer may build as compensation the loss of a public amenity.

Despite the progress which has been made, logistical issues and inconsistencies across jurisdictions remain. Ajax, for instance, currently restricts community garden development on public brownfields and private property. While the City of Windsor has strict soil quality conditions for community garden development on brownfields, they are permissible. Moreover, if soil quality is found to be insufficient for produce grown for consumption, alternative gardening methods such as the approved wildflower lot at Wyandotte and Drouillard are permitted. Likewise, 19 of the 27 community gardens located in the City of Windsor are on private property. The City of Ottawa is currently evaluating a proposal to allow the sale of produce grown on community gardens, something which it appears no other municipality in Ontario allows.

### **Session 3: Advocating for Community Gardens as Green Infrastructure – Janet McKay**

Green or living infrastructure – such as green roofs, bioswales, rain gardens, urban forestry and constructed wetlands – is a largely underutilized method of addressing some of the environmental and infrastructural challenges being experienced in cities, and those which are likely to become exacerbated by climate change. According to a report commissioned by the Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition (GIOC), the most significant obstacles to the broader implementation of green infrastructure are:

- Lack of funding;
- Insufficient political will and/or support;
- Inadequate, unclear or under-enforced policies; and
- Lack of technical understanding and details of benefits compared to costs

For all that, green infrastructure is beginning to receive recognition within the Province of Ontario. In its 2014 Provincial Policy Statement, Ontario included green infrastructure for the first time. In order to increase the degree of provincial support, GIOC is actively lobbying the province to include green infrastructure in Ontario's Climate Change Strategy to ensure it is eligible under the new framework that provincial funding must be coincide with sustainable considerations.

To date, the federal and provincial governments have been largely lacking from the field of green infrastructure development in Canada. In their absence, and noting the multifaceted benefits offered, municipalities have taken the lead in integrating green infrastructure into urban development strategies. Within Windsor, this can be seen through the intention to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan and running a workshop in collaboration with Conservation Authorities on low-impact development strategies.

The GIOC is calling for additional support to integrate green infrastructure into the provincial infrastructure funding framework, invites you to add your support at [greeninfrastructureontario.org](http://greeninfrastructureontario.org)



The City of Windsor has established itself as a leader in asset valuation and management, but the capacity to value green infrastructure remains underdeveloped. However, tools are emerging such as the i-Tree Eco model to assist with this new requirement.

#### **Session 4: Edible Native Species in the Urban Forest – Melissa Williams**

Active in the Greater Toronto Area is an organization called Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests (LEAF), a non-profit dedicated to the protection and improvement of urban forests. LEAF runs a number of urban forestry initiatives aimed at both garnering interest in forests among local populations as well as increase tree cover.

The three primary services offered by LEAF are as follows:

- Backyard Tree Planting Program – LEAF runs a service wherein homeowners may purchase trees at a subsidized rate, and members of the organization will plant the tree for you. Homeowners pay \$150-220 per tree, compared to a retail rate of \$300-400, inclusive of the planting labour. In recent years, the Backyard Tree Planting Program has resulted in more than 1000 trees and shrubs being planted per year
- Trees Tour – Members of the community may sign up for 90 guided tours around Toronto and York Region, or may request a specific neighbourhood tour. Tour topics include heritage trees, tree identification and edible trees, among others. On the edible tree tour, samples are given out of locally produced food to entice participants to consider planting their own fruit-bearing tree
- Edible Garden Kit – LEAF runs a program wherein homeowners may order assembled kits of edible trees, shrubs, etc. Homeowners meet with a trained arborist who discusses planting options depending on light and shade characteristics of the property, soil nutrients and pH, and property space. The delivered kits are further customizable depending on the homeowner's taste preferences.

LEAF has seen consistent year-over-year growth and success, and is planning on expanding its service availability beyond the Toronto and York Region.

#### **Session 5: Local Food in an Urban Environment – Jade Schofield**

As mentioned in Session 2, Ajax has committed to urban agriculture availability within the community. To further this goal, the Town runs a several programs intended to garner interest in urban agriculture. At the Town's large community garden or within specific neighbourhoods, periodic workshops on local food are held. These are intended to provide community members with a taste of what community or individual gardening for food production entails; a complimentary effort to the LEAF Garden Kits. In part because of these efforts, demand for plots at the community garden has been sufficiently high that new plots have had to be established, and a waiting list has emerged.

The Town works with new immigrants to Canada who have settled in Ajax on the issue of local food production. The residents were brought by the Town to plant nurseries to introduce them to native plants, realizing also that gardening may be a social exercise that may help them adapt to their new town. In addition to the community garden, in 2014 the Town of Ajax established a community orchard. The orchard is maintained by the community with support from Town Administration. Planted in the orchard are 12 apple trees, 6 pear trees, 4 cherry trees, as well plants bearing gooseberries, elderberries, strawberries, etc. The full first harvest is expected by 2018.



## Session 6: Your Pane is their Pain – Michael Measure

Michael Measure spoke to the symposium on behalf of the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) Canada, an organization dedicated to reducing bird strikes into buildings in Canada.


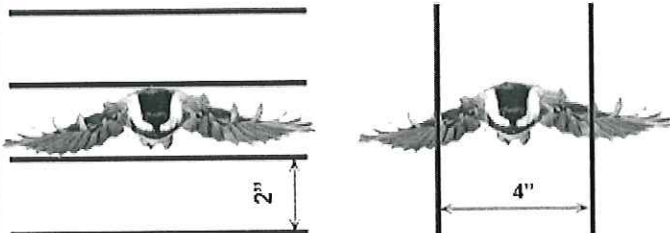



Bird strikes have been consistently increasing in Canada as buildings have integrated increasing amounts of highly reflective and/or transparent glass into their facades. This issue is particularly pressing in Southwestern Ontario, which sits beneath two major bird migration corridors. Bird mortalities as a result of strikes are also likely underreported because of how quickly other animals prey upon the stunned, injured or killed bird.

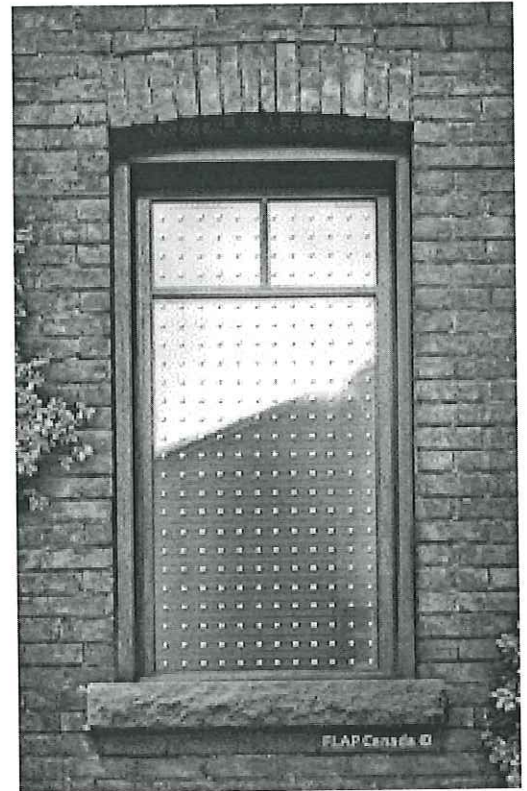
Acknowledging this issue, governmental and architectural institutions are developing preventative strategies aimed at reducing bird strikes. For instance, buildings can be designed in such a way that it discourages birds to fly in close proximity to the windows, and LEED is integrating a bird-friendly criterion into its certification process. Moreover, federal and provincial law has been passed to reduce fatal bird impacts. It is an offence under Ontario law to emit reflected light that kills or injures birds, as it is an offence under the Canadian Species at Risk Act to kill or injure birds, even if this is done by reflective windows on buildings. However, these policies remain poorly enforced.

Despite these legal protections, a number of trends are increasing which exacerbate the potential for deadly bird strikes. Landscaping around buildings provides a bird habitat, swelling their numbers. If there are clear or reflective windows within the vicinity of this habitat, bird strikes are more likely to occur. Placing trees or other plants within buildings surrounded by clear glass attracts birds to the glass as they attempt to reach the tree. Solid, clear railings such as are becoming increasingly common on apartment balconies and suspended walkways over streets are similarly a growing problem. Placing bird feeders close to windows also reduces the probability of fatal strikes.

There exist a number of methods, however, to reduce the number of bird strikes. A tool has been developed which assesses a building and identifies the threat level it presents to birds. Most buildings have “hot spots” in their facades, usually to the height of the tree canopy, which are problem areas for birds. This concentration reduces the costs/effort needed to drastically reduce strike probability. To this end, the Cities of Toronto and Markham have developed and introduced Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines, and Toronto is currently in the process of reviewing them and is considering imposing the mandatory incorporation of at least some options on new developments.

The following are a number of options which may be applied to windows which may significantly decrease the probability and number of bird strikes:

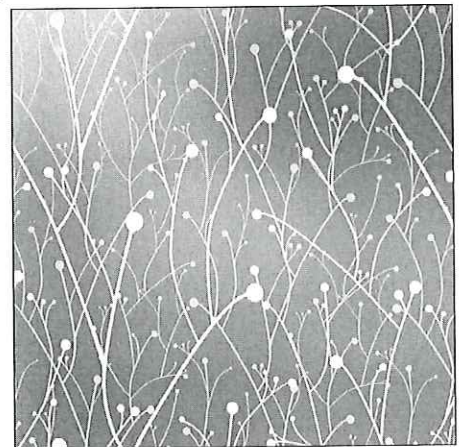
|                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                           | <b>DENSITY:</b><br>For most bird species visual markers are to be separated no greater than of 5 cm (2 inches) vertically and/or 10 cm (4 inches) horizontally. See below image                   |
|                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| For smaller bird species (hummingbirds, kinglets, creepers, etc) markers should be separated by a maximum of 5 cm (2 inches) vertically and/or 5 cm (2 inches) horizontally. |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                           | <b>CONTRAST:</b><br>Markers should stand out and offer the highest level of contrast on clear or reflective exterior surfaces under varying weather conditions.                                   |
|                                                                                           | <b>SIZE:</b><br>The dimension of a visual marker pattern needs to be no less than 0.32 cm (1/8 inch).                                                                                             |
|                                                                                           | <b>SURFACE:</b><br>Visual markers are to be applied to the exterior surface (first surface) of glass in order to disrupt the illusion of the reflected environment or open area beyond the glass. |



- 1) Dime-sized markers spaced 2-inches apart have proven to be among the most effective means of reducing bird strikes. While minimally visually intrusive, as seen in the image to the side, they may reduce strikes by up to 70%. A true-sized example may be seen below
- 2) Hanging vertical markers, such as strings, placed no more than 10cm apart are effective at deterring bird strikes. An example of such can be found on the viewing windows of the Ojibway Nature Centre
- 3) Similarly, horizontal markers spaced no more than 5cm significantly reduce the likelihood of impacts
- 4) Placing decals or films on a window, such as below, alerts the bird that the window cannot be traveled through
- 5) Windows which are opaque from the outside yet transparent from the inside, have frit on them, and ultimately reduce the transparency and reflectivity of the outside pane of glass will provide birds with the visual cue to avoid such windows

Feather Friendly Technologies in Canada is a supplier of products which may reduce the probability of bird strikes.

FLAP Canada invites everyone to use their bird strikes tracking tool to identify hot spots in their city







A bird-friendly building in downtown Kitchener, ON

– JULY 2016 –

WECEC Work Plan 2016

| <b>Strategic Direction #1 – Profile of WECEC</b>                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>GOALS</b>                                                                                                             | <b>ACTIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>TIME FRAME</b>             |
| <b>Goal:</b> Improve relationships with City and County Councils.                                                        | Prepare an annual report of accomplishments and send to City and County Councils, environmental organizations, boards etc.                                                                                                                                                                  | Yearly                        |
| <b>Goal:</b> Improve relationships with other organizations, committees.                                                 | Hold a meeting with other environmental organizations and committees to share information; Continue to pursue opportunities for partnering on community education/public awareness; Hold annual Pat on the Back Awards presenting \$2,000 to local environmental organizations and schools. | Yearly<br>Ongoing<br>Yearly   |
| <b>Strategic Direction #2 – Advocacy</b>                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                               |
| <b>GOALS</b>                                                                                                             | <b>ACTIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>TIME FRAME</b>             |
| <b>Goal:</b> Provide advice on environmental issues to the City of Windsor, County of Essex and its area municipalities. | Assess issues referred from City and County Councils and respond with suggested recommendations; Provide recommendations to City and County Councils on environmental matters identified through our own initiative.                                                                        | Ongoing<br>Ongoing            |
| <b>Goal:</b> Advocate for environmental groups in Windsor Essex County.                                                  | Accept delegations from environmental groups and advocate on behalf of these groups to City and County Councils.                                                                                                                                                                            | Ongoing                       |
| <b>Goal:</b> Provide advice to City and County Council related to Federal and Provincial initiatives.                    | Develop recommendations related to Federal and Provincial plans, policies and initiatives to be forwarded to City and County Councils.                                                                                                                                                      | Ongoing                       |
| <b>Strategic Direction #3 – Public Engagement and Education</b>                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                               |
| <b>GOALS</b>                                                                                                             | <b>ACTIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>TIME FRAME</b>             |
| <b>Goal:</b> Increase awareness of WECEC by the public.                                                                  | Maintain a website and Facebook page; Strategically identify and attend community events; Maintain a professional display for participation at community events.                                                                                                                            | Monthly<br>Ongoing<br>Ongoing |
| <b>Goal:</b> Increase engagement of public on environmental issues                                                       | Develop environmental education campaigns and messaging to help inform Windsor Essex County residents about environmental issues; Host free Green Speaker Series events with environmental experts highlighting environmental issues.                                                       | Ongoing<br>Ongoing            |

**List of Priorities (including but not limited to)**

- Greening the City – specifically more green roofs and other types of green infrastructure
- Walkability, complete streets, trails, active transportation
- Review of existing tree cutting bylaw
- Pollution issues, cancer causing environmental issues
- Right to Know by-law
- Parkway natural areas
- Know Your City tour
- Information sharing about what other municipalities are doing
- Invasive species control
- Youth engagement
- Anti-Idling

**Current List of Subcommittees**

1. Air
2. Environmentally Sensitive Lands and Issues



# News Release

## Ontario Releases New Climate Change Action Plan

### Plan Charts Course to an Innovative, Low-Carbon Economy

June 8, 2016 9:00 A.M.

Office of the Premier

Ontario is continuing to lead in the growth of the low-carbon economy with the release of the province's Climate Change Action Plan, which will provide people and businesses with tools and incentives to accelerate the use of clean technology that exists today. Through this plan, the province will continue to reduce greenhouse gas pollution to fight climate change.

Building on Ontario's landmark climate change legislation, the plan will ensure that proceeds from the province's recently finalized cap and trade program are invested in a transparent and accountable way back into green projects that will help households and businesses reduce greenhouse gas pollution and save on their energy costs.

The plan outlines the key actions the government will take to combat climate change, create good jobs in clean tech and construction, increase consumer choice and generate opportunities for investment in Ontario, including:

- Establishing a green bank that would help homeowners and businesses access and finance energy-efficient technologies to reduce greenhouse gas pollution from buildings.
- Creating a cleaner transportation system by addressing greenhouse gas pollution from cars on the road today, increasing the availability of zero-emission vehicles on the road tomorrow, deploying cleaner trucks and making transit more available.
- Halting the ongoing rise in building-related emissions by giving Ontarians more choices, incentives and tools to make the right energy choice for their homes and businesses, by providing better information about energy use by buildings and homes, and making new buildings increasingly energy efficient over time.
- Making Ontario one of the easiest and most affordable jurisdictions in North America for homeowners and businesses to install or retrofit clean-energy systems like solar, battery storage, advanced insulation and heat pumps, while helping to protect and support low-income households, vulnerable communities and many renters from the cost impacts of carbon pricing.
- Supporting a carbon market that drives the lowest-cost greenhouse gas emission reductions. Actions in this plan, supported by cap and trade proceeds, will help business and industry make investments that reduce greenhouse gas pollution. This will help save energy costs, improve productivity and global competitiveness, and protect and create jobs.
- Working in partnership with First Nations and Métis communities to address climate change, with actions guided by Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and helping to build capacity in these communities to participate in the economic opportunities that may arise from these actions.

- Building on progress, leading by example and acting on opportunities to make government operations carbon neutral. Ontario will achieve this by reducing greenhouse gas pollution across our facilities, operations and procurement.
- Ensuring that natural, agricultural and forested lands are used in ways that are efficient, sustainable and enhance the removal and storage of carbon from the atmosphere while working with Ontario's waste sector to leverage different practices and technologies to capture greenhouse gas pollution that would otherwise be released into the air.

The Climate Change Action Plan and cap and trade program form the backbone of Ontario's strategy to cut greenhouse gas pollution to 15 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, 37 per cent by 2030 and 80 per cent by 2050. The government will report on the plan's implementation annually and renew the plan every five years.

The Climate Change Action Plan builds on Ontario's leadership in the fight against climate change, including setting a 2030 mid-term target for greenhouse gas pollution reduction, hosting the successful Climate Summit of the Americas in July 2015, ending coal-fired electricity generation, and electrifying and improving Ontario's commuter rail network.

Fighting climate change while supporting growth, efficiency and productivity is part of the government's economic plan to build Ontario up and deliver on its number-one priority to grow the economy and create jobs. The four-part plan includes investing in talent and skills, including helping more people get and create the jobs of the future by expanding access to high-quality college and university education. The plan is making the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history and investing in a low-carbon economy driven by innovative, high-growth, export-oriented businesses. The plan is also helping working Ontarians achieve a more secure retirement.

## Quick Facts

- Ontario expects to generate up to \$1.8 billion to \$1.9 billion per year in proceeds from its cap and trade program, which will be deposited into a new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account.
- Every dollar in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account will be responsibly and transparently invested into actions that directly reduce greenhouse gas pollution, create jobs, and help people and businesses shift to a low-carbon economy.
- Ontario intends to link its cap and trade program with Québec and California's under the Western Climate Initiative.
- Ontario's environmental and clean technology sector is made up of 3,000 firms, employs 65,000 people, and is worth an estimated \$8 billion in annual revenues and \$1 billion in export earnings.

## News Release

# Ontario Passes Landmark Climate Change Legislation

## Province Building Innovative And Low-Carbon Economy

May 18, 2016 11:45 A.M.

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

Today, Ontario passed landmark climate change legislation that lays a foundation for the province to join the biggest carbon market in North America and ensures that the province is accountable for responsibly and transparently investing proceeds from the cap and trade program into actions that reduce greenhouse gas pollution, create jobs and help people and businesses shift to a low-carbon economy.

Under the Climate Change Mitigation and Low-Carbon Economy Act, money raised from Ontario's cap and trade program will be deposited into a new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account. The account will invest every dollar in green projects and initiatives that reduce emissions.

Following extensive consultation with industry and other groups, the legislation was strengthened by now requiring enhanced accountability and public reporting on the province's upcoming Climate Change Action Plan and investment of cap and trade proceeds.

Ontario will post its final cap and trade regulation upon royal assent of the legislation. The regulation covers detailed rules and obligations for businesses participating in the program. The final design was also informed by extensive consultation with businesses, industry, the public, environmental organizations and Indigenous communities.

Climate change is not a distant threat - it is already costing the people of Ontario. It has damaged our environment, caused extreme weather like floods and droughts, and hurt our ability to grow food in some regions. Over the near term, climate change will increase the cost of food and insurance rates, harm wildlife and nature, and eventually make the world inhospitable for our children and grandchildren.

Fighting climate change while supporting growth, efficiency and productivity is part of the government's economic plan to build Ontario up and deliver on its number-one priority to grow the economy and create jobs. The four-part plan includes investing in talent and skills, including helping more people get and create the jobs of the future by expanding access to high-quality college and university education. The plan is making the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history and investing in a low-carbon economy driven by innovative, high-growth, export-oriented businesses. The plan is also helping working Ontarians achieve a more secure retirement.



## **Quick Facts**

- Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan is the next step in Ontario's ongoing fight against climate change and is expected to be released in spring 2016. The plan will describe actions that will help more Ontario households and businesses to adopt low- and no-carbon energy in homes, vehicles and workplaces.
- Ontario's \$325-million Green Investment Fund, a down payment on the province's cap and trade program, is already strengthening the economy, creating good jobs and driving innovation while fighting climate change — a strong signal of what Ontarians can expect from proceeds of the province's cap and trade program. These investments will help secure a healthy, clean and prosperous low-carbon future and transform the way we live, move and work while ensuring strong, sustainable communities.
- The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account will receive proceeds from auctioning allowances under Ontario's cap and trade program. The first auction will be held in March 2017.
- Ontario intends to link its cap and trade program with Quebec and California.

## **Additional Resources**

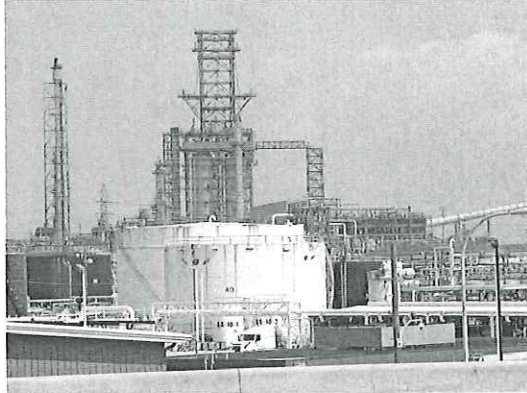
- Ontario's Climate Change Strategy
- Learn How Cap and Trade Works
- Green Investment Fund

## **Quotes**

“Passing the Climate Change Mitigation and Low-Carbon Economy Act marks the start of the next chapter in Ontario's transformation to an innovative and prosperous low-carbon economy — one that will benefit households, businesses, industry and communities across the province. This legislation is about enshrining in law our resolve and action to protect and strengthen our environment for generations to come.”

Glen R. Murray  
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

# Marathon says it'll cut emissions after backlash



[Christine Ferretti](#), The Detroit News 7:08 a.m. EDT  
March 29, 2016

Marathon refinery in southwest Detroit. (Photo: Clarence Tabb, Jr. / Detroit News file)

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*Detroit* — Marathon Petroleum Co. is retooling an emissions request for its southwest Detroit refinery, promising a lower level of pollutants and spending \$10 million to achieve it, the city's administration says.

The company on Monday was preparing to submit its amended request to state environmental regulators after public meetings in which residents, civic leaders and activists lobbied against the refinery's attempt to gain approvals to release more sulfur dioxide and other pollutants into the air.

Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, executive director of the city's health department, said Monday he's proud of the company for working with the city and hearing out community concerns.

"This is an important step," said El-Sayed, who'd been an outspoken opponent of Marathon's request to increase emissions, which he argued would "set a dangerous precedent."

El-Sayed said with the amendments, Marathon will commit to a 20 percent reduction in its permitted emission levels of sulfur dioxide. Marathon's permitted sulfur dioxide emissions levels are just under 400 tons per year. With the 20 percent reduction, it would reduce that level to about 320 tons per year.

The refinery has emitted well under that cap in recent years. In 2015, it emitted 189 tons for the full year. In 2014, it emitted 211 tons and 265 tons in 2013, data show.

City health officials met informally last week with members of the community around the refinery. On Monday evening, officials convened a separate gathering with the community members most affected.

"This is a proposed plan. The mayor is ready to sign off when he sees this all in writing," El-Sayed said.

Jamal Kheiry, spokesman for Marathon, said Monday the company “heard very clearly” from civic leaders and the community that they wanted to see no increase in emissions.

He said Marathon has worked with the city to revise the permit request. He declined to provide specifics on the plan, stressing it hasn’t yet been filed with the Department of Environmental Quality.

Company officials previously argued the permit was needed since they need to install new technology to meet new federal cleaner fuel standards. Release levels, they said, would have remained below what is permitted by law.

But residents, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and others weren’t convinced Marathon or the MDEQ had their best interest at heart. Some residents have complained for years of odors and illnesses they attribute to Marathon’s plant, and the potential of the permit approval had the city’s administration threatening legal action.

Opponents, including Duggan and El-Sayed, spoke out during a January meeting with the MDEQ that was requested by the Detroit City Council. Prior to that, a separate January meeting over Marathon’s request drew hundreds of residents and others affected by the plant.

“We’re happy that Marathon has reconsidered,” El-Sayed said. “This is a great nod to the people in the neighborhood. We think this plan is a good plan.”

Marathon, in a fact sheet on its website, notes the refinery’s emissions account for less than 3 percent of emissions from industry in a two-mile radius of the facility. Additionally, the refinery has reduced its emissions by more than 70 percent since 1999, it says.

“Even though we are a very small fraction of the emissions in our immediate area compared to other industries, the fact is that folks don’t want to see any additional emissions,” Kheiry said Monday. “We are amending our permit application with the MDEQ. The net result is going to be a zero increase in sulfur dioxide emissions.”

The EPA’s new fuel standards, scheduled to take effect next year, mandate lower sulfur gasoline. But to meet those requirements, Marathon must install new equipment to more fully process the crude oil, which in turn releases a bit more sulfur dioxide into the environment.

The initial request, if approved, would have allowed emissions to be 22 tons per year over the refinery’s current levels. But Kheiry said that calculation was based on the assumption of running new units at maximum capacity all the time. Therefore, it’s not a realistic estimate of what the emissions would be, he said.

In February, residents in the area near the refinery filed a federal class action lawsuit against Marathon alleging they’ve been exposed to unreasonable noise, odors and fumes, and that refinery contaminants have been linked to asthma, cancer and other diseases.



The suit is seeking damages in excess of \$5 million, an injunction that would require Marathon to halt the release of refinery contaminants into the area and to implement noise and odor abatement protocols.

State Rep. Fred Durhal III, D-Detroit, said he and others wanted to see major changes in emissions. While knocking on doors for his candidacy, Durhal noted oxygen tanks and folks with health woes were prevalent.

“It breaks your heart,” he said, adding Marathon has been willing to listen to leaders and make changes. “Clean air is a right and we owe it to the folks of that community to make sure it happens.”

State Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit, added she’s encouraged by the changes she’s heard about, but hasn’t seen the written plans.

“My concern is still that we need to be doing a look at the overall emissions, not just with Marathon, but all of the polluting companies,” she said.

In a November letter to Marathon, state officials indicated they plan to approve the permit, writing: “(DEQ’s) Air Quality Division has evaluated these proposals and made a preliminary determination that they will not violate (DEQ) rules or National Ambient Air Quality Standards.”

The DEQ is reviewing residents’ comments related to Marathon’s permit request. No time frame has been set for a decision, officials said Monday.

Detroit has a 50 percent higher rate of asthma than the rest of the state and El-Sayed has said the city’s 48217 ZIP code is the most polluted in Michigan.

“The mayor and I are continually concerned about the health challenges in this highly industrial neighborhood,” he said. “This is a step in the right direction.”

March 2, 2016

Michael Goffin  
Regional Director General  
Ontario Region  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
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77 West Jackson Boulevard  
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*Transmission: by email*

**Re: Nomination of Radionuclides as a Chemical of Mutual Concern  
under the GLWQA**

Dear Great Lakes Executive Committee Co-Chairs:

The undersigned 110 environmental, health and other advocacy groups urge the Canadian and U.S. federal governments to jointly designate radionuclides as Chemicals of Mutual Concern according to their responsibility in Annex 3, Part B, Sec. 2 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement 2012.

This recommendation is based on our following findings:

- Radionuclides can have very serious immediate, long-term and intergenerational effects on human and non-human health;
- There is no level of radionuclides below which exposure can be defined as "safe;" therefore, very low levels of exposure can be significant;
- The inevitable exposure to naturally occurring radiation means that we should be even more cautious about avoiding additional body burdens resulting from exposure to radionuclides as a result of human activities over which we can have more control;
- There is a uniquely large number of facilities in the Great Lakes Basin containing, using, storing, and disposing of radionuclides for power generation purposes near the shores of the Great Lakes, and there are proposals for additional ones; for example, as of May 2013, there were 38 operating nuclear power reactors and 12 closed reactors located in the Basin (See attached map);
- The large number of facilities around the Great Lakes Basin, usually near the shoreline, result in on-going regular discharges into the lakes as well as a high probability of accidents that release higher amounts of radionuclides.
- This large number of facilities near the shores of the Great Lakes means a high likelihood of radioactive materials being transported on the lakes or across the rivers that connect the Great Lakes, with the potential for spills during transportation, as well as during loading and unloading;

- The Great Lakes have characteristics that make them particularly susceptible to persistent toxic substances. As some radionuclides persist for extremely long periods of time, this means that the protective measures will need to be different in the Great Lakes than in an ecosystem with different characteristics; and,
- There are substantial well-documented scientific, medical and public concerns about the threats posed by radionuclides in the Great Lakes Basin.

The attached document prepared for the Canadian Environmental Law Association presents evidence to support each of the findings we just listed.<sup>1</sup>

In 1997, the IJC's Nuclear Task Force reported that the data currently available on releases and presence of radionuclides in the Great Lakes ecosystem are inadequate to gain an understanding of the sources and of the impacts of radionuclides on the ecosystem. Unfortunately that situation has not changed in the almost two decades that have passed since that finding.

The lack of data should not be seen by the governments as a reason to not now designate radionuclides as a Chemical of Mutual Concern. It is clear from Annex 3, Part C. Science of the GLWQA that a prime purpose in a designation is to put a focus on obtaining the data and understandings needed. For example item 1 in part C lists the following commitment: "identifying and assessing the occurrence, sources, transport and impact of chemicals of mutual concern, including spatial and temporal trends in the atmosphere, in aquatic biota, wildlife, water and sediments."

Given that radionuclides are persistent toxic substances, given a situation where there is a substantial number of facilities that are a source of radionuclides to the Lakes, and given the relatively closed characteristics of the Great Lakes system, which means that radionuclides build up in the system, it is essential to designate radionuclides as a Chemical of Mutual Concern so that the data and science needed will be generated and so that preventive actions can be taken to protect the Lakes from threats from radionuclides.

In determining whether to make the designation, the Parties should be guided by the Principles and Approaches section in the GLWQA [Article 2, part 4], which calls for "prevention," "precaution," "anti-degradation," "ecosystem approach." All of these principles point to the requirement for a radionuclides designation.

In the consideration of radionuclides as a Chemical of Mutual Concern and in the development of a binational strategy once the designation has occurred, the Parties should ensure full opportunities for public engagement.

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<sup>1</sup> Canadian Environmental Law Association, Radionuclides as a Chemical of Mutual Concern, February 2016.



We the undersigned groups look forward to working with you in the development and implementation of a binational strategy for radionuclides - a Chemical of Mutual Concern.

### **Signatory Organizations:**

Action cancer du sein du Québec/Breast Cancer Action Québec [Québec], Jennifer Beeman, Directrice générale (Jennifer.Beeman@acsqc.ca, 514-483-1846)

Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE) [New York], Andra Leimanis, Organizer (info@allianceforagreenecconomy.org, 315-480-1515)

Alliance for the Great Lakes [Illinois]; Olga Lyandres, Research Manager (olyandres@greatlakes.org, 312-445-9749)

Alliance to Halt Fermi 3 [Michigan], Ethyl Rivera, Co-Chair (erivera1446@comcast.net, 248-464-2689); Carol Izant (cogknot@yahoo.com)

Benedictine Sisters of Erie PA [Pennsylvania], Pat Lupo, OSB (plupo@neighborhoodarthouse.org, 814-490-3108)

Beyond Nuclear [Maryland], Kevin Kamps, Radioactive Waste Watchdog (kevin@beyondnuclear.org, 240-462-3216)

Bluewater Coalition Against the DGRs [Ontario], Ellen Dailey, Spokesperson (edailey@mac.com, 814-881-5103)

Boston Downwinders [Massachusetts], Guntram Mueller (guntrammuel1@gmail.com, 617-969-2150)

Breast Cancer Action Manitoba [Manitoba], Louise Schoenherr, President (kschoenh@mymts.net, 204-257-2649)

Bruce Peninsula Environment Group [Ontario], Ziggy Kleinau, Outreach Director (ziggyk38@gmail.com)

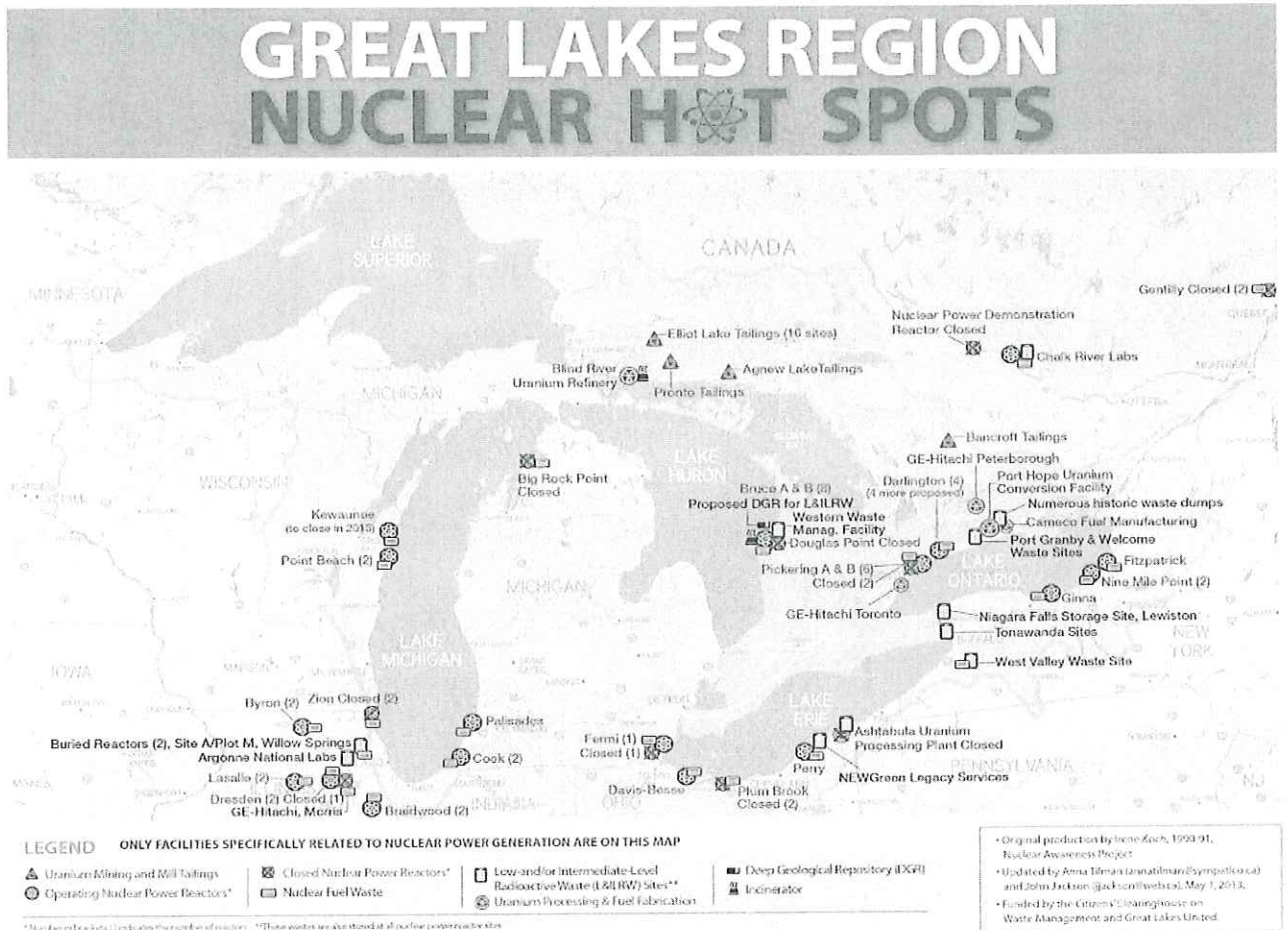
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment [Ontario], Cathy Vakil, (cathyvakil@gmail.com, 416-306-2273)

Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility [Québec], Gordon Edwards, President, (ccnr@web.ca, 514-489-5118)

Signature pages 4-10 omitted for sake of brevity. 110 organizations and three individuals attached as undersigned, seen here:

<http://www.cela.ca/sites/cela.ca/files/NGO-Letter-radionuclides-nomination.pdf>

## Facilities Related to Nuclear Power in the Great Lakes Basin<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Map outlines facilities that were present or proposed as of April 2013.

# WINDSOR/ESSEX COUNTY TO HOST 2016 AMO CONFERENCE

03/30/2012

TORONTO, ON, March 30, 2012. AMO President Gary McNamara today announced on behalf of the Board of Directors that the City of Windsor and the County of Essex have been chosen to jointly host the 2016 AMO Conference.

"Hosting the 2016 AMO Conference will provide a significant economic boost to Windsor and Essex County," said AMO President Gary McNamara. "Windsor hosted the AMO Conference in 2010 and it was a success. The City has the hotel and meeting facilities needed to host a conference of this size and we look forward to returning in 2016."

"I am excited to see AMO delegates descend once again upon Windsor," said Mayor Eddie Francis. "With the third largest convention centre in Ontario, Windsor is able to host large-scale events like the 2016 AMO Conference which will provide a welcome economic boost for the City of Windsor and County of Essex."

"The County of Essex is gratified that AMO has once again expressed their confidence in our capabilities of jointly hosting their annual conference with the City of Windsor. Delegates and their companions will be warmly welcomed and treated to the very best attractions and amenities our region has to offer," remarked Warden Tom Bain at his annual State of the County Address on March 29th, 2012.

The Conference is expected to inject approximately \$3 million into the City of Windsor and County of Essex's local economy. Windsor/Essex was selected based on a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

The annual AMO Conference, held in August each year, is Ontario's foremost educational forum for municipal governments. The 2011 conference attracted 2,500 participants including more than 1,600 municipal delegates, Ontario's Premier and both opposition leaders, most of the Ontario Government's Cabinet and federal government ministers. Typically, the conference features close to 50 plenary sessions and workshops, a trade show and more than 75 speakers that address public priorities, municipal management and the delivery of government programs and services.

The locations of the 2014, 2015 and 2017 AMO Conference were also decided by a competitive RFP process:

- City of London/County of Middlesex, 2014
- City of Niagara Falls, 2015
- City of Ottawa, 2017

The 2012 and 2013 AMO Conference will be held in the City of Ottawa.

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario and Canada's political system.



# Windsor-Essex getting four new electric vehicle charging stations

CTV Windsor

Published Wednesday, July 13, 2016 10:44AM EDT

Last Updated Wednesday, July 13, 2016 11:10AM EDT

Windsor-Essex is getting four electric vehicle charging stations as part of nearly 500 locations announced across the province, with hopes they will encourage more residents to use electric vehicles.

The new locations in Windsor and Essex County are:

- Windsor: Tim Horton's - 80 Park St. East
- Leamington: McDonald's - 214 Talbot St.
- Essex: Essex Centre Sports Complex - 60 Fairview Ave. West
- Colechester Harbour - 100 Jackson St.

The Chatham-Kent area is getting three charging stations:

- McDonald's - 710 Richmond St.
- Tim Horton's - 33 3rd St.
- Wallaceburg - Tim Horton's - 848 Dufferin Ave.

The provincial government says the network of public stations will help address "range anxiety" among electric car drivers who may be concerned about the distance their vehicles can travel compared to traditional vehicles.

The full network of stations will allow electric vehicles to travel from Windsor to Ottawa, or from Toronto to North Bay, Ont., as well as in and around major urban centres.

The stations -- which will be placed at more than 250 locations including highways, workplaces and public spaces -- are all expected to be in service by the end of March next year.

The government says the \$20 million investment in the charging stations comes from Ontario's \$325 million Green Investment Fund, which supports projects that fight climate change.

The province provides up to \$14,000 in incentives for electric vehicle buyers as it aims for electric cars to make up five per cent of new vehicle sales by 2020. It says there are nearly 7,000 electric vehicles currently on the roads in Ontario.

"By investing in charging infrastructure that is fast, reliable and affordable, we will encourage more Ontarians to purchase electric vehicles, reducing greenhouse gas pollution and keeping our air clean," said Steven Del Duca, Ontario's minister of transportation.

Ontario's announcement on Wednesday comes after Quebec announced last month that it will greatly increase the number of fast-charge stations for electric vehicles along one of the province's busiest highways.

Electric cars are still a niche market, with less than one per cent of global auto sales. More than 21,000 plug-in electric vehicles have been sold in Canada since 2011.

The plug-in hybrid Chevy Volt leads, followed by the all-electric Tesla Model S and Nissan Leaf. Together they account for almost 70 per cent of sales.

Widespread adoption of electric vehicles has been hampered by consumer concern over the availability of charging stations, the time required to charge electric vehicle batteries and the distance that can be travelled between charging sessions.

The typical Canadian urban commute, however, is far shorter than the travelling range of many of today's plug-in vehicles.