



AGENDA
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on Thursday, May 2, 2013
Meeting at 5:30p.m. At LOU ROMANO WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT**

4. **PRESENTATION**

4.1 Prestige LED Lighting – Energy conservation possibilities through LED lights

5. **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held April 4th, 2013 – *emailed separately.*

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

6.1 Letter submitted to the Environmental Registry in response to Coco's Big Box development application to the Ministry of Natural Resources - *attached.*

6.2 Green Speaker Series Update – Dan Burden

7. **COORDINATORS REPORT**

WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report – *attached.*

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

8.1 Air – *attached.*

8.2 Transportation

8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

8.4 Water Quality

8.5 Surplus Parks Strategy

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Notice of Motion regarding Dr. David Suzuki sponsorship for \$1,000 as part of the Green Speaker Series

9.2 Pat on the Back Awards

9.3 Eliquid Media Domain Renewal invoice for \$84.75 – *attached.*

9.4 Strategic Plan review – *attached.*

9.5 Windsor Air Quality Index comparison – *attached.*

9.5 Possible representation from non-smoking group

10. **COMMUNICATIONS**

10.1 The Plugged In World Needs to Unplug – The Windsor Star April 20th 2013 – *attached.*

10.2 Clean Sweep crew kicks litter's butt – The Windsor Star April 12th 2013 – *attached.*

10.3 Mad about your hydro bill? Blame nuclear and gas plants – The Toronto Star April 18th 2013 - *attached.*

10.4 Spring and litter editorial – The Windsor Star April 12th 2013 – *attached.*

10.5 Planning Standing Committee Agenda Item – Development Applications – *attached.*

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be June 6, 2013 at Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Windsor Essex County Environment Committee
4155 Ojibway Parkway
Windsor, Ontario N9C 4A5

Aylmer District Species at Risk Biologist
Ministry of Natural Resources
Regional Operations Division
Southern Region, Aylmer District
615 John Street North
Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2S8

Monday, April 8th, 2013

Re: EBR# 011-8520 Permit for activities with conditions to achieve overall benefit to the species – ESA s.17(2)(c)

Dear Species at Risk Biologist, Aylmer Division:

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee disagrees with Coco Paving Inc.'s proposal for a permit as an overall benefit under clause 17(2)(c) of the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA) that it will: i) benefit the endangered species, ii) will not adversely affect the species, and iii) they have taken reasonable steps to minimize adverse effects on individual species.

Our discrepancies with this permit application are as follows:

- The application only considers impacts of species at risk on Coco Paving's lands and not others found on the Ojibway Prairie Complex.
- The application does not consider the large host of Tallgrass Prairie plants and habitat found on site and not found on the species at risk list. The Ojibway Nature Complex is home to 90,000 species and this type of ecosystem is one of a kind in Canada.
- The Ojibway Prairie ecosystem is already under stress from existing Permits under clause 17(2)(d) of the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA) for the construction of the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway and International Border Crossing. This permit alone impacted over 90 000 endangered and threatened Tallgrass Prairie species. Accordingly, the Coco submission cannot be considered in isolation of other developments that are threatening this vital ecosystem; nor can it be considered in isolation of its impact on the larger Ojibway Prairie ecosystem which surrounds it. If we continue to allow permits within this ecosystem, we will no longer have it to protect.
- Our community does not need this development. The City of Windsor's Official Plan 2010 review states there is "enough retail commercial space to meet demand through 2031".
- Paving over and building on most of its 37 acre site will deprive the underlying soil of storm water run-off to replenish the water table which sustains the life of the Ojibway Prairie Complex. Ojibway is located in a vast bowl of poorly drained sandy soil over a thick bed of clay. The sand is saturated with water in spring but very dry in mid-summer. These conditions are essential to the continued functioning of the Ojibway Prairie ecosystem.
- There are three estimated major impacts to the Butler's Gartersnake and Eastern Foxsnake from the proposed project activities: 1) loss of habitat, 2) loss of landscape connectivity and 3) increased incidence

of road mortality. Although we feel that project impacts in terms of loss of habitat may be adequately addressed via proposed mitigation (e.g., creation of prime habitat features and the conversion of the existing racetrack to prairie habitat), the latter two impacts, loss of habitat connectivity and increase in road mortality, have not been adequately addressed.

- The proposed development project, if approved, would result in an overall decrease in landscape connectivity and an increase in road mortality to the Butler's Gartersnake and Eastern Foxsnake species. Furthermore, these activities are in direct contravention of the Government of Ontario's stated recovery priorities for the Eastern Foxsnake (OMNR 2011). The proposed permit conditions WILL NOT provide benefits that exceed the adverse effects on Eastern Foxsnake and Butler's Gartersnake. An overall benefit for the Eastern Foxsnake and Butler's Gartersnake would not be achieved under the currently proposed 17 (2) (c) permit stipulations.

In conclusion, the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee has determined that Coco Paving Inc. has not met the requirements for an overall benefit permit under clause 17(2)(c) of the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA), which are: avoidance and reasonable alternatives have been considered; adverse effects will be minimized; and an overall benefit will be achieved for the species in Ontario. Therefore we encourage the Ministry of the Environment to deny their application for permit at this time.

Sincerely,

Councillor Alan Halberstadt

Co-chair, WECEC

Deputy Mayor Charlie Wright

Co-chair, WECEC

CC:

Honourable David Oraziatti
Minister of Natural Resources
Suite 6630, 6th Floor, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3
E-mail: minister.mnr@ontario.ca

Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
1075 Bay Street, Suite 605
Toronto, ON M5S 2B1, Canada

E-mail: commissioner@eco.on.ca



– APRIL 2013 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Renewable Energy Media Campaign with Generator Design

This campaign has been successfully launched. A press conference was held on Friday, April 19th at St. Clair's Centre for Construction Innovation and Production and included a tour of the facility. Media coverage was obtained from Blackburn radio, AM800 and The Windsor Star.

Campaign advertisements were placed in the County papers and Windsor Star online. WECEC and our partners participated in an Expert on Call session April 7th, and have another session on April 27th. WECEC participated in the Windsor Home Show (April 5th-7th) to promote the committee and this campaign.

2. Trip to the Detroit Wildlife Reserve

The tour of the Detroit Wildlife Reserve will happen in the morning on Friday June 14th. Invitations to attend the tour will be sent out to environmental groups, City of Windsor staff, City and County Councillors as well as the media. Please confirm with Averil if you would like to attend the tour. A bus will likely have to be rented from Transit Windsor for the trip.

3. Earth Day

WECEC will participate in the Windsor Essex Earth Day celebrations by having a booth at the event on Sunday April 28th at Malden Park from 10am until 3pm. We will be distributing our brochure, customized pens and magnets, as well as our Energy Conservation Campaign information. Drop by and say hi! If you would like to volunteer at the WECEC booth please let Averil know.

4. Green Speaker Series

a) Dan Burden – Walkable and Livable Communities Institute

Through the support of various organizations WECEC is able to bring Dan Burden to Windsor as one of our Green Speakers. The date of the event will be Friday, June 7th.

Dan's speaker fee and expenses is estimated to total \$6,000. We have received the following support from multiple partners:

WECEC - \$1,000
City of Windsor, Environmental Master Plan - \$1,000
City of Windsor, Planning Department - \$1,000
Walkerville BIA - \$1,000
Wyandotte BIA - \$1,000
St. Clair Society of Architects - \$1,000

WECEC will begin planning the event which will include a presentation and workshops as well as walking audits of the Walkerville and Wyandotte BIA areas.

b) Dr. David Suzuki

WECEC was approached by Canvas Campus for a donation to support bringing Dr. David Suzuki to Windsor to present to school children at the WFCU on April 25th. Due to the urgent time frame, an email poll was conducted asking committee members to agree to contribute \$1,000 from the Green Speaker Series budget towards this cause. This carried.

5. Water Quality Subcommittee

The subcommittee continues to work on educating residents about the harm phosphorous is causing to our lakes and rivers and plans to begin a community phosphorous campaign. This would build on the blue green algae video by educating residents about how to read product labels such as fertilizer and laundry soap and compare the phosphorous content for various products. The group has talked of getting permission to use phosphorous free lawn signs on city parks as well as handing them out to homeowners to encourage and educate others. Another short video about how to read labels and make informed decisions would be of great benefit to this upcoming campaign.

6. Surplus Parks Strategy

A Council report recommending the development of Long Park was approved at the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee on March 20th. This report will likely go before City Council in April. The recommendation suggests the construction of the new St. Bernard School as well as the development of 38 residential building lots. Loss of playground equipment will be compensated for by an expansion of playground equipment at Ford Test Track.

7. Rose City Clean Sweep Kick Off

WECEC partnered with the City of Windsor and the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association to organize a successful kick-off event for the City's Rose City Clean Sweep campaign. Over 40 participants met on Maiden Lane West on Friday April 5th to help pick up litter around the downtown. There was significant involvement from the media, including a write-up in the Windsor Star.

8. WECEC Budget – Summary

2013 Budget			
Expense	Credit	Expenditure	Spent
2012 Budget	\$8,300.00		
Website domain renewal		\$76.27	Yes
Website hosting fee		\$500.00	
Pat on the Back		\$2,500.00	
Earth Day		\$40.00	Yes
Green Speaker D. Suzuki		\$1,000.00	Yes
Green Speaker D. Burden		\$1,000.00	Yes
Green Speaker 3		\$1,000.00	
WQ video		\$500.00	
Wildlife tour		\$500.00	
Promotional Items		\$348.00	Yes
Conservation Campaign		\$596.00	Yes
Totals	\$8,300.00	\$8,060.27	
TOTAL REMAINING		\$239.73	

WECEC Air Quality Subcommittee – May 2013

1. Most recent provincial, annual air quality report has been published: *Air Quality in Ontario 2011 Report*

“This annual report, the 41st in a series, summarizes the state of ambient air quality in Ontario during 2011 and examines 10-year trends. It reports on the measured levels of six common air pollutants: ground-level ozone (O₃), fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and total reduced sulphur (TRS) compounds. The report also summarizes the results from the Air Quality Index (AQI) and Smog Alert programs.”

We will review for relevant local data and trends.

2. Canada’s latest annual inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions was released in March/April. It showed an overall increase in emissions of 0.14 percent to about 702 million tons.
One key takeaway from the report is the levels remain about five per cent below 2005 levels, due to structural changes in the Canadian economy that is moving from producing goods to providing services, as well as some federal and provincial policies, according to the report. The government’s target is to lower annual emissions by 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020. However, another Environment Canada report, published last August estimated that Canada was on pace to be approximately 20 percent above that target in 2020. The main reason for this is the tarsands which continue to rise at a pace that exceeds the reductions in other sectors, from 15 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent gases in 1990 to 55 million tonnes in 2011.
The report also noted that Canada had the largest growth in emissions among G8 countries over the past two decades. It is also among the top sources of greenhouse gases in the world, representing about two per cent of global emissions, and one of the highest sources of greenhouse gases per person.
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/ges-ghg/default.asp?lang=En&n=83A34A7A-1>
3. DEQ’s report on the Detroit River storage of petcoke has been published. We will review it and provide recommendations for potential progress or resolution.

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INVOICE

12370
GST #: 896239019

Issued: 2013-04-16

Windsor Essex County Environment Committee

Attn: Accounts Payable
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 Domain Renewal for: wecec.org	1	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
		Subtotal:	\$ 75.00
		HST13:	\$ 9.75
		INVOICE TOTAL:	\$ 84.75
		Payments and/or Adjustments:	\$ 0.00
		BALANCE DUE:	\$ 84.75

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.



Strategic Action Plan 2012

Strategic Direction #1 – Profile of WECEC			
GOALS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TIME FRAME
<u>Goal:</u> Improve the relationships with City and County Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare an annual report of accomplishments and present to City and County Councils 	Coordinator	Yearly
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meet with each county municipality to identify potential environmental concerns to bring forward to WECEC 	Coordinator	Yearly
<u>Goal:</u> Improve relationships with other organizations, committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hold at minimum one meeting a year with other environmental organizations, committees to share information and to, 	Coordinator and WECEC	Yearly
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify opportunities for partnering on community education/public awareness 	Coordinator and WECEC	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include standing item on agenda for other organizations/committee reports 	Coordinator/Recording Secretary	Monthly
Strategic Direction #2 – Proactive policy development			
GOALS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TIME FRAME
<u>Goal:</u> develop policy statements that reflect current state of environmental issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ bring forward existing policy statements for review and updating (if necessary) 	Coordinator	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ identify emerging trends regarding the environment and develop policy statements to reflect these trends 	Coordinator and WECEC	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ distribute policy statements to City and County Councils 	Coordinator	Ongoing
Strategic Direction #3 – Committee operations			

GOALS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TIME FRAME
<p>Goal: Ensure performance objectives of the Coordinator are met</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop annual work plan ▪ Develop performance evaluation tool ▪ Conduct performance evaluation on an annual basis 	<p>Coordinator WECEC WECEC</p>	
Strategic Direction #4 - Public engagement			
GOALS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TIME FRAME
<p>Goal: Increase awareness of WECEC by the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ distribute advanced agenda for WECEC meetings ▪ maintain a website and Facebook page ▪ strategically identify and attend community events ▪ maintain a professional display for participation at community events ▪ develop a communication strategy to regularly highlight the work of the committee 	<p>Coordinator Coordinator Coordinator and WECEC Coordinator Ad-hoc working group</p>	<p>Monthly Monthly Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing</p>
<p>Goal: Increase engagement of public on environmental issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ develop and implement mechanisms for public to be engaged in identifying environmental issues of importance to them ▪ implement delegation policy 	<p>Coordinator Coordinator</p>	<p>Ongoing Ongoing</p>

Air Quality Index Indicator

What Is The Air Quality Index And What Does It Mean?

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is an indicator of outdoor air quality in Ontario. Using a network of 40 state-of-the-art air monitoring stations, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) takes real-time air quality data from the monitoring sites and produces AQI readings for each location. The City of Windsor is currently served by two AQI monitoring stations, one located in west Windsor and one located downtown.



The Air Quality Index (AQI) is based on hourly pollutant measurements of the most common air pollutants: sulphur dioxide (SO₂), ozone (O₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). At the end of each hour, the concentration of each pollutant that the AQI station monitors is converted into a number ranging from zero upwards, using a common scale, or index (like a ruler for measurement). The pollutant with the highest number at a given hour becomes the AQI reading. The lower the AQI reading, the cleaner the air.

- AQI of 15 or below: the air quality is considered very good.
- AQI between 16 and 32: the air quality is considered relatively good.
- AQI between 32 and 49: the air quality is considered moderate. There may be some adverse effects on very sensitive people.
- AQI between 50 and 99: the air quality is considered poor. Some short-term adverse effects on people or animals may be expected, or may cause significant damage to vegetation and property.
- AQI of 100 or more: the air quality is considered very poor. This may cause adverse effects on a large proportion of people.

The MOE publishes the air quality index daily on their Air Quality Ontario website.

The MOE also notifies Ontario residents when poor air quality is expected. If forecasts indicate that the AQI may exceed a reading of 50, over a wide geographic area, the MOE will declare either a "smog watch" (50 percent chance that poor air quality will occur within the next three days) or a "smog advisory" (a high probability that poor air quality will occur within the next 24 hours).

Smog is a form of air pollution. It is a complex mixture of air pollutants that is sometimes visible in the air as a brownish-yellow haze over cities. Smog can be caused by a build-up of either ground-level ozone (O₃) or tiny particles of soot known as particulate matter (PM). Smog can form in almost any climate where industries or cities release large amounts of air pollution. However, it is worse during periods of warmer and sunnier weather.

Year	Downtown Windsor Good or Very Good AQI (# of days)	West Windsor Good or Very Good AQI (# of days)	Smog Advisory for Windsor-Essex (# of days)
2007	274	276	38
2008	276	283	12
2009	308	309	5
2010	274	295	10
2011	283	288	8
2012	271	275	24

What influences our air quality?

Local industrial pollution, electricity generation, home heating, cross-border emissions and emissions from transportation corridors are some of the sources of air pollution in the City.

An inventory of air pollutants compiled in 2006 by Environment Canada indicates the "off-road use of gasoline" is a major source of carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds. For more on this topic visit the [Lawnmowers and Small Gas Engines web page](#).

Transportation-related air quality issues remain paramount in the City of Windsor. In 2010, Windsorites travelled 2,301,173,086 vehicle kilometres.

What is the City of Windsor doing to improve air quality?

- Anti-Idling By-Law #233-2001 to Prohibit Excessive Idling of Vehicles and Boats (see [By-Laws Online](#)) was passed on June 18, 2001. According to this by-law, any person who causes or permits a vehicle or boat to idle more than five minutes in an hour is guilty of an offence.
- The Southwestern Ontario Clean Air Council was developed (the initiating municipalities of London, Woodstock and Windsor) as a collaboration of municipalities and health units focusing on issues surrounding air quality in Southwestern Ontario. The members will share resources, collaborate on regional initiatives and lobby other levels of government on air quality issues. A similar group called the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Clean Air Council was formed 10 years ago with similar objectives. Both Clean Air Councils are administered by the Clean Air Partnership.
- Transit Windsor purchased 18 hybrid buses for 2009/2010 which will reduce the quantity of fuel used by the City and help to improve air quality.
- International Traffic Initiative: City Council continues to strive to address the environmental concerns associated with international traffic.
- Clean Air Day: Transit Windsor participated in Clean Air Day on June 8, 2005 alongside the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) and a number of other government, business and health organizations to encourage Canadians to consider sustainable transportation as their contribution to a healthier environment. Clean Air Day is part of Environment Week (June 1-7); it started some years ago in several Canadian municipalities as a day of grassroots initiatives to get people out of their single-occupant vehicles to walk, bike or ride, as the first step in a commitment to use sustainable transportation and ensure an improved quality of life.

What can you do to help improve Windsor's Air Quality?

At home:

- Reducing your electricity needs will help the Province of Ontario fulfill their promise of closing all coal power plants in Ontario. To learn more on how to reduce your electricity needs see [Goal D: Use Resources Efficiently](#).
- Avoid the use of oil-based paints, paint thinners, or other solvents: use water-based latex paints and primers when redecorating your home.

On the road:

- Take Transit Windsor, walk, and/or ride your bike to your destination.
- Don't be a lead-foot. Hard acceleration and speeding wastes fuel. For highway driving, every 10 km/h above the speed limit increases the amount of gas burned by 10 percent.
- Maintain your car regularly by following your manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule. Poorly tuned engines and loose gas tank caps significantly increase pollution from cars.
- Retire that old beater: newer cars have significantly lower (up to 75 percent lower) tailpipe emissions than older cars. Check out [Car Heaven](#) for incentives.
- Avoid idling. It wastes gas, creates pollution, and causes wear and tear on your engine. Take special precautions on school grounds to protect children from unnecessary air pollution from cars that idle in pick up lines. See the City of Windsor's Anti-Idling By-law at [By-Laws online](#) for more information.
- Avoid the drive-through window. In addition to excessive idling, during peak times with long line-ups, it is often faster to park your car and order your beverage or food over the counter.
- Avoid filling your gas tank during hot summer days and smog advisories. If you must, fill up your tank at night.

In the garden:

- Don't use gasoline-powered lawnmowers or garden tools during hot summer days and smog advisories.
- Replace old gasoline-powered lawnmowers or garden tools, preferably with manual or rechargeable electric power tools – an old lawn mower can emit as much air pollution as 40 new cars running at the same time.
- Avoid applying any pesticides during smog advisories.

The plugged-in world needs to unplug

St. Clair College power engineering student Madan Roy operates the main steam control valve while learning the functions of a steam plant at Centre for Construction Innovation and Production on Friday. Steam power is an energy efficient power generation process and officials were on hand at St. Clair College to bring awareness to energy conservation benefits.

Photograph by: Nick Brancaccio, The Windsor Star , The Windsor Star



Share

Craig Pearson, The Windsor Star | Apr 20, 2013 | Last Updated: Apr 20, 2013 - 8:17 UTC

Our increasingly plugged-in world needs to unplug, according to a new green initiative.

A freshly created campaign dubbed If It's Not In Use, Turn Off the Juice - which launched Friday in Windsor - urges people to turn off appliances when not in use.

"We're so used to plugging in, plugging in, that it becomes second nature," Charlie Wright, deputy mayor of Leamington and co-chair of the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee, said at the energy-saving program launch at St. Clair College.

"We always feel we have to be plugged in to the Internet, to our cellphones.

"Yet it's good to be unplugged sometimes. You can save a lot of money."

Wright said consumers can save 20 per cent in energy expenses by simply turning off appliances and committing to other green initiatives, such as using new LED light bulbs.

"We had become the throwaway society," Wright said. "Then we became the recycling society. Now we're becoming the more efficient society. We're using energy smarter."

Fellow Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee co-chair Alan Halberstadt, a Windsor city councillor, said most people don't realize that simply keeping their TV, computer or coffee maker plugged in drains power and money.

"A lot of people might turn off their lights when they're not in use, but not appliances," Halberstadt said. "But if it's plugged in, you're using power."

If It's Not In Use, Turn Off the Juice is an energy-conservation, public-awareness campaign supported by WECEC, Essex Powerlines, Blue Wilderness Management Group, St. Clair College, WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation and Enwin Utilities.

After the campaign launch, students at St. Clair College showed guests a recent recycling project at the school's Centre for Construction Innovation and Production.

Waseem Habash, St. Clair's associate vice-president of academic operations, said the school already offers three programs centred around energy conservation, and that the campus continues to add more and more courses on the topic.

For instance, students in the power engineering technology lab convert excess steam into condensed air, which has a number of industrial applications.

"Energy conservation is important," Habash said. "Students are learning about greener design and greener construction."

Clean Sweep crew kicks litter's butt



Volunteer Joan Ziriada uses a stick to clean gum from a Maiden Lane grate as Scott McMullan helps out during Rose City Cleanup on downtown streets Friday.

Photograph by: Nick Brancaccio, The Windsor Star , The Windsor Star

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Doug Schmidt, The Windsor Star | Apr 12, 2013 | Last Updated: Apr 12, 2013 - 7:05 UTC

It seemed at times that it was raining butts as smokers strolling down Ouellette Avenue continued casually tossing their spent cigarette stubs at the same time as clean-up volunteers were bowed over sidewalks picking them up.

"This definitely makes one prejudiced against smokers," said Joan Ziriada, one of about 40 volunteers who hit the downtown streets Friday for this year's Rose City Clean Sweep kickoff.

Ziriada, who works at a downtown law firm, said she loves the trees along Maiden Lane, which she traverses several times during each workweek, but she complains that smokers use the large iron grates that surround the trunks as ashtrays.

"They're a great idea, but they're giant butt receptacles," she said of the grates. Taking an early lunch break, Ziriada made bagging those butts her Clean Sweep mission.

When it comes to litter, the downtown's looking "pretty good" compared to in the past, said Ward 4 Coun. Alan Hal-berstadt, but he agreed that "the bad part are the cigarette butts."

Before being dispatched out into the streets and alleys, volunteers, armed with brooms, bags and protective gloves, were warned to avoid druggie needles and anything else deemed too gross or dangerous.

"I think the message this sends is more important than the actual cleanup," Ward 3 Coun. Fulvio Valentinis said of the annual spring ritual.

"I believe the politicians should be setting an example," added Ward 7 Coun. Percy Hatfield, who also participated.

The three city councillors said all Windsorites share in the responsibility of maintaining a clean city and tackling litter. "The image it projects is not a positive one," said Valentinis.

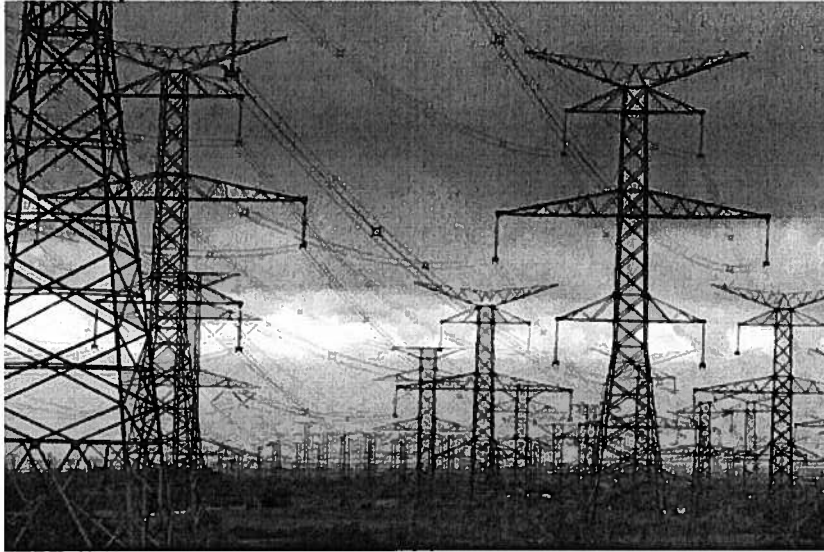
"All neighbourhoods are being encouraged to clean up," said Averil Parent, Windsor's environment and sustainability coordinator.

She said the city is still looking for groups, organizations and individuals to come forward to participate in the month-long Rose City Clean Sweep. To register, call the city's 311 line, or email cleancity@city.windsor.on.ca, or visit online at www.citywindsor.ca.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Mad about your hydro bill? Blame nuclear and gas plants

Payments to nuclear and gas-fired generators are the main ingredients in the largest component on Ontario hydro bills



TARA WALTON / TORONTO STAR

Hydro towers near the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station are seen in this 2011 file photo.

By: John Spears Business reporter, Published on Thu Apr 18 2013

Explore This Story

Payments to nuclear and gas-fired generating plants — not to renewable energy suppliers — are the main ingredients in the biggest component of your hydro bill.

That's the conclusion of a study done for the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), which runs Ontario's power market.

Renewable power has frequently been the whipping boy for hydro price increases, because of the highly visible prices it commands. It's also a political flashpoint: the provincial Progressive Conservatives have presented a bill in the Legislature that would gut the renewable energy policies adopted by the Liberals.

But a study by Navigant Consulting Ltd. shows that payments to nuclear and gas-fired generators are responsible for two-thirds of the "global adjustment" charge, which is the biggest part of the "electricity" line in your hydro bill.

The global adjustment is only visible on the bills of consumers who buy their power from an energy retailer. But it's blended into the regulated price of power as well, and now makes up a far bigger part of a bill than the market price of power.

For example, so far this year, the "electricity" portion of the power bill has averaged just under 8 cents a kilowatt hour (kwh). Most of that — about 5 cents — is the global adjustment, with only about 3 cents coming from the wholesale electricity market. (A bill also includes delivery, regulatory and debt retirement charges, which are separate.)

Ontario residents and businesses paid about \$10 billion for electricity in 2012. That includes both the market price and global adjustment, but not delivery, regulatory and debt charges.

Navigant calculated that the global adjustment for a year was \$6.3 billion, or more than 60 per cent of the total. (Navigant used a slightly different year for its calculations — from October, 2011 to September, 2012 — but the price pattern was reasonably consistent.)

The global adjustment is the cost of paying for electricity that is produced from non-market agreements, including contracts with private generators; the regulated output of Ontario Power Generation; and from other arrangements, such as renewable power contracts.

Those sources now make up the vast bulk of Ontario's power supply.

The market generates only about 3 cents a kilowatt hour for these generators. But since they have contracts guaranteeing prices higher than that, customers have to pay an extra fee — the global adjustment — to make up the revenue.

Just how the global adjustment is calculated is murky to most people. But the Navigant report lays out how the main components stack up.

"Nuclear and natural gas fired generation were the two largest contributors to the global adjustment over the study period," Navigant concluded. Nuclear plants — both the privately operated Bruce Power and the publicly owned Ontario Power Generation — contributed 42 per cent to the global adjustment cost, Navigant found.

Natural gas-fired generators contributed another 26 per cent.

Renewable power — including hydro, wind and solar — accounted for just 17 per cent of the global adjustment, Navigant found.

The remaining 15 per was needed to cover a variety of other costs, including payments to Ontario's soon-to-be-closed coal plants.

The Ontario Conservatives have put most of the blame for power prices on renewables, and proposed a private member's bill that would eliminate the current above-market prices for renewable power.

In a release Thursday, Conservative leader Tim Hudak blamed rising electricity prices on "rich subsidies for costly industrial wind farms we don't need."

The Conservative bill, which would also give municipalities more control over wind farms, was voted down Thursday by the Liberals and NDP.

Spring and litter

Share

The Windsor Star | Apr 12, 2013 | Last Updated: Apr 12, 2013 - 7:05 UTC

Spring is arriving a little late this year, but one thing that's right on schedule is the appearance of litter. Every bit of garbage you can name - cigarette butts, coffee cups, paper bags - seems to show up once the weather begins to change.

And, just in time, the city has launched its annual Rose City Clean Sweep campaign, encouraging citizens to pitch in and do a little tidying up. About 40 community-minded individuals spread out over downtown streets last Friday to kick the program off, and they did a great job.

Clean Sweep is straightforward: Groups and individuals organize teams and undertake cleanup drives around city. They can target sidewalks, vacant lots, school grounds, ditches and alleys. They decide where, when and who will be on their teams. The city provides gloves, bags and collection services. You can start by contacting cleancity@city.windsor.on.ca.

Ideally, everyone would be responsible for depositing their own trash in garbage cans and recycle boxes. Sadly, that just doesn't happen.

So, thanks to all those volunteering their time for going out of their way to help the city look better. Hopefully, their enthusiasm will rub off on others and encourage everyone to keep Windsor free from litter.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA – PLANNING ACT MATTERS

PLANNING STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING – MAY 13, 2013

PSC Meeting
Council Meeting

May 13, 2013
Determined by Clerk's Office

4:30 PM AGENDA

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

1. **City of Windsor – St. Patrick's Woodland Residential – Z-005/13 – (Jim Abbs – Planner III)**

As part of the development of the South Cameron Planning District, the City of Windsor carried out a number of "land swaps" to facilitate the creation of a Community Park/Woodland. Some of the lots identified in this application were the subject of those transfers. The applicant wishes to rezone the lands from the current Green District (GD) 1.4 zone category to the Residential (RD) 1.4 with a Hold provision ensure the following provisions are met:

- 1) All development within the Woodland Residential area shall require site plan approval pursuant to the Planning Act.
- 2) Prior to development approval the owner shall prepare a landscape plan which shall also include the following:
 - i) a plan showing the inventory of existing trees, their location, size, species and condition;
 - ii) the relationship of the trees to all proposed buildings and paved areas;
 - iii) an identification of which trees are to be removed and which are to be retained and maintained;
 - iv) an analysis demonstrating how the long term survival of the retained trees is to be ensured.

The proposed zone category is complies with the provisions of the South Cameron Secondary Plan (Volume II, City of Windsor Official Plan). The subject lands are designated Woodland Residential in that Plan.

2. **Lodging House [tabled] – (Justina Nwaesei – Planner II)**

In Process:

OPA #83 – East Pelton (North Portion)

To Council:

H Removals
Amending Zoning By-Laws

Ongoing:

By-Law 8600 – Comprehensive Zoning By-Law Review

CITY OF WINDSOR

**NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO ZONING BY-LAW 8600**

FILE NUMBER ZNG/3932

TAKE NOTICE that a public meeting will be held to consider a proposed amendment to Zoning By-law 8600:

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 13, 2013 at 4:30 pm

Council Chambers, Third Floor, City Hall, 350 City Hall Square West, Windsor, Ontario

This is the statutory public meeting required by the Planning Act. The purpose of this meeting is to give the public an opportunity to comment, and for the Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee to make recommendation, to Council.

The meeting is open to any person. You will have an opportunity to speak on the proposed amendment. Written comments are also acceptable. Any personal information may become part of the public record.

Schedule 'A' attached provides an explanation of the proposed amendment and a key map showing the location or a description of the lands affected by the amendment or an explanation why no key map or description is provided.

Contact **Jim Abbs** at **519-255-6543 x6317** or **jabbs@city.windsor.on.ca** to receive a copy of the Planning Report, the recommendation of the Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee or to view other information or studies.

To confirm the date, time and location of this meeting, to speak on this matter and be listed as a delegation, or to receive a copy of the Council decision or the amending by-law call **Council Services** at **519-255-6432**.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Windsor before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the City of Windsor to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the City of Windsor before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

This application will be considered by City Council at a future date. All persons interested in attending the Council meeting should check the **Civic Corner** in the **Windsor Star** or the City of Windsor website at **<http://www.citywindsor.ca/000060.asp>** or call **311** for details about the Council Meeting date.

Every land owner in the area to which a by-law if passed applies and every land owner within 120 metres of the lands affected will receive notice of the passing of the by-law except where notification in a newspaper has been approved.

DATED at the City of Windsor April 16, 2013.

Valerie Critchley, City Clerk
Windsor, Ontario

SCHEDULE 'A'

PART 1- An explanation of the proposed zoning and Official Plan Amendments

As part of the development of the South Cameron Planning District, the City of Windsor carried out a number of "land swaps" to facilitate the creation of a Community Park/Woodland. Some of the lots identified in this application were the subject of those transfers. The applicant wishes to rezone the lands from the current Green District (GD) 1.4 zone category to the Residential (RD) 1.4 with a Hold provision ensure the following provisions are met:

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 - iv) an analysis demonstrating how the long term survival of the retained trees is to be ensured.

The proposed zone category is complies with the provisions of the South Cameron Secondary Plan (Volume II, City of Windsor Official Plan). The subject lands are designated Woodland Residential in that Plan.

NOTE: If any additional information is required regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Jim Abbs, Senior Planner (Planning Department) at 519-255-6543, ext. 6317.

PART 2- A key map showing the location of the lands affected by the zoning and Official Plan Amendments



SCHEDULE 'A'

SCALE:1:500

APPLICANT: City of Windsor.



CITY OF WINDSOR



DATE: APRIL, 2013
FILE NO: Z-005/13
MAP NO: 2