



AGENDA
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
held on Thursday, November 1st, 2012
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. **MINUTES**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held September 6th, 2012 – *emailed separately.*

5. **PRESENTATION**

Klaus Dohring – President, Green Sun Rising: Opportunities for the solar industry in Windsor Essex County.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

6.1 City of Windsor Climate Change Adaptation Plan and Urban Heat Island Study – results from the Standing Committee meeting October 24th

6.2 Provincial urban forest policy recommendation – *attached.*

7. **COORDINATORS REPORT**

WECEC Coordinator Monthly Report – *attached.*

8. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

8.1 Air

8.2 Transportation – *attached.*

8.3 Provincially Significant Wetlands

8.4 Water Quality

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 WECEC meeting schedule and attendance

9.2 WECEC 2013 Budget Request – *attached.*

10. **COMMUNICATIONS**

10.1 Windsor Star Article: Blue Green Algae – *attached.*

10.2 Correspondence from Environment Canada – *attached.*

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be December 6th, 2012 at the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Recommendation regarding a Provincial Urban Tree Policy:

WHEREAS urban forests have been shown to produce energy cost savings, for example, residents of Peel Region's urban areas save \$2.5 million annually in heating and cooling through shading and windbreak provided by trees¹;

WHEREAS urban forests have the potential to improve air quality through the removal of air pollutants and the storage and sequestration of carbon. For example, recent studies show that Peel Region's urban forest removes 855 tonnes of air pollution annually, sequesters 19,000 tonnes of carbon annually and stores 400,000 tonnes in total. These services are valued at \$9.1 million, \$550,000 and \$11.5 million respectively¹;

WHEREAS methods of green infrastructure such as urban forests have been shown as a cost-effective means to decrease stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows by capturing runoff and retaining it before it can reach the sewer system²;

WHEREAS an investment in green infrastructure is an investment in biodiversity, a declared priority of both the provincial and national governments;

WHEREAS numerous studies indicate that property values increase anywhere from 5 to 30 percent depending on the size and type of green space, the type of housing and the distance from the green space³;

AND WHEREAS urban forest issues can result in high unforeseen costs for municipalities, for example, the City of Windsor spent \$4 million as a result of the Emerald Ash bore pest issue in Windsor;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City and County Councils urge both the Provincial and the Federal governments to develop and implement Urban Tree Policies which provide municipalities with direction as well as monetary support when dealing with urban tree issues.

¹ Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. 2011. Peel Region Urban Forest Strategy. Available at: <http://www.peelregion.ca/planning/climatechange/reports/pdf/peel-urban-forest-strategy-july25-2011.pdf>

² Natural Resources Defence Council. 2006. Rooftops to Rivers: Green Strategies for Controlling Stormwater and Combined Sewer Overflows. Available at: www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/rooftops/contents.asp

³ Tomalty, R. and B. Komorowski. 2010. The Monetary Value of the Soft Benefits of Green Roofs Final Report. Prepared for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Available at: http://www.greenroofs.org/resources/Monetary_Value_of_Soft_Benefits_of_Green_Roofs.pdf



– OCTOBER 2012 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Provincially Significant Wetlands Subcommittee

The subcommittee is prepared to speak as a delegate to City Council when the airport woodlots and open space designation report is brought forward.

2. Renewable Energy Media Campaign with Generator Design

For the second phase of our education campaign, we would like to focus on energy conservation. This campaign will highlight the benefits of conserving energy, such as reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This topic will create the potential to have many campaign partners, including educational institutions, local distribution companies such as EnWin, as well as businesses who sell energy conserving products to homeowners. We are in the process of introducing our campaign to potential partners and hope to set up meetings with interested organizations in November.

3. Water Quality Subcommittee

The subcommittee hosted a successful press conference to unveil our PSA video produced to highlight the causes and potential solutions to algae issues in Lake Erie. The event was well attended by members of the public, Councillors, media, as well as ERCA, MOE and IJC representatives.

The video is currently on YouTube and has been watched by over 250 residents. Copies of the video have been distributed to Cogeco as well as some schools. This education initiative will continue to be ongoing.

In addition, the subcommittee organized a Green Speaker Series event on October 21st in Kingsville. Speakers included Jim McKenzie, Principal to the Federal Commissioner of Environment and Sustainable Development, and Chitra Gowda, Water Quality Specialist with ERCA. Media presence at the event included AM 800, CBC, and the Harrow and Kingsville newspapers.

4. Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium

Registrations for the EAC symposium, November 17th at the Pelee Days Inn, are beginning to arrive. There are currently 6 people registered from 3 different Environmental Advisory Committees. I suggest that unless there are at least 7 or 8 different committees represented by the end of next week, that we cancel the event.

The agenda for the symposium is below:

9:00am	Welcome and Introductions
9:15am	<u>Information Sharing Part 1</u> : Environmental Advisory Committee Presentations on various programs and initiatives undertaken by their Committee.
10:15am	Break and networking
10:30am	<u>Information Sharing Part 2</u> : Environmental Advisory Committee Presentations on various programs and initiatives undertaken by their Committee.

– October, 2012 –

- 12:00pm Lunch and networking
1:00pm Guest Speaker: *City of Windsor Environment and Sustainability Coordinator* Averil Parent to discuss the recent release of their Climate Change Adaptation Plan and Urban Heat Island Strategy
2:00pm Guest Speaker: *Food Matters Coordinator* Michele Leger to discuss the rise of the local food movement in Windsor-Essex County and the City of Windsor's Seed and Feed grant program

5. WECEC Budget – Summary

2012 Budget		
Item	Credit	Expenditure
2012 Budget	\$8,300.00	
Elizabeth May		\$855.00
Gord Miller		\$875.00
Jim McKenzie		\$81.56
Brochure printing		\$451.00
Earth Day		\$80.00
Website Updates		\$661.00
Website domain renewal		\$76.27
Pat on the Back		\$2,181.55
Airport bills		\$102.00
Enviro Expo Reimbursement	\$409.63	
Water Quality PSA		\$1,497.00
Provincial EAC Symposium		\$500.00
Totals	\$8,709.63	\$7,360.38
TOTAL REMAINING		\$1,349.25

Transportation Subcommittee, October 24th 2012

Recommendation regarding the budget of Transit Windsor:

WHEREAS the ridership in Windsor has increased by 4% this year;

WHEREAS numerous developments downtown support an increase in service from outlying areas to the downtown, including the new aquatic centre and University of Windsor campuses as well as the St. Clair College campuses;

WHEREAS a decrease in service will result in decreased ridership and will have lasting effects on residents' consideration to take transit;

WHEREAS implementing an increase in user fees can deter transit ridership;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council exempt Transit Windsor from the 10% budget cut proposal allowing Transit Windsor to maintain their 2012 budget and further, allow Transit Windsor's budget to increase in order to provide increased preventative maintenance and transit service to Windsor residents.

Business Plan and Financial Request for 2013 Budget Deliberations

Name of Committee: <i>Windsor Essex County Environment Committee</i>	
Mandate: Mission Statement To protect and enhance the quality of the environment for residents in Windsor and Essex County by providing advice, guidance, and counsel to City and County Councils on policies and procedures and providing and supporting advocacy, community education and outreach programs. Vision Statement WECEC is recognized as a credible and integral agent/component in regional environmental decision making and community engagement.	
How were previous funds spent? Provide history: 2012 budget funds were spent on many programs and initiatives advocating for environmental issues or providing environmental education to residents. WECEC hosted three Green Speaker Series events, attended Earth Day 2012, and put on the second annual Pat on the Back Awards recognizing local groups and schools for their environmental achievements. The Water Quality subcommittee produced a video entitled "Overload – Lake Erie Blue Green Algae: Problems & Solutions to be used for public education purposes. Other expenses included brochure printing, website updates and domain renewal.	
Initiatives for 2013: We would like to continue to host three Green Speaker Events as well as the Pat on the Back Awards. We have also initiated an Energy Efficiency Campaign, partnering with various organizations which will need funding. WECEC would like to continue to participate in Earth Day as well as promote environmental awareness and education through its subcommittees.	
Budget Request—Identify Type of Expense and Dollar amount: <u>**Please note that both the City of Windsor and the County of Essex contribute to the WECEC budget**</u>	
Type of Expense:	Dollar Amount:
Green Speaker Series	\$3,000.00
Pat on the Back Awards	\$2,500.00
Earth Day	\$200.00
Website Maintenance	\$800.00
Energy Efficiency Campaign	\$1,800.00
Total (City funds + County funds)	\$8,300.00
Total <u>City of Windsor</u>	\$4,150.00
Total <u>County of Essex</u>	\$4,150.00

A 10% reduction of City of Windsor funds would result in a \$415 decrease in the budget. If this were the case, we would cut funding spent on the energy efficiency campaign by \$415.

THE WINDSOR STAR

Video campaign aims to reduce lake algae

Homeowners urged to do their part

By Sharon Hill, The Windsor Star October 17, 2012

A new video on YouTube is encouraging local residents to do their part to reduce blue-green algae in our lakes by maintaining septic systems, mulching grass to avoid using lawn fertilizer and using rain barrels and phosphate-free detergents.

The educational video is more than five minutes long and is called Overload: Lake Erie Blue Green Algae. It was done by the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee in partnership with the Essex Region Conservation Authority and the International Joint Commission. ERCA also has fact sheets on its website that answer common questions on blue-green algae and phosphorus.

Jim McKenzie, a principal with the federal commissioner of the environment and sustainable development, will be talking about blue-green algae Oct. 21 in Kingsville.

The Windsor Essex County Environment Committee is holding the free speaker series at the Kingsville Arena with light refreshments at 12: 30 p.m. and speeches at 1 p.m. Chitra Gowda, water quality specialist with the Essex Region Conservation Authority, is also expected to speak.

The video includes a satellite image that shows the blooms, which were the worst in decades in Lake Erie in 2011.

"If everyone did one thing that would result in some pretty significant change," ERCA general manager Richard Wyma said Monday.

"There's a lot of little things people can do," he said. "Finding phosphate-free detergents and making sure septic systems are maintained regularly and ... if you have shoreline properties trying to naturalize shoreline properties to reduce erosion."

Nutrients including phosphorus help algae grow. Phosphorus can come from sewage, septic tanks that aren't working properly, waste management systems and fertilizer.

The video talks of trying to keep water on the land as long as possible and reducing agricultural run-off into streams and lakes.

"We, as communities, need to be more aware of our actions and ultimately we need to make sure that less nutrients go into our lakes and rivers," Wyma said in the video of the algae he described as looking like pea soup.

The video explains possible health impacts such as severe damage to your liver and nervous system if you drink the water or eat fish with high levels of toxins in it. Swimming in the water can cause skin and eye irritations.

The International Joint Commission is studying blue-green algae and its impacts, including the economic impact of the blooms, such as reduced tourism and increased water treatment.

An IJC report with recommendations for U.S. and Canadian governments is expected by October 2013.

shill@windsorstar.com

© Copyright (c) The Windsor Star

From: Goffin, Michael [Ontario] [<mailto:Michael.Goffin@ec.gc.ca>]
Sent: October-26-12 10:48 AM
To: Chitra Gowda
Subject: RE: WECEC Algae PSA

Dear Windsor Essex County Environment Committee and Essex Region Conservation Authority,

I am writing to thank you and congratulate you on a very effective and informative video on the Lake Erie algae problem. Raising public awareness and support for action to address this serious issue is certainly part of the solution, and your video will make a positive contribution.

WECEC ALGAE PSA

Regards,
Michael Goffin
Regional Director General – Ontario Region
Environment Canada
4905 Dufferin St
Toronto, Ontario
M3H 5T4