



– 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 30th. 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 3rd, 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 14th. 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 6th. 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 28th 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

2016 Budget			
Expense	Credit	Expenditure	Status
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
TOTALS	\$8,000	\$6,478.25	
ESTIMATED SPENT		\$4,475	
ESTIMATED COMMITTED SPENDING		\$428.25	
ESTIMATED PROPOSED SPENDING		\$1,575	
ESTIMATED NON-ALLOCATED REMAINING			\$1,521.75

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.


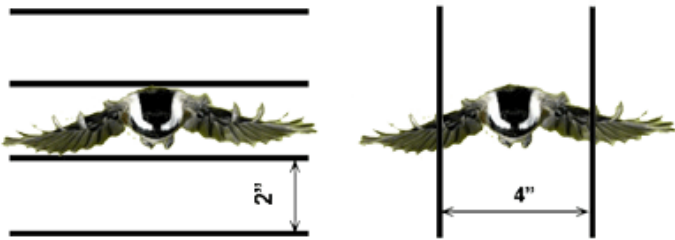



Bird strikes have been consistently increasing in Canada as buildings have integrated increasing amounts of highly reflective and/or transparent glass into their facades. This issue is particularly pressing in Southwestern Ontario, which sits beneath two major bird migration corridors. Bird mortalities 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:

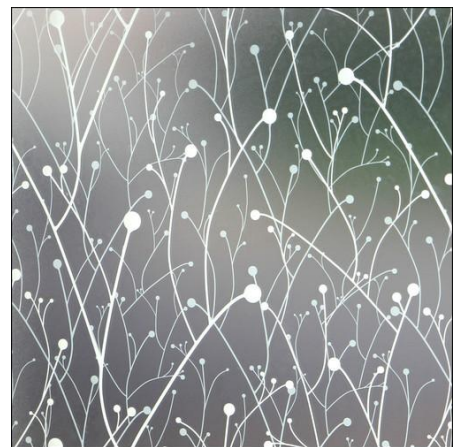
|                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                           | <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