



– APRIL 2018 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Updates

A. Earth Day 2018

Earth Day in Windsor Essex has at least two major events:

1. Earth Day is on April 22, 2018 and is an exciting day to celebrate the Earth and to learn how to properly care for it. The theme for Earth Day this year is plastics. The City of Windsor is coordinating their annual Earth Day event in Malden Park. WECEC is invited to set up a booth to discuss the environment with Windsor and Essex County residents.
2. ERCA and the Detroit River Canadian Clean up have teamed up to celebrate Earth Day. They are inviting people to join them to help plant more than 2,000 native trees and shrubs in the City of Windsor.



B. Earth Hour 2018

Earth Hour is a grassroots environmental event that started in Sydney, Australia. The City of Windsor partnered with EnWin and Caesars Windsor to invite people of Windsor Essex County to come and learn about climate change and pro-environmental actions they can take on Saturday, March 24 from 8:30pm to 9:30pm. Even though this year's Earth Hour was quite cold, we had the City Cyclery there with bikes to help warm people, kept people interested with Mad Science talking about water preservation, the University's School of Creative Arts helped run an art booth, all to the music provided by Stiletto Fire. To warm people up, we enjoyed SueSanity Pound Fitness which had people moving in the dark. This was the second year for this event.

C. Dearborn Industrial generation L.L.C. Permit Application

The pollution requests made to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality from CMS Energy have been pulled. The project has been pulled as a result of public protest over the amount of pollution that would impact Dearborn and surrounding communities. The citizens of Dearborn are pleased with the result.

D. Pat on the Back Awards

If WECEC wishes to continue with the annual Pat on the Back awards, a motion should be made to do so at the March meeting. The Awards are generally advertised in late April and the event takes place the last week of May. There are generally 4 WECEC members involved with this initiative.

E. Updates to WECEC Priorities

As a result of the January 2018 meeting, one new item was added which is exploring the ban of plastic bags. The priorities have become ambitious and lengthy and have therefore been sorted into themes to help steer WECEC towards achievement.

F. Potential Green Speakers

Priority	Speaker	Background
Awareness of local climate change impacts and threats	Rob Shirkey , Executive Director, Our Horizon	Rob, a lawyer from Toronto, is a recognized global authority on the subject of climate change warnings on gas pump nozzles. He has given lectures on the topic across North America and has been featured in media all over the world. Over 50 communities in Canada have voted in favour of the concept and several U.S. cities are now pursuing the idea too. He also has experience as an Assistant City Solicitor and Prosecutor. Rob's talks draw on the latest in climate change research. He gathers insights from psychology, sociology, economics, business, and law to build the case for demand-side, local action on climate change. His trial experience as a lawyer and his playful sense of humour makes him a compelling and entertaining speaker.
Tree Cutting By-Law	Paul Giroux Forester, City of Windsor	Can relate to "invasive species"
	Rob Davies Forester, ERCA	
Pollution issues	Dr. Kate Parizeau Assistant Professor Department of Geography, University of Guelph	Dr. Parizeau is interested in research questions concerning the social context of waste and its management. Having grown up with a landfill in her backyard, Kate believes a society's waste can reveal how various environmental and social concerns are prioritized. Garbage can also provide insight to the politicization and governance of everyday life
	Dr. John Howard CAPE Board Past President Professor at the Schulich Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at Western University	Dr. Howard is a recognized speaker on health policy, medical education and institutional change – in particular, as these topics relate to the environment.
Invasive species awareness/control	Paul Giroux Forester, City of Windsor	Can relate to Oak Wilt and other threats to trees and relate to the "tree cutting by-law"
	Rob Davies Forester, ERCA	
	Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation OR Erie Wildlife Rescue	Speak to wildlife threats, climate change, pollution, human action, invasive species
Banning of Plastic Bags	Dr. Jill Crossman University of Windsor Professor	Dr. Crossman looks at the impacts of microplastics in the environment

G. WECEC City and County Approvals

The City of Windsor has recently announced it is seeking federal protection for Ojibway Shores. This has been an ongoing debate and has recently involved WECEC starting a motion. The timeline is as follows:

- October 26, 2017
 - WECEC motions Report No. 100 to have the City of Windsor seek federal conservation of Ojibway shores.
- December 20, 2017
 - Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee for the City of Windsor approves the report to move to Council.
- January 29, 2018
 - Windsor City Council unanimously adopts the Report to seek federal conservation of Ojibway Shores.

When applicable, the Essex County Council receives the WECEC meeting minutes. Reports from WECEC are often also sent to the County Council. For example, Report No. 96 concerned both Windsor and County Councils.

- June 8, 2017
 - WECEC Motions Report No. 96 regarding the Government of Ontario’s Nuclear Response Plan.
- June 28, 2017
 - Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee for the City of Windsor approves the report to move to both City of Windsor and Essex County Councils.
- July 19, 2017
 - Report No. 96 is approved by City of Windsor Council.
- July 27, 2017
 - Report No. 96 is approved by the Essex County Council.

H. Matchette Road and Eco Passages

The City of Windsor has allocated \$25,000 to conduct an analysis and report on the recommendation of Eco Passages to connect Ojibway Park to the Ojibway Prairie Reserve.

2. Reports to Council

No reports to Council.

WECEC BUDGET – SUMMARY

2018 Budget			
Item	Credit	Estimated Expenditure	Status
2018 Budget	\$8,000.00		
Pat on the Back		\$2500.00	
Green Speaker #1		\$1000.00	
Green Speaker #2		\$1000.00	
Movie Screening		\$2000.00	
Website Hosting and Domain Fee		\$450.00	
Earth Day		\$35.00	
TOTALS	\$8,000	\$6,985.00	
NON-ALLOCATED REMAINING		\$1015.00	



WECEC Work Plan 2018

Strategic Direction #1 – WECEC Collaborations		
GOALS	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME
Goal: 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
	Continue to have WECEC events in different areas of Essex County	Ongoing
Goal: Improve relationships with other organizations, committees.	Hold a meeting with other environmental organizations and committees to share information	Yearly
	Continue to pursue opportunities for partnering on community education/public awareness	Ongoing
	Hold annual Pat on the Back Awards presenting \$2,000 to local environmental organizations and schools.	Yearly
Strategic Direction #2 – Advocacy		
GOALS	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME
Goal: 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	Ongoing
	Provide recommendations to City and County Councils on environmental matters identified through our own initiative.	Ongoing
Goal: 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
Goal: 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
Strategic Direction #3 – Public Engagement and Education		
GOALS	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME
Goal: Increase awareness of WECEC by the public.	Maintain a website and Facebook page.	Monthly
	Strategically identify and attend community events	Ongoing
	Maintain a professional display for participation at community events	Ongoing
Goal: Increase engagement of public on environmental issues	Develop environmental education campaigns and messaging to help inform Windsor Essex County residents about environmental issues	Ongoing
	Host free knowledge sharing events with environmental experts highlighting environmental issues.	Ongoing