



– DECEMBER, 2010 –

ONGOING INITIATIVES

1. Provincially Significant Wetlands

a. DRIC compensation properties

As advised by city clerk Valerie Critchley, the best way for WECEC to present to City Council regarding the re-zoning of property is to write a letter to council outlining the issue we would like to present. This will then be placed on Council Communications to be dealt with either by directing it to administration to bring back a report, by dealing with the request immediately, or by noting and filing the correspondence.

Currently, a letter outlining our position and request is being drafted by Phil Roberts. This letter must be accepted by the Committee and then delivered to Council as soon as possible.

b. Airport woodlots

The course of action discussed by the PSW ad-hoc committee cannot proceed until the Airport Master Plan has been completed.

2. Protection of Ojibway Shores/Black Oak (video)

The WECEC has received a quote from Axxess Design to film and edit a short video detailing damage occurring to the landscape in Black Oak and Ojibway shores from ATV and dirt bikes. The total price is \$293.80.

Should the Committee decide to film the Ojibway shores property, we must obtain approval from the Port Authority. Port Authority officials will likely want control over how their property is portrayed in the film as well as the film script. The Port Authority is concerned about misinterpretation of the film, and does not want the public to think that the property is not being taken care of.

3. Sustain This!

The name for our event will be: Sustain This! Adapting to Climate Change can lead to a Resilient Windsor Essex. As previously distributed, here is the event itinerary:

8:30-9:00 Registration
9:00-9:45 Quentin Chiotti
9:45-10:30 Health Canada
10:30-10:45 Break
10:45-11:30 FCM
11:30-12:15 Paul Charbonneau

12:15-1:00 Lunch
1:00-2:00 Workshops
ICLEI
Emma Savage
Victoria Rose
2:00-3:00 Bob Willard

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The following is a list of individuals to be invited to the workshop personally. This personal invite will be by email and will include the poster as well as a detailed itinerary.

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| Edwin Tam | City/County Councillors |
| Kent Walker | Mayor Eddie Francis |
| Iris Xu | University President |
| Dan Henstra | Ali Artaman (WECHU) |
| Teri Gilbert | Shahbaz Ahmed (PHAC) |
| UW Environment Coalition | UW Environmental studies club |

The following is a list of media/advertising venues to contact in order to promote the event.

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| Facebook | www.windsor.mysocialcity.com |
| Municipal buildings/dashboard | Development commission |
| Windsor Star | UW Environment Coalition - Nicole |
| CJAM - Vernon Smith | UW Environmental studies club - Pete |
| The Lance | DRCC Newsletter - Natalie Green |
| The Saint - Lauren Bultje | www.downtownwo.ca |
| WECEC Website | School board – Beth Haynes |
| In Business Magazine | |

4. Website

The website has been launched at www.wecec.org. We may discuss how to advertise/promote our website more formally at the January meeting.

5. Share the Road Application

The first draft of the application has been completed and the City of Windsor is currently commenting on this document. The application has not been made public and therefore at this time WECEC is unable to comment on it.

IMPORTANT UPDATES AND INFORMATION

1. Government of Ontario Policy Proposals (www.ebr.gov.on.ca)

a. *Natural Heritage Assessment Guide for Renewable Energy Projects (December 2010)*

The Green Energy Act placed a priority on expanding Ontario's use of clean and renewable sources of energy. A key element of the Green Energy Act is a new integrated approval process that establishes clear up-front requirements for most renewable energy projects. These requirements are outlined under the Ministry of the Environment's Renewable Energy Approval regulation (O.Reg. 359/09) and the Ministry of Natural Resources' Approval and Permitting Requirements Document.

The Renewable Energy Approval regulation describes the natural heritage assessment requirements for renewable energy projects and establishes requirements for environmental effects monitoring where a negative environmental effect is likely to occur. Natural features such as wetlands, woodlands and wildlife habitat are an important part of Ontario's landscape. To provide further clarity and certainty on the renewable energy approval requirements surrounding natural heritage features, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has prepared the Natural Heritage Assessment Guide for application to both Crown and private lands.

This document is available for public comment until January 24th, 2011. To view the policy proposal, visit www.ebr.gov.on.ca. The EBR # is 011-1845.

2. WECEC Banner/Brochure

The WECEC banner has been reprinted by HCA Mindbox and will be available for display at the January meeting. I am looking into developing a brochure to accompany the banner at public events, such as "Sustain This!". HCA Mindbox is able to design and print the brochures.

3. Newspaper articles

a. CNN – November 23rd: *NASA study finds Earth's lakes are warming*

A study recently conducted by NASA found that the temperatures of Earth's largest lakes have risen in the past 25 years as a result of climate change. NASA used satellite data to measure the surface temperatures of 167 lakes worldwide and found an average warming rate of 0.81 degrees Fahrenheit per decade and in some lakes, as much as 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit per decade.

The greatest increases were in the mid- to high- latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere, in a pattern consistent with changes associated with global climate change.

The lakes were chosen for inclusion in the study based on their size - typically at least 193 square miles or larger, so conditions on land would not influence the results. The study used nighttime data from summer months over the past 25 years to avoid interference from cloud cover or ice.

A NASA scientist commented "from a scientific point of view, small differences in lake temperatures can have big change in a lake's ecosystem – a new fish species that people don't want, new plants; so from

our point of view, what we want to do next is understand what the impact of these changes is going to be on the lake's ecosystem."

b. Windsor Star – November 29th: *Windsor chicken lovers encouraged by Michigan experience*

City councillors in Madison Heights, Mich. voted last week to legalize urban chickens for a two-year trial. The heavily urbanized city of about 31,000 people will allow three hens per household, but no roosters. Adding the two-year sunset clause was critical to pushing the poultry through in a 5-2 vote.

The bylaw bans roosters to avoid disruptive 5 a.m. cock-a-doodle-dos, and specifies chicken feed must be kept in containers to stop rodents from picking it off the ground.

Mayor Bill Hartwell said the "responsible" nature of chicken owners sold him on the policy, but he said he also sees it as a way to attract young families to the city. That's especially important, he said, because Madison Heights' population is aging.

c. Windsor Star – November 30th: *Samsung to open local plant and create 300 jobs*

Korean manufacturing giant Samsung will open a plant locally that will create 300 jobs to build wind turbines. Earlier this year, Samsung secured a \$7-billion energy deal with the province in exchange for incentives to triple Ontario's renewable wind and solar energy generation.

The agreement with Ontario requires Samsung to secure four major manufacturing plants by 2015, as well as create 16,000 direct and indirect green-energy jobs to receive the incentive funds. As of now, the plant's location has not yet been revealed.

d. Postmedia News – November 30th: *What does wealth of green really mean?*

Anyone who shops will have noticed that the number of "green" products has skyrocketed in the past couple of years. A new study has found that nearly all of them are guilty of some kind of greenwashing - fudging the truth to make the product sound more environmentally friendly than it actually is.

For the third year in a row, volunteers with Terrachoice, an Ottawa-based company that specializes in environmental marketing, visited Canadian and U.S. large chain stores, specialty retailers and green boutiques. They checked the labels on nearly 6,000 products, ranging from toys to tissues to building materials.

Their conclusion: The number of "green" products available in stores jumped 73 per cent between 2009 and 2010, but more than 95 per cent were guilty of some kind of greenwashing.

That being said, Terrachoice does have this advice for how to avoid being tricked by false claims:

- Look for products that have been certified by third-party organizations by checking for logos such as EcoLogo, Green Seal, Fair Trade Certified, Greenguard and Rainforest Alliance.

- Many product categories don't have certified products. In those cases, McDougall said, it's best to look for the "greenest" one -- the one that has the most information on its label and that offers resources on its website or customer-service hotline.

e. Windsor Star – December 7th: *Audit harsh on government's environmental leadership*

In an audit tabled Tuesday in the House of Commons, the commissioner of the environment and sustainable development said the government isn't taking action at home to combat climate change. In particular, commissioner Scott Vaughan blasted the government for failing to develop a federal strategy for adapting to the impact of climate change.

Vaughan warned the potential climate-change impacts on Canada range from severe weather events in Atlantic Canada to a prolonged drought costing billions of dollars in the Prairies, damage to the country's boreal forests from pests and forest fires, and the thawing of permafrost in the Arctic.

In the absence of a central strategy, federal departments have identified potential climate impacts on their own, but have taken few concrete steps to address the problem, he said.

f. Windsor Star – December 10th: *Climate change talked about, but not worried about: Poll*

For the Canadian government, the results of a global BBC poll contain news both encouraging and worrisome. The worrisome finding is that climate change remains the most talked-about global issue in the country. According to the 26-nation poll by GlobeScan, nearly one in three Canadians has discussed climate change over the past month. Moreover, the number of Canadians who say they've discussed it is significantly higher than the 20 per cent global average.

Canadians only rank climate change as the eighth most serious global issue, and the number who think it's very serious has fallen by 11 percentage points in the past year. In that respect, Canadians are in line with other developed countries, the poll says. Concern about climate change has "diminished significantly" in almost all major industrial nations since the perceived failure of last year's Copenhagen summit.

The trend is the opposite in key emerging economies such as China, Brazil, India and Russia. More people in those countries now see climate change as a very serious global problem, the poll says. After climate change, the most discussed global issues among Canadians are: the state of the global economy, environmental problems, extreme poverty and hunger and terrorism, the poll suggests.

According to the poll's findings, Canadians see extreme poverty as the most serious global problem. Seventy-two per cent of respondents described it as very serious, slightly more than the global average. Other global issues Canadians identified as very serious include: environmental problems (65 per cent); armed conflicts (64 per cent); and corruption and human-rights abuses, each at 54 per cent.

In total, 13,353 people in 26 countries were surveyed between June 24 and Sept. 18. The margin of error per country ranges from plus or minus three to 4.9 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

TASKS FOR NEXT MONTH

1. Provincially Significant Wetlands

Once developed, I will ensure that the letter outlining our request to re-designate property around Ojibway Shores is delivered to City Council.

As per the email received from Kevin DeVos (Ministry of Transportation), we will continue to participate in the development of a compensation plan for wetlands altered as a result of the DRIC. Consultation with stakeholders will be undertaken by the Windsor Essex Mobility Group (WEMG) during future design stages.

If approved, I will begin to coordinate the production of a short film of Black Oak/Ojibway shores with Axxess design.

2. Climate Change Workshop

I will begin to promote and advertise the conference throughout Windsor and Essex County in January and February. Bob Willard has agreed to be available for interviews and I will coordinate these with radio stations and newspapers.

3. Solar Source

I will continue to await response (or follow up) from either Ross Beatty (Solar Source), Kerri Brock or Lia Vanbaalen (ESEI Group) to inquire about delivering a presentation to WECEC regarding the solar panel plant being built on airport property.