

- WECEC ANNUAL REPORT 2016 -

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Green Speaker Peter Garforth

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.



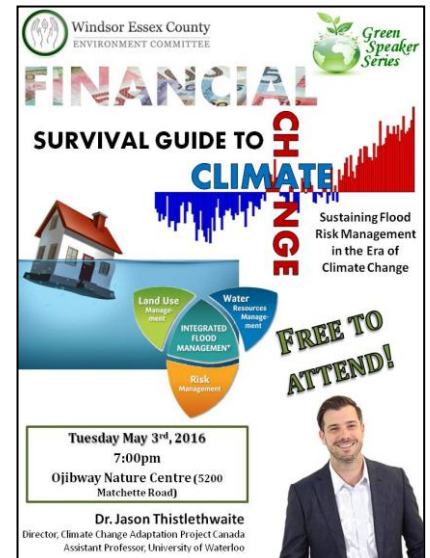
Earth Day

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.

Green Speaker Dr. Jason Thistlethwaite

Dr. Jason Thistlethwaite, Associate Professor, University of Waterloo and Director of the Climate Change Adaptation Project provided 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.



Pat on the Back Environmental 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.

– Annual Report 2016 –

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.



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.



Green Speaker Series – Invasive *Phragmites* Expert Panel

Over 50 people attended the Invasive Phragmites roundtable on December 14th at the Essex County Civic Centre in partnership with the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

The audience watched a video produced by the Essex Region Conservation Authority, and heard presentations from Ken Vegh, Town of Kingsville, Lu Ann Marentette, Town of Leamington, and Colin Cassin, Ontario Invasive Plant Council. Videos of the presentations are available on the WECEC website as well as on the WECEC youtube channel.

WECEC BUSINESS

Website Hosting

The WECEC Coordinator maintains our website, www.wecec.org. Here we post news and events along with information about WECEC and our meeting agenda's and minutes. The website is an important part of our communication and advocacy strategy. We pay yearly website hosting fees as well as a domain renewal fee.

– Annual Report 2016 –

Promotional Supplies

The 2016 promotion budget was spent on 100 travel coffee mugs, 100 water bottles and native plant seeds. These will be distributed at events such as Earth Day.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS

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.

This report was moved at the February Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting. This report was adopted at a City of Windsor Council meeting.

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.

Report No. 94 of the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee:

Your Committee submits the following recommendation:

That City Administration **BE REQUESTED** to provide comment and a review relating to the Request for Proposals for an Urban Forest Management Plan which will determine the general health of the urban forest, enhance the urban forest, define short and long term goals, and will determine the canopy coverage.

Carried.

This report was moved at the September Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting and subsequently at City of Windsor Council.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2016 Budget			
Expense	Credit	Expenditure	Status
2016 Budget	\$8,000.00		
Pat on the Back		\$2,195.63	Spent
Green Speaker Peter Garforth		\$1,000.00	Spent
Green Speaker Jason Thislethwait		\$424.90	Spent
Green Speaker <i>Phragmites</i> panel		\$512.00	Spent
Website Hosting Fee		\$366.34	Spent
Website Domain Renewal		\$25.44	Spent
Earth Day		\$35	Spent
EAC Symposia		\$478.36	Spent
Promotional material		\$2,619.87	Spent
TOTALS	\$8,000	\$7657.54	
ESTIMATED NON-ALLOCATED REMAINING			\$342.46

WECEC IN THE NEWS



ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP WANTS FEDS TO ACT ON MARATHON REFINERY IN DETROIT

'Increased pollution in southwest Detroit will have an impact on Windsor-Essex'

[CBC News](#) Posted: Jan 30, 2016 1:42 PM ET Last Updated: Jan 30, 2016 4:19 PM ET



The Marathon oil refinery is located in southwest Detroit, which is 6.5 kilometres inland from LaSalle, Ont. (Michele Renee Johnson/Facebook)

– Annual Report 2016 –

An environmental action group in Windsor is hoping the federal government will add its voice to opposition against a plan for the Marathon refinery to increase emissions of air pollutants.

At a meeting last Thursday, the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee resolved to ask the city and county governments to write federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna asking for her to oppose the project.

"Increased pollution in southwest Detroit will invariably have an impact in Windsor-Essex," Derek Coronado told CBC News. "Prevailing wind patterns and the pollutants [Marathon] wants to release are going to move around and affect Canadians, as well."

Marathon operates an oil refinery in southwest Detroit that is located about 6.5 kilometres inland from the Detroit River, and LaSalle, Ont.

Company officials say the change is needed to meet U.S. federal air pollution standards for gasoline. Michigan said its analysis finds emissions increases fall within allowable regulations.

But Coronado said he does not take too much stock in the state's findings as the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the same agency that Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said "misinterpreted" water regulations in Flint, Mich., leading to quality issues.

"We know about what happened in Flint," Coronado said. "The failure to listen to people's concerns isn't necessarily a good thing or something the DEQ should repeat."

Though this is the end of a 30-day public consultation period on Marathon's proposal, Coronado said he hopes a response from the Canadian government can help influence proceedings.

The proposal will be going to Essex County Council shortly and Windsor city council within the next few months, Coronado said.



COMMITTEE RAISES CONCERNS OVER REFINERY IN DETROIT

Published Friday, January 29, 2016 7:42AM EST



Marathon refinery in Detroit wants to increase emissions

Published on: February 1, 2016 | Last Updated: February 1, 2016 7:43 PM EST



County council wants federal environment minister to oversee Marathon emission proposal

Published on: February 15, 2016 | Last Updated: February 17, 2016 9:47 PM EST

CBC CBCnews | Windsor

NDPs WANTS OTTAWA TO ADDRESS MARATHON REQUEST TO UP EMISSIONS

[CBC News](#) Posted: Feb 26, 2016 8:33 AM ET Last Updated: Feb 26, 2016 8:35 AM ET

CBC CBCnews | Windsor

STOP DETROIT MARATHON REFINERY EMISSIONS HIKE, LASALLE URGES OTTAWA

[CBC News](#) Posted: Feb 24, 2016 8:02 AM ET Last Updated: Feb 24, 2016 9:22 AM ET



Do You Know Someone Who Deserves A Pat On The Back?

Liz Thorne
Wednesday May 4th, 2016
Posted at 2:38pm
City News

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