

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

MODL Administration Building, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, NS

Members Present

1. Mathias Gebser
2. Rebecca MacInnis
3. Karley Hewitt
4. Deborah Conner
5. Leitha Haysom
6. Pam Hubley
7. Kacy DeLong
8. Reid Whynot
9. Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
1. Byung Jun Kang, Planner
2. Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Services
3. Justin Smith, Student Planner

Call to order (18:35)

Item 4.1 – Refine the Action Item Chart

- Staff presented Action Item Chart with new GHG reduction potential data to Committee.
- Committee discussed interest of items with staff. Discussed potentials and concerns of each item on chart and opportunities to improve the chart moving forward.
- Committee presented the idea of narrowing the scope of the list to three short term “low hanging fruit” items, 2 medium-term items, and one long-term item as a starting point.
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Item 4.2 – Future Plan of the Sustainability Committee

- Committee discussed where and how to move forward from the Action Item Chart
 - Development of a plan to implement action items.
 - Conduct public engagement to narrow the focus of the Action Item Chart into attainable goals/items.

Item 4.3 – Reinforce the Action Item Chart (breakout groups)

- Committee decided against splitting off into breakout groups due to the number of committee members present and connectivity issues, instead held one large working group session.

- Committee and Staff worked through each action item with both parties providing recommendations upon the changing or strengthen of the Action Item Chart.
 - **Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE):** Promote through marketing opportunities and aim to increase participation (20 members by 2022).
 - **Electric Vehicle (EV) (Infrastructure, Promotion, Education):** (Re. Attached PDF). Committee suggested research into “at home” level 2 chargers’ usage vs. level 3 superchargers. Committee additionally requested further research into federal and provincial funding for an EV program.
 - **Solar Ready Buildings** (building code & NS power regulations): Review other municipality’s by-laws. Committee suggested lobby effort towards province to ease policies on solar power generation and consumption.
 - **Community Pledges** (awareness): Committee suggested a municipal competition to create competitiveness to promote this action item. Committee proposed the idea of a adopt a tree program which will require further research by staff.
 - **Carshare Program** (vehicles or e-bikes): Committee identified potential issues regarding carshare in a rural region, suggested that this action item could develop a partnership with local businesses such as Michelin. Committee also identified the potential of an out of region carshare program for long distance trips or weekend trips out of the municipality.
 - **Waste Reduction:** Committee expressed concerns on illegal dumping, garbage fires, construction waste, and demolition waste. Suggested an educative approach and partnership with MJSB. Requested further best practices and case studies upon the action item to support future policy development.
 - **Join in Bring Your Own** (promotion and subsidy): Committee expressed concerns about greenhouse gas production between plastic vs. cloth bags.
 - **Tree Planting Program** (provide tree saplings): Work with other stakeholders/groups (BCAF). Suggestion of making it into a tree planting day event.
 - **Dry Hydrants:** Committee suggested looking into funding potential from province.
 - **Geotab Rental Service** (promotion of EV): Committee inquired about cost of service, suggested a loan program.
- Staff then opened the action item chart to include any new additions from the Committee.
 - Committee suggested new action items which included: a circular economy, recycling program for batteries, conservation zoning for protection of biodiversity, Youth Engagement, Environmental Champion award, green affordable housing and development practices, and corporate green interiors.

Motion to Dismiss Committee (20:30)

Action item***	GHG reduction	Priority level & start date	Timeframe	Estimated cost	Funding source	Leading department & stakeholders	Performance measurement
Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (expansion)	6.76	1	Short	TBD		Efficiency NS	Reimbursement requested
Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (promotion)	6.76	1	Medium	Low	N/A	Planning	Reimbursement requested
Electric vehicles (infrastructure)	385.89	1	Long	High	Provincial grant; Gas tax	Planning	Usage of EV chargers
Electric vehicles (promotion & education)	4.60	1	Medium	Medium	Federal & provincial incentives	Planning	Share of EVs out of total vehicles
Anti-idling policy (education)	1.20	2	Short	Low	N/A	Administration Engineering?	
Biofuel (vehicle fuel & buildings)	0.07	2	Medium	Medium		Planning Region 6?	
Solar ready buildings (building code & NS Power regulations)	10.50	2	Low	Low	N/A	Planning	By-law in effect
Transport demand reduction (mixed land uses)	-	2	Short	Low	N/A	Planning	MODL2040 by-law in effect
Community pledges (awareness)	1.00	3	Short	Low	N/A	Planning	Number of pledges
Action item***	GHG reduction	Priority level & start date	Timeframe	Estimated cost	Funding source	Leading department & stakeholders	Performance measurement
Carshare program (vehicles or e-bike)	0.12	3	Short	Medium		Planning Engineering? Employers	Distance travelled
Public transit service	21.77	3	Medium	Very high	Gas tax (fleet)	Unknown	

(operation)						(Planning)	
Waste reduction (education, incentives, and rewards)	0.99	3	Short	Low	N/A	Administration	Weight of waste collected
Join In Bring Your Own (promotion and subsidy)	9.18	3	Short	Low	N/A	Administration	Reimbursement requested
Tree planting program (provide tree saplings)	0.02	3	Short	Low		Planning	Number of trees
Conservation land (receiving donation of land)	892.00	3	Long	Low	N/A	Recreation	Area of land
Dry hydrants (installation)	125.00	3	Long	High		Fire services & departments	Number of fire hydrants
Geotab rental services (promotion of EV)	0.97	3	Short	Low	Provincial grant	Planning Next Ride NS	Count of rentals
Solar ready buildings (large building installation)	106.00	3	Medium	High	Gas tax	Planning	Power in kwh from solar panel
Transport demand reduction (increase in food security)	1.97	3	Medium	Medium		Economic development	Food security coverage
Circular Economy Recycling Strategy (Battery Production)							
Biodiversity (Conservancy)							
Youth Engagement (Climate Crisis Fair; CEC)							
Region-wide Climate Working Group							
Environmental Champion Award							
Green Affordable Housing							
Corporate Green Interior (Plants indoor)							

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Outline of activities to complete Action item 'Electric Vehicles (promotion & education)'

- 1) Stakeholders: New car dealerships and national Service chains like Canadian Tire or NAPA AutoPro . (later then independent – 'mechanical', not body – workshops, and recreational vehicle dealerships). For the education portion, primary stakeholder is the NSCC in Bridgewater.
- 2) Upfront Mayor-to-Mayor information that dealerships and NSCC will be contacted.
- 3) Initial meeting with the Dean (?) of NSCC Bridgewater to
 - a. Inform the Dean of MODL's LCCAP and the specific Action Item;
 - b. Ask for the level of interest and capabilities of NSCC Bridgewater to (develop, potentially with their Provincial Headquarters, and) teach a pilot course on 'Fundamentals of an EV Drive Train';
 - c. Ask for to be expected timelines and future course fees (aligned with other vocational courses);
 - d. Ask whether discounted fees can be offered for the pilot course to entice participation from local car dealerships- participants of the pilot course will be giving feedback on potential improvements of the course; and
 - e. A very similar course would be needed as 'continued learning' option.
- 4) Arrange for 30 to 60 minutes meetings with each Owner/Principal (or delegate) of all new 'light duty' vehicle dealerships in Lunenburg County (without Chester and MODC ???); topic of meetings: 'Perspective of Dealerships as to what they expect mid- to long-term in regards to EV sales development in their local market'. I propose the Participants from the Sustainability Committee should be Chair or Co-Chair and a person with some background in the automotive industry.
 - a. Introduction: MODL's LCCAP, and electrifying personal transportation is seen as CO2 red. lever;
 - b. Confidentiality of information, notes taken for 3 questions, info will only be used anonymously;
 - c. First question addressing industry trends: During the next 10 years, how do you expect the PHEV and BEV up-take rates developing versus other vehicles in your local market?
 - d. Second question specific for your dealership: Would you be interested (or send an employee) to take a (vocational) training course, if offered by NSCC Bridgewater, on 'Fundamentals of an EV Drive Train'? And if so, how much would you be willing to pay for participating in a pilot course?
 - e. Third question – if your dealership is already offering EVs for sale: Are you interested to participate in an upcoming local 'Next Ride' event?
- 5) Also, arrange for 30 minutes meetings with the Owner/Principal (or delegate) of Canadian Tire and a larger NAPA AutoPro workshop and ask the first and second question under 4).
- 6) The analysis of the first question will inform us as to what to we can expect in terms of GHG reductions from residents switching from vehicles with internal combustion engines to EVs.
- 7) The results from the second question will determine our next steps with NSCC Bridgewater.
- 8) Hopefully, local dealerships will be represented at our community engagement events (like 'Next Ride')!