

# Sustainability Committee Workshop “Minutes”

Thursday, September 23, 2021 – 6:32 p.m.

Virtual Microsoft Teams meeting

## Attendees

Councillors DeLong, Haysom, Whynot, Hubley, Mayor Bolivar-Getson;  
Mr. Gebser, Ms. Hewitt;  
Abhi, Jeff, Darren, Byung Jun

## 1. Brief discussions on the following topics

Abhi presented about the boundary of the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) by explaining the differences between the climate change mitigation and adaptation. The LCCAP focuses on the mitigation (reducing the GHG emissions) while the MODL2040 focuses on the adaptation (accepting the new normal).

Abhi also explained some minor changes in direction for the Sustainability Committee. Staff will now conduct more detailed work and report back to the Committee. Councillors DeLong and Haysom commented that, while this takes some responsibilities away, this should make us efficient in drafting the LCCAP.

## 2. Homework

### Councillor Haysom provided her homework:

Vision: To become a resilient community empowered to reduce GHG emissions by 30% by 2030 and to become carbon neutral by 2050.

Mission: To take concrete, meaningful steps to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate impacts today while anticipating upcoming challenges and preparing our communities to respond collectively and effectively to climate change in the future.

Values: Leadership, evidenced based decision making, aspiration, inclusivity, urgency

Goals:

- Energy efficient houses
- Public transit
- EV network and promotion
- Protection of wild/green spaces/reworking Disaster management teams - community based Community wells and farms

We had great discussion around advocacy, Community Infrastructure grants for solar panels, partner with the province or feds on community infrastructure grants because it is easily quantifiable, community grants mean community buy in and education.

## **Mr. Gebser provided his homework:**

### **“Input for results of past Workshop 1. (Create a Plan overview)**

Sector: Transportation (‘On the move’)

Objective: Eliminate tail pipe emissions of light duty vehicles

Action Items: -

- A) Electric vehicles (promotion & education) -> please see attached –
- B) Electric vehicles (infrastructure): ‘Level 2 EV charger ready’-residential place holder buildings -> details of plan for bylaw amending local building code WIP

### **Input for upcoming Workshop 2. (Community Engagement)**

Stage-1 - Inform the People

1. To inform members of the Community we should create a common presentation which must be used for providing an MODL LCCAP overview in all Community Engagement activities (to avoid mixed messages). Depending on the Community members to be addressed this overview can be complemented by separate and specific information on the topic of the Community Engagement event).
2. The MODL LCCAP overview should be permanently available from the MODL website. Whenever there is an update to this overview due to progress made in our project then also an article in local newspapers (like SaltWire) should be published.
3. Agreed without further comment.
4. I will reach out to our Chair and Co-Chair of the Sustainability Committee after this Sep 23rd meeting with proposed engagement methods and the respective content for the above two Action Items on electric vehicles (re: ‘promotion & education’ as well as ‘infrastructure’) soliciting their comments/requests for changes to my proposal. (I am hoping that Chair or Co-Chair will accompany me when conducting the interviews of the first Action Item above to lend that activity the appropriate legitimacy...).”

### **3. Refine Action Items Table**

(Room 1: Jeff, Darren, Kacy, Reid, Mathias)

1. Commercial/Industrial retrofit program – PACE
2. Rain Gardens/Community Gardens
3. Formal relationship with NSCC Sustainability
4. Climate change fire education
5. EV charger infrastructure. EV level 2 requirements for new buildings.
6. Allow PACE participants to exceed the loan limit by the cost of a EV charger installed or EV charger ready.
7. Battery Banks/ EVs in driveways
8. Education to homeowners
9. Battery banks at community centres – talk to REMO.

RW: If we install EV chargers everywhere can the NSP grid handle it.

MG: Not if everyone does it at once but put it in the new build so it's future proof. NSP will adapt.

RW: Insurance company changed because they installed solar panels

KD: What about insurance issues? Should we bring in IBC to learn about home insurance and the changing field.

JM- Staff are arranging to bring have an insurance risk workshop with Council.

What is the biodiversity? Count me in platform. Individuals can't get into. Must be an organization. Are there any groups in Canada? **KD: 350.org.**

Subcommittee to report to Council. Work harder to have Council on the same page. We need to make climate emergency decisions.

Transit and EV bus

Bring Lisa Ryan or someone from Energize Bridgewater. Bring other municipalities to Sustainability Committee? What are they doing? Point of contact in each municipality.

JM – staff role

Small engines. How to engage people to use fewer small engines. Mow less. Less grass. Green Landscaping. Lakeshore landscaping...

Add Plastics to the list.

(Room 2: Abhi, Byung Jun, Carolyn, Leitha, Pam, and Karley)

- PACE program is only for residential buildings. What about institutional and community buildings? This will also be a great education and promotional opportunity as well. Let's talk to the province as well so we can get a great bang for the buck.
- Tree planting! We should partner with schools especially – no better way to doing this than with kids.
- Building By-law and Land Use By-law requirements: require no tree cutting? Landscaping rules? Energy efficiency? EV Charger ready?
- Focus on adaptation. To have a sustainable community: food security? Disaster relief? Drought response?
  - We almost need like community groups...for community garden, comfort centres, and so on.
- Any "low-hanging fruits" should be a very high priority. Execute them right away. Skip engagement, go straight to consultation.

- But we should also consider the impact of action items. We should also start those action items with the biggest impacts soon because they will take a long time to implement.

### **Stakeholders**

- Schools and school groups
- NSCC staff and students
- Farmers markets and food producers/businesses
- XR Council of Canadians
- Sierra club
- Political parties
- Unions SSWC and DHC Family support centre
- Community halls 4H groups
- Fire Departments
- Service groups like Lions and Rotarians
- Businesses and chambers
- Outdoor groups- hiking fishing
- ATV trail groups Talking Trees

### **4. Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be on October 6, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

### **5. Adjournment**