

Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

September 17, 2021

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change was held on Friday, September 17, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 10:00 AM. In accordance with Provincial legislation, electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: D. Hoornweg, Citizen Member, Chair
E. Baxter-Trahair, CAO
Councillor Chapman, Health and Social Services Committee
Councillor Crawford, Works Committee
C. Desbiens, Citizen Member
Regional Chair Henry
Councillor Hight, Planning & Economic Development Committee
J. Kinniburgh, Citizen Member
Councillor Leahy, Finance & Administration Committee
G. MacPherson, Citizen Member attended the meeting at 10:14 AM
C. Mee, Citizen Member
R. Plaza, Citizen Member
K. Senyk, Citizen Member
K. Shadwick, Citizen Member
J. Taylor, Citizen Member attended the meeting at 10:04 AM
M. Vroegh, Citizen Member, Vice-Chair attended the meeting at 10:23 AM
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: T. Hall, Citizen Member
J. Koke, Citizen Member

Staff

Present: S. Austin, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of the CAO
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
M. Kawalec, Climate Change Coordinator, Office of the CAO
I. McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Office of the CAO
S. Glover, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Chapman, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Roundtable on
Climate Change meeting held on June 18, 2021, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were no delegations.

5. Presentations

A) Climate and Sustainability Program Update – Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Durham Region

I. McVey, Manager of Sustainability, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a Climate and Sustainability Program Update.

I. McVey provided updates on the following projects:

- Update Items
 - Energy and Emissions
 - Adaptation and Resilience
- Corporate Climate Action Plan
 - Finalizing the 2020 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Durham Home Energy Savings Program and Next Steps
- E-Mission – Plug N Drive
- Green Development – Energy Efficiency Cost Analysis
 - Project Timeline
- Durham Community Energy Plan (DCEP) Implementation Governance
- Durham Flood-Related Initiatives
- LEAF Backyard Tree Planting

J. Taylor provided a brief update with respect to additional results found from the E-Mission – Plug N Drive surveys. The following preliminary results were:

- Most respondent's self identified as male
- Most respondents came from the 35-54 year age range
- 85% of the respondents did not currently own an electric vehicle (EV)
- 91% heard about the E-Mission Plug N Drive event and wanted to participate
- 49% advised that they would purchase an EV within the next 6-12 months
- 98.5% would be considering an EV as their next vehicle.

J. Taylor advised that the motivators for respondents of the survey to purchase an EV were to reduce spending on fuel, reduce maintenance costs, and their personal interest in the actual design of an EV. She also advised that what detracted respondents from purchasing an EV was the cost of the vehicle, their willingness or ability to purchase an EV and the range of an EV. I. McVey advised that staff will be developing a more comprehensive report with more details regarding the E-Mission program and the survey results.

I. McVey responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether any electric vehicles are being purchased in the 2021-2022 calendar year for the Region of Durham's fleet; whether residents of Durham can now register for the LEAF program for the Spring and Fall of 2022; and how the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) funding mandate to help with energy retrofits, and Durham's Strategic plan to target older homes will work.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding the electrification of the Region of Durham's fleet, I. McVey advised that staff will report back to the Committee in November with an update.

In response to a question from K. Shadwick regarding whether there would be follow-up emails sent to the individuals that test drove an EV during the E-Mission Plug N Drive event, I. McVey advised that staff will be talking to the event team and will ask the question. I. McVey also advised that he would follow-up with K. Shadwick directly regarding his experiences with the Ride N Drive events.

Councillor Crawford noted her observation that a large amount of cars have been modified in the last year since the emission testing has been removed. She questioned how much the modifications might affect emissions. I. McVey advised that he would look into that.

6. Items for Information and Discussion

A) LEAF Program Year 1 Results - Summary Report

A copy of the LEAF Program Year 1 Results – Summary Report was provided to the Committee members prior to the meeting and received.

B) Ajax – Cities Race to Zero Pledge

A copy of the Town of Ajax's Cities Race to Zero Pledge was provided to the Committee members prior to the meeting and received.

I. McVey advised that the Race to Zero pledges come in advance of the COP26 Climate Conference being held in Glasgow, Scotland, November 1-12, 2021. He also advised that Ontario Tech University has also signed up. He noted the challenge for the Region of Durham with the Race to Zero

Pledge would be the need to meet the target of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

C) DRRCC Youth Member Nomination

A copy of Report #2021-A-19: Appointment of a Youth Member to the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change (DRRCC) was provided as Attachment #2 to the agenda and received.

I. McVey advised that Report #2021-A-19 was adopted by the Finance and Administration Committee on September 14, 2021 and will be presented to Regional Council September 29, 2021 for adoption. If adopted the new youth members first DRRCC meeting will be October 15, 2021.

D) Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure – Durham Region Membership

A copy of the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure – Durham Region Membership brochure was provided to the Committee members prior to the meeting and received.

I. McVey advised that the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure is the agency behind the Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Rating Framework that is the lead building standard for civil infrastructure. He advised that the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure offers training and support for professional development in the planning professions, civil engineering professions etc. and can provide the Region with access to subsidized training and development and access to broader North American delivery.

In response to a question regarding whether any municipalities have joined, I. McVey advised that in Ontario, the Town of Innisfil has joined but that membership seems to be more prevalent outside of Ontario.

7. Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

8. Other Business

A) Scotiabank Net Zero Research Fund Application

D. Hoornweg advised that Ontario Tech's Scotiabank Net Zero Research Fund Application for the project titled: Community Progress Toward Net Zero Carbon Emissions was successful with the goal of developing a real-time measuring system to measure greenhouse gas emissions at a community, city, regional, provincial, national, and global scale. He advised that work will begin next year, and he will update the Committee on an ongoing basis.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change will be held on Friday, October 15, 2021 starting at 10:00 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Chapman, Seconded by Councillor Leahy,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.

D. Hoornweg, Chair, Durham Region
Roundtable on Climate Change

S. Glover, Committee Clerk