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The Regional Municipality of Durham

Community Growth and Economic Development Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

A regular meeting of the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM.

Councillor Chapman assumed the Chair.

1. Roll Call

Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

* indicates individuals who participated electronically.

Members

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair
Councillor Pickles*, Vice-Chair, attended the meeting at 10:12 AM
Councillor Collier*
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo*
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry

Also

Present: Councillor Ashe* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Carter* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor McDougall* attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Neal

Staff Present: S. Austin, E. Baxter-Trahair, M. Broderick, S. Dessureault, D. Ellis, H. Finlay*, L. Fleury, L. Foulds, T. Fraser, S. Gill, C. Goodchild, N. Halim, B. Holmes, R. Inacio, S. Jibb, J. Kelly, I. McVey, J. Rhynas, L. Trombino* and S. Whalen.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Neal made a declaration of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, later in the meeting, with respect to Item 7.1 D), Correspondence from Durham Catholic District School Board, re: Letter of support regarding Report #2026-CG-9: Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program. He indicated that a family member is employed with the Durham Catholic District School Board.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Motion #20

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
That the minutes of the regular Community Growth and Economic
Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, be
adopted.

Carried

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Presentations

- 5.1 Ian McVey, Director of Environment and Climate, and Nayel Halim, Policy Advisor
Re: Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program
(2026-CG-9) and Durham District Energy Strategy and Courtice Transit Oriented
Community District Energy Update (2026-CG-10)
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I. McVey, Director of Environment and Climate, and N. Halim, Policy Advisor,
provided a presentation regarding Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham
Greener Buildings Program and Durham District Energy Strategy and Courtice
Transit Oriented Community District Energy Update. Highlights of the
presentation included:

- Climate, Growth and Infrastructure Context
- Durham Greener Buildings – Program Overview
- Durham Greener Buildings – Results
- Durham Greener Buildings – Key Insights
- Durham Greener Buildings – Phase 2 (2026-2029)
- Durham Greener Buildings – Phase 2 Enhancements
- Durham District Energy Strategy and Courtice Transit Oriented
Community (CTOC) District Energy Update
- What is District Energy?
- Durham District Energy Strategy
- Durham District Energy Strategy – Focus Areas
- CTOC District Energy System – Why Courtice?
- CTOC District Energy System: Progress since last Council update
- Durham-Clarington Joint Ownership Model
- Timing, Dependencies, and Next Steps

I. McVey and N. Halim responded to questions regarding proposed Phase 2
enhancements related to enhanced technical support and data quality; the data
that is collected; the process when retrofit opportunities are identified; barriers in
multi-tenant buildings; what grant funding through the Federation of Canadian

Municipalities' (FCM) Community Energy Systems stream is used for; whether grant funding can be used for department operations; the potential for future funding; the requirement for a pre and post energy audit; and whether an Energy Advisor is available in rural areas of Durham Region.

- 5.2 Stacey Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development, and Jessica Rhynas, Program Specialist, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development
Re: Growing North Durham Plan 2025 Annual Activity Report (2026-EDT-2)
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S. Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development, and J. Rhynas, Program Specialist, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development, provided a presentation regarding Growing North Durham Plan 2025 Annual Activity Report. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Background
- Plan Approach
- Three Pillars
 - People
 - Places
 - Prosperity
- Looking Ahead

S. Jibb and J. Rhynas responded to questions regarding the business visitation program; the consultation process for the North of Unexpected campaign; and data collection and analysis.

- 5.3 Maylene Broderick, Manager, Business Development and Investment
Re: Investment Attraction Metrics – Annual Activity Report 2025 (2026-EDT-3)
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M. Broderick, Manager, Business Development and Investment, provided a presentation regarding Investment Attraction Metrics – Annual Activity Report 2025. Highlights of the presentation included:

- What We Do
- Collaboration with Durham Economic Development Partnership (DEDP) and Durham Region Ecosystem
- Our Focus
- Investment Leads
- Lead Sources
- Metrics Summary
- Investment Attraction Missions
- Supporting Events
- Investment Successes
- Conclusion and Key Takeaways

M. Broderick and S. Gill responded to questions regarding whether metrics are available comparing Invest Durham with the time period when Durham Region worked with Toronto Global; the percentage of investment leads in Durham's priority clusters; the percentage of leads in future energy; the average timeframe for new investment successes; the timeframe for new investment successes in the future energy sector; the timeframe for the 34 investment successes included in Appendix 11 to Report #2026-EDT-3; the process for small businesses and business retention and expansion; impacts of the middle east conflict and fuel price increases; the target for in-person inbound delegations/tours; the economic impact of the future energy sector; and Councillor Foster's involvement with delegations related to future energy.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

7. Community Growth

7.1 Correspondence

- A) Correspondence from Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation, re: Letter of support regarding Report #2026-CG-9: Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program
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Motion #21

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That the correspondence received from Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation, regarding Report #2026-CG-9, be referred to consideration of Item 7.2 A).

Carried

- B) Correspondence from Oshawa Power, re: Letter of support regarding Report #2026-CG-9: Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program
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Motion #22

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That the correspondence received from Oshawa Power, regarding Report #2026-CG-9, be referred to consideration of Item 7.2 A).

Carried

- C) Correspondence from the Town of Ajax, re: Letter of support regarding Report #2026-CG-9: Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program
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Motion #23

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That the correspondence received from the Town of Ajax, regarding
Report #2026-CG-9, be referred to consideration of Item 7.2 A).

Carried

- D) Correspondence from Durham Catholic District School Board, re: Letter of support regarding Report #2026-CG-9: Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program
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Motion #24

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That the correspondence received from the Durham Catholic District
School Board, regarding Report #2026-CG-9, be referred to consideration
of Item 7.2 A).

Carried

- E) Correspondence from Climate Action Partnership, re: Letter of support regarding Report #2026-CG-9: Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program
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Motion #25

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That the correspondence received from the Climate Action Partnership,
regarding Report #2026-CG-9, be referred to consideration of Item 7.2 A).

Carried

- F) Correspondence from the Town of Whitby, re: Letter of support regarding Report #2026-CG-9: Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program
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Motion #26

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That the correspondence received from the Town of Whitby, regarding
Report #2026-CG-9, be referred to consideration of Item 7.2 A).

Carried

- G) Correspondence from The Atmospheric Fund, re: Letter of support regarding Report #2026-CG-9: Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program
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Motion #27

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That the correspondence received from The Atmospheric Fund, regarding
Report #2026-CG-9, be referred to consideration of Item 7.2 A).

Carried

- H) Correspondence from Doug Glass, Ajax resident, re: Report #2026-CG-9: Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program, Report #2026-CG-10: Durham District Energy Strategy and Courtice Transit Oriented Community District Energy Update, Report #2026-EDT-2: Growing North Durham Plan 2025 Annual Activity Report, Report #2026-EDT-3: Investment Attraction Metrics –Annual Activity Report 2025
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Motion #28

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,

That the correspondence received from Doug Glass, Ajax resident, regarding Report #2026-CG-9, Report #2026-CG-10, Report #2026-EDT-2 and Report #2026-EDT-3, be referred to consideration of Items 7.2 A), 7.2 B), 8.2 A), and 8.2 B).

Carried

7.2 Reports

- A) Continuation and Enhancement of the Durham Greener Buildings Program ([2026-CG-9](#))
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Report #2026-CG-9 from S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to collaboration with local utilities; awareness of existing programs and initiatives; cost-share requirements for funding; and promotion of the Windfall Ecology Centre website.

Motion #29

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,

That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Regional Council endorse the continuation of the Durham Greener Buildings Program for the period 2026–2029, as outlined in Report #2026-CG-9 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development;
- B) That staff be directed to pursue external funding opportunities and partnerships to enable additional program enhancements, including expanded outreach and engagement with the commercial building sector and increased alignment with utility conservation and demand management programs;
- C) That the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development or designate be authorized to execute the necessary agreement and any ancillary documents with Windfall Ecology Centre on a single source agreement and any ancillary agreements in forms satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor and Commissioner of Finance, to support joint implementation of the Program, as required; and

- D) That Report #2026-CG-9 and associated resolution(s) be forwarded to local area municipalities, the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Natural Resources Canada, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, for information.

Carried

- B) Durham District Energy Strategy and Courtice Transit Oriented Community District Energy Update
([2026-CG-10](#))
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Report #2026-CG-10 from S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Motion #30

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
That Report #2026-CG-10 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

Carried

- C) Proposed changes to the Durham Climate Roundtable and Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee
([2026-CG-11](#))
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Report #2026-CG-11 from S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Motion #31

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the Region's collaboration agreement with Ontario Tech University governing the establishment and operation of the Durham Climate Roundtable not be renewed for another four-year term;
- B) That the Durham Climate Roundtable and the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee be transitioned to a new Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Table, effective for the next Council term, commencing in December 2026;
- C) That the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee be dissolved as an advisory committee to Regional Council effective November 14, 2026; and

- D) That the proposed terms of reference for the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Table, included as Attachment #1 to Report #2026-CG-11 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, be approved.

Carried

- D) Regional Staff Comments on Transport Canada's Pickering Lands Public and Stakeholder Consultation
([2026-CG-12](#))
-

Report #2026-CG-12 from S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Motion #32

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the following Regional staff comments be endorsed and submitted to Transport Canada as the Region's response to the public and stakeholder consultation on future uses for the Pickering Lands:
- i) That the federal government define its priorities and long-term planning horizon for the Pickering Lands and prepare alternative land use concepts for stakeholder evaluation;
 - ii) That should the federal government determine that the Pickering Lands will be used to generate housing opportunities, a comprehensive land use framework be prepared to demonstrate that the creation of a complete and sustainable community balances the various interests in the land;
 - iii) That should a portion of the Pickering Lands be identified for residential development, sites should be set aside in advance for non-market housing, affordable, and supportive housing and that the cost of land to be made available should be discounted in exchange for long-term guarantees for affordable and attainable housing;
 - iv) That should a portion of the Pickering Lands be identified as appropriate for employment uses, the federal government should target such industries which support advanced manufacturing (including modular construction);
 - v) That timely resolution to align the federal Pickering Airport Site Zoning Regulations and provincial Ministers Zoning Orders on the Pickering Lands be prioritized;

- vi) That the federal government consider the scale of development and rate of growth of surrounding communities when determining the future of the Pickering Lands;
 - vii) That the federal government engage with technical experts at the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Indigenous communities, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA), the Ministry of Rural Affairs (MRA), and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to establish data informed criteria for evaluating high conservation value lands;
 - viii) That the federal government prioritize a systems-based approach to expanding Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP), focusing on protecting and enhancing natural features and the linkages between them, but also preserving productive farmland as a stable supply of local food and support to Durham's food value chain and industries related to food production;
 - ix) That the federal government consider the Durham Natural System Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment mapping in its assessment of the Pickering Lands;
 - x) That the federal government review the Highway Access Management Plan Study, Preliminary Design Study and Class EA for the widening of Highway 7 and the Central Pickering Development Plan Class EA for Regional Services, 2014, for planning purposes for the Pickering Lands;
 - xi) That further analysis and consultation specific to water and wastewater servicing and transportation infrastructure will be required for any new land use concept to ensure timing of development will be aligned with other development areas and planned Regional infrastructure expansions and that the appropriate financing arrangements will be in place to support the infrastructure costs related to servicing the Pickering Lands, to ensure that these costs are not funded from Durham residents and businesses;
 - xii) That the Region encourages the federal government to ensure meaningful engagement with Indigenous rights holders, including providing appropriate capacity funding to support participation; and
- B) That a copy of Report #2026-CG-12 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be forwarded to Durham's area municipalities, conservation authorities, and the Williams Treaty First Nations.

Carried

E) [MSIFN-Durham Bilateral Agreement – Establishing an Indigenous Advisory Circle \(2026-CG-13\)](#)

Report #2026-CG-13 from S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to the proposed Indigenous Advisory Circle structure and reporting process; and whether the Indigenous Advisory Circle will align with the MSIFN-Durham Bilateral Agreement and other activities being undertaken by the Region and area municipalities.

Motion #33

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Regional Council supports the establishment of an Indigenous Advisory Circle to provide advice to Regional Council and staff;
- B) That the Foundational Framework for the Indigenous Advisory Circle, outlined in Attachment 1 to Report #2026-CG-13 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, be received for information; and
- C) That in accordance with the Foundational Framework, Regional Council appoint a non-voting representative to the Indigenous Advisory Circle.

Carried

8. Economic Development

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

A) [Growing North Durham Plan 2025 Annual Activity Report \(2026-EDT-2\)](#)

Report #2026-EDT-2 from S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Motion #34

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
That Report #2026-EDT-2 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

Carried

B) Investment Attraction Metrics – Annual Activity Report 2025
([2026-EDT-3](#))

Report #2026-EDT-3 from S. Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Motion #35

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
That Report #2026-EDT-3 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

Carried

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

9.1 Durham Active Transportation Committee

A) June Bike Month

Motion #36

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That we recommend to Council:

Whereas June is Bike Month;

Whereas Durham Regional Community Growth staff have organized numerous bike friendly activities annually for over a decade to educate residents about cycling safety, promote the benefits of cycling, and encourage residents to bike more by participating in Bike Month throughout the month of June; and

Whereas the Durham Active Transportation Committee fully supports the Region of Durham's planned Bike Month activities;

Now therefore be it resolved that Regional Council support the planned Regional Bike Month activities and proclaim the month of June as Bike Month in the Region of Durham.

Carried

9.2 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

A) Resolution passed at Prince Edward County Council meeting held on January 29, 2026 in support of Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025

Motion #37

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the resolution received from the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee in support of the Prince Edward County resolution passed at their Council meeting held on January 29, 2026, in support of Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025, be received for information; and
- B) That a copy of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee resolution be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness.

Carried

B) Federal Airport Lands

Motion #38

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
That the resolution received from the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee regarding the Federal Airport Lands, be received for information.

Carried

9.3 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

A) Implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

Motion #39

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the resolution received from the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee regarding the implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, be received for information; and
- B) Whereas the Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog watersheds are of significant ecological, economic and recreational importance to the Region of Durham and its residents;

And Whereas Lake Scugog is a shallow, nutrient-sensitive lake that is vulnerable to phosphorus loading, algal blooms and climate-driven water quality impacts;

And Whereas the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition's report Protect Our Plan: From Good Goals to Practical Progress (November 2025) outlines practical, implementation-focused recommendations to strengthen the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan;

And Whereas there is currently no provincially legislated protection plan for Lake Scugog comparable to the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, despite similar water quality pressures;

And Whereas both the current federal government and the Official Opposition committed during recent federal election campaigns to restore and expand dedicated funding for Lake Simcoe at a minimum of \$40 million;

And Whereas the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation-Durham Region Bilateral Agreement includes a commitment to collaborate for ecological protection and restoration of lands and waters with ecological and cultural connections, of which Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog would be examples;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. Regional Council receive and endorse the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition's Protect Our Plan report;
2. Regional Council endorse:
 - the establishment of a dedicated funding stream within Canada's Freshwater Action Plan, consistent with commitments made by federal parties during recent election campaigns, to provide sustained, transparent investment in phosphorus reduction, stormwater retrofits and science in both the Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog watersheds; and
 - the creation of a provincial Riparian Tax Incentive to encourage the protection and restoration of naturalized buffers along streams and shorelines in the Lake Simcoe, as well as Lake Scugog watersheds;
3. That the Regional Chair write to:
 - the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change,
 - the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,
 - Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog watershed Members of Parliament, and
 - Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog watershed Members of Provincial Parliamentrequesting their support and action on the above measures; and
4. That a copy of this resolution be circulated to Lake Simcoe and Lake Scugog watershed municipalities.

Carried

10. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

11. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Community Growth and Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 9:30 AM in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Motion #40

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman
Chair

T. Fraser
Committee Clerk