

# Environmental Sustainability Committee

## Minutes

### Special Meeting

**Thursday, September 28, 2017**

**Ante Room at 5pm**

#### **Attendance:**

Councillor Jennie Stevens (Vice Chair)  
Elaine Manocha (Chair, Clean City Committee),  
Peter Thompstone (Chair, Green Committee)

#### **Staff:**

Phil Cristi (Director PRCS)  
Jeff McCormick (Chief, Fire Services)

#### **Regrets:**

Councillor Dave Haywood (Chair)  
Councillor Matt Harris  
Dave Wood, Fire Chief

#### **Staff guests:**

Shelley Chemnitz (CAO)  
Dan Dillon (Director TES)  
Maggie Riopelle (Commissioner's Office) ~ presenting

#### **Staff Liaisons:**

Pat Conway (Clean City Committee)  
Ilyse Norton (Green City Committee)  
Julie Hughes, Pillar Committee, Recorder

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1. **Call meeting to order:** Vice Chair Stevens  
5:05pm

2. **Motion to approve the agenda**

*That the ESC approve the agenda, as presented*

Moved: P Thompson

**Carried**

**3. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

n/a

**4. Presentations, Maggie Riopelle**

- Review of the Strategic Plan

**5. Business arising from the minutes**

- n/a

**6. Business**

- Discussion of specific language and action items highlighted in the *Environmental Sustainability ~ Revisions* handout

**7. Directions/follow ups**

**7.1**

- Potential initiatives/reporting include:
  - car charging stations
  - solar panels on City facilities
  - LED lights

**7.2**

- Potential initiatives:
  - Partner with the Region to have more trees planted and maintained on Regional Roads
  - Review and update site plan agreements to ensure tree planting and maintenance is encouraged and enforceable.

**7.3**

- Move “accessibility” from this action item and incorporate into the Social Pillar statement 5.3 which focuses on connectivity and links such as trails, parks and waterfront.

**8.1**

- Through Covenant of Mayors – next steps for city partners to consider with respect to climate change are being developed. Could be incorporated into reporting.
- Statement should not just focus on municipal operations – also planning and/or planning policies. Consider adding additional action item

**General Comments**

- Consider adding action item that reflects work of Pillar committees – Clean City, graffiti, recycling initiatives
- More work needs to be done between the City and Region for beautification and environmental projects

- Consider improvements to Citizens First which includes contacting the Region on behalf of residents as opposed to providing information on how to contact the Region. Improves customer service and may help get results.

**8. Other business**

n/a

**9. Date of 2017 meetings:**

**October 10**

**5-6pm**

**The Ante Room**

**10. Motion to adjourn**

*That the ESC be adjourned at 6.00pm*

Moved: E Manocha

**Carried**

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## Memorandum

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**To:** Environmental Sustainability Committee members  
**Cc:** Shelley Chemnitz, CAO (Acting)  
**From:** Maggie Riopelle, Executive Research Assistant  
**Date:** September 21, 2017  
**Subject:** Strategic Plan Update – Environmental Pillar

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### Background

In 2015, City Council approved the City's first 10-year Strategic Plan. At the time of its approval, Council and staff supported regular review of the plan to ensure it meets the priorities of Council and addresses today's circumstances.

As such, Councillors and senior staff were interviewed this year to provide input into the plan, provide comments and identify challenges as part of the review. Two challenges were specifically identified: interpretation the action items and measuring the progress in a consistent manner.

The next step, with the assistance of a facilitator, was to break into groups and start working through each action item within the pillars to clarify and update those actions, and in some cases remove actions from the plan.

### Pillar Committees

With more than 40 action items, a lot of work has been completed thus far, however, there are still a number of action items that require more input and dialogue. It was recommended that the four pillar committees now become part of the process to assist with the outstanding action items requiring additional review.

### Special Meeting

Each Pillar Committee is hosting a special meeting as one of the focus groups involved with the Strategic Plan review. To assist the Committees, this package includes:

- Original action items from the Strategic Plan
- Revisions made thus far to the pillar's action items
- Notes from the group sessions with the consultant on the action items

Once these special meetings have been held, and the material reviewed by our Senior Management Team, refined action items for the Strategic Plan will be presented to Council.

Your assistance in this process will help the City of St. Catharines to update its Strategic Plan, refocus on its priorities and ensure we continue to move forward in a positive direction. If you have any questions or would like to provide further comment, I can be reached by email at [mrriopelle@stcatharines.ca](mailto:mrriopelle@stcatharines.ca).

# ST. CATHARINES STRATEGIC PLAN

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## SUSTAINABILITY



## 2017 Plan Update



**GOAL:** Lead in the protection of our environment for future generations.

## ACTIONS:

- Establish a plan to integrate green energy and sustainable technologies in municipal infrastructure and program delivery.
- Continue to achieve tree canopy targets as identified in the Urban Forestry Management Plan.
- Increase protection of our water resources by working with partners to reduce pollution and ensure long-term sustainability.
- Maintain and enhance the health and accessibility of our waterfront through the Waterfront Trail system, municipal beaches, rivers and creeks, the Welland Canal and old canal systems by working with Niagara Region, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and other community partners on improvement projects.
- Support partnerships to expand the community gardens network across the city.

**GOAL:** Be prepared for the impacts of climate change.

## ACTIONS:

- Review and update all municipal operations to minimize and prepare for the impacts of climate change including winter control procedures and flooding.
- Promote water conservation and protection of local water sources by working with the Niagara Region.

Legend



Recommended update  
by Councillors/staff



Requires review by  
Pillar Committee



Suggestion to  
remove from Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - REVISIONS

**GOAL:** Lead in the protection of our environment for future generations.

**ACTIONS:**

7.1	Establish a plan to integrate green energy and sustainable technologies in municipal infrastructure and program delivery.	
7.2	Continue to achieve tree canopy targets as identified in the Urban Forestry Management Plan.	
7.3	Promote water conservation, enhance protection of the City’s water sources and maintain and improve the health and accessibility of our waterfront by working with the partners on improvement projects and pollution reduction programs to ensure long-term sustainability. Note: consolidated with 7.4 and 8.2	G
7.4	<del>Maintain and enhance the health and accessibility of our waterfront through the Waterfront Trail system, municipal beaches, rivers and creeks, the Welland Canal and old canal systems by working with the Niagara Region, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and other community partners on improvement projects.</del> Note: consolidated with 7.3.	
7.5	Support the development of partnerships to expand the community gardens network across the city.	G

**GOAL:** Be prepared for the impacts of climate change.

**ACTIONS:**

8.1	Review and update all municipal operations to minimize and prepare for the impacts of climate change including winter control procedures and flooding. Note: Consider expanding this item to note or reflect other initiatives, programs and policies - Compact of Mayors, actionable items, policy statements...etc.	
8.2	<del>Promote water conservation and protection of local water sources by working with the Niagara Region.</del> Note: consolidated with 7.3.	



# Environmental Sustainability: Summary of Action

Clarify

Update

Drop

No  
Change

## Goal 7: Lead in the Protection of our Environment for Future Generations

Actions Proposed Change

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 7.1 | Establish a plan to integrate green energy and sustainable technologies in municipal infrastructure and program delivery                     |
| 7.2 | Continue to achieve the tree canopy targets in the city as identified in the Urban Forestry Management Plan                                  |
| 7.3 | Increase protection of City's environmental water resources by working with partners to reduce pollution and ensure long-term sustainability |
| 7.4 | Maintain and enhance the health and accessibility of our waterfront – <i>Potentially consolidate with 7.3</i>                                |
| 7.5 | Support the development of partnerships to expand the community gardens network across the City  |

## Goal 8: Be prepared for the impacts of climate change

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 8.1 | Review and update all municipal operations to minimize the impacts of and ensure preparation for climate change including winter control procedures and flooding      |
| 8.2 | Promote water conservation and protection of local water sources by working with Niagara Region - <i>Consolidate with item 7.3 and include community in the scope</i> |

# Environmental Sustainability

## Goal 7: Lead in the Protection of our Environment for Future Generations

<b>Action Item: 7.1</b>	Establish a plan to integrate green energy and sustainable technologies in municipal infrastructure and program delivery	<b>Leads:</b> TES
<b>Proposed Action/ Comments/Priority</b>	<b>No change</b> <b>Comments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual streetlight conversion status will be provided to Council Q2 2017</li><li>• Energy Plan terms of reference to be provided in Q2 2018. Changes in the landscape including carbon tax and increasing energy costs to be addressed in the terms of reference.</li><li>• Targeting adoption of Energy Plan in Q4 2018</li></ul>	<b>High</b>
<b>Potential Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rate of annual streetlight conversion</li><li>• Completion and adoption of terms of reference for Energy Plan - Q3 2017</li><li>• Completion and adoption of Energy Plan - Q4 2018</li></ul>	

## Environmental Sustainability (2)

### Goal 7: Lead in the Protection of our Environment for Future Generations

<b>Action Item: 7.2</b>	Continue to achieve the tree canopy targets in the city as identified in the Urban Forestry Management Plan	<b>Leads:</b> PRCS
<b>Proposed Action/ Comments/Priority</b>	<b>No change</b> <b>Comments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff continue to plant and replace trees to meet urban forestry targets</li> <li>• Progress reports provided to Council including updates regarding challenges to achieve targets</li> <li>• Intend to update Urban Forestry Plan in Q3 2017</li> <li>• Introduced new program (private tree give away Q2/17) as a means of leveraging resources to increase the urban tree canopy</li> <li>• Opportunity to engage external service providers to assist in monitoring changes to the urban canopy through geospatial technologies</li> <li>• Prepare report outlining public and private tree by-laws in 2017</li> </ul>	<b>High</b>
<b>Potential Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievement of urban forestry targets</li> <li>• Completion of updated Urban Forestry Plan - Q3 2017</li> <li>• Submission of by-law report - Q3/4 2017</li> </ul>	

## Environmental Sustainability (3)

### Goal 7: Lead in the Protection of our Environment for Future Generations

<b>Action Item: 7.3</b>	Increase protection of our water resources by working with partners to reduce pollution and ensure long-term sustainability	<b>Leads:</b> TES
<b>Proposed Action/Comments/Priority</b>	<p><b>Clarify.</b> Revise item to read: “Increase protection of City’s environmental water resources by working with partners to reduce pollution and ensure long-term sustainability”</p> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City continues work on waterfront enhancement projects with partners and pursuing funding opportunities</li> <li>• City is updating Pollution Control Plan - Pollution Prevention Control Plan (PPCP) study</li> </ul>	<b>High</b>
<b>Potential Measures</b>	<p>Progress against recommendations in Plan</p> <p>Potential new measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beach water coliform counts</li> <li>• Number of beach closure days</li> </ul>	
<b>Action Item: 7.4</b>	Maintain and enhance the health and accessibility of our waterfront	<b>Leads:</b> TES/PRCS
<b>Proposed Action/Comments/Priority</b>	<p><b>Clarify.</b> Potentially consolidate with item 7.3</p> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility improvements included in the Lakeside Park enhancement project</li> </ul>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Potential Measures</b>	Identification and implementation of opportunities/initiatives to improve the health and accessibility of our waterfront	

## Environmental Sustainability (4)

### Goal 7: Lead in the Protection of our Environment for Future Generations

<b>Action Item: 7.5</b>	Support partnerships to expand the community gardens network across the city	<b>Leads:</b> PRCS
<b>Proposed Action/ Comments/Priority</b>	<p><b>Clarify.</b> Revise item to read: “Support the development of partnerships to expand the community gardens network across the City”</p> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City continues to develop existing gardens and promote new development through community initiatives</li> <li>• Council's approval of a grant program in support of Community Gardens for 2017 has been implemented.</li> <li>• A new garden development is pending at Eastmount Park</li> </ul>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Potential Measures</b>	Number of community partnerships [ <i>Timeline to be confirmed</i> ]	

## Environmental Sustainability (5)

**Goal 8:** Be prepared for the impacts of climate change

<b>Action Item: 8.1</b>	Review and update all municipal operations to minimize the impacts of and ensure preparation for climate change including winter control procedures and flooding	<b>Leads:</b> TES/PBS
<b>Proposed Action/ Comments/Priority</b>	<b>No change</b> <b>Comments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of PPCP Study underway, historical rainfall data will be reviewed to determine validity of current design storm assumptions</li> <li>As part of the Covenant of Mayors (formerly Compact of Mayors) the City is undertaking a Climate Change Risk assessment in 2017</li> <li>Program reviews to be conducted of highest risk programs - Target 2018-2022</li> </ul>	<b>High</b>
<b>Potential Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of climate change risk assessment - Q3/4, 2017</li> <li>Completion of program reviews - 2018-2022</li> </ul>	

  

<b>Action Item: 8.2</b>	Promote water conservation and protection of local water sources by working with Niagara Region	<b>Leads:</b> TES
<b>Proposed Action/ Comments/Priority</b>	<b>Clarify.</b> Consolidate with item 7.3 and include community in the scope <b>Comments:</b> Update to PPCP underway (report to Council - Sept 12/16)	<b>Low</b>
<b>Potential Measures</b>	Number of water protection and conservation initiatives implemented [ <i>Timeline to be confirmed</i> ]	