

## Ontario Climate Caucus September 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes

### 1. Action Items

- Action item: Provide list of NGOs and/or community groups in your municipalities who were active on climate emergency declarations or how to inform/engage Environmental Advisory Committees. Can do so via this [form](#) or by sending an email to Gaby at [gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org](mailto:gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org)
- Action Item: it would be good to have the Help Communities Lead effort promoted to community organizations as well as municipal council members.
- Action Item: Question for OCC to consider and report back via the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting or via email at any time ([gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org](mailto:gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org)): are the resources developed so far (3 policy briefs, staff report and sample resolution) sufficient to start a municipal conversation or are there additional resources that would be of value? What are the challenges you would likely face in trying to get a Help Communities Lead discussion in council?
- ACTION: Has your municipality discussed and/or advanced climate metrics into senior management performance frameworks? Has your municipality considered it and then didn't advance it? and if so what were the issues that limited its advancement? Please send info to Gaby at [gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org](mailto:gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org)
- Action Item: Have other municipalities received/or directed their municipally owned utility to advance a Climate Action Plan that aligns with the Municipality's Climate Action Plan?
- Action Item: Have other municipalities updated their ABCs Guiding Principles for Executive Compensation (either within the municipality itself or for ABC's)?
- Action Item: If you can email Gaby info if your municipality has updated their by-laws recently to ensure pollinator gardens meet municipal requirements. (send info to [gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org](mailto:gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org))
- Action Item: If OCC members can share the Assessment of the IESO Pathways to Decarbonization from the Perspective of Municipal Climate Action Plans [Report](#) and [Briefing Note](#) with their council colleagues that would be great to have the report coming to them from a trusted colleague.
- Action Item: Have any other municipalities engaged with OMERS re their climate consideration and climate risks? OMERS ranked lower in comparison to other Canadian pension funds based on [Shift's 2022 Canadian Pension Climate Report Card](#).
- Action: There is a desire across the OCC network to share resolutions (those passed as well as those not passed). For those with resolutions they think would be transferable to other municipalities can share them by completing this [form](#) or sending an email to Gaby who will then put them up on the OCC resource hub available [here](#).
- Action: Future OCC meeting will allocate time in the meeting agenda for break out sessions (15 minutes) as well as a report back (5 minutes).

## 2. Help Communities Lead

- Help Communities Lead is a collective effort to advance the discussion within Ontario municipal councils on the need for collaboration between the province and municipalities on policies and programming to help build net-zero communities, and deliver economic prosperity, green jobs, energy efficiency, and carbon emission reductions. There are 3 Planning Briefs (geared towards each of the Ministries (Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks; Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) outlining the municipal asks that align with their respective mandates. There is a sample council report on the overall Help Communities Lead effort as well as a sample resolution.
- The sample resolution is merely a suggestion for a possible resolution, but it is encouraged that it be customized based on what you think may be a better approach that would resonate more with your council.
- There is likely to be concern that the province isn't really interested in engaging with municipalities. There is however the additional benefit of discussion related to the municipal asks identified in the Policy Briefs (and identified by the Ontario Climate Caucus via a strategic planning exercise in the first half of 2022) to serve to advance a council discussion on municipal climate opportunities available at present and climate opportunities that municipalities would need support from the province to advance.
- There was recognition of the challenges related to the lack of provincial climate leadership, however, it was noted that outside of business stakeholders, it is likely that municipal council representatives would have the most likelihood of being able to secure provincial engagement for a discussion on where there may be overlap between the various actions identified as municipal asks and the provincial willingness to work with municipalities to advance. Once an alignment opportunity is identified it would fall to municipal and provincial staff to implement.
- It was suggested that if a council is unwilling to send a message to the province there is the ability to send the resolution to AMO to encourage AMO to help facilitate a more robust dialogue between municipalities and the province.
- It would also be good to identify community and NGOs who have been active in advancing municipal Climate Emergency Declarations and engage them in building support for council discussions on the Help Communities Lead effort.
- **Action item: Provide list of NGOs and/or community groups in your municipalities who were active on climate emergency declarations or how to inform/engage Environmental Advisory Committees. Can do so via this [form](#) or by sending an email to Gaby at [gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org](mailto:gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org)**
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resources developed so far (3 policy briefs, staff report and sample resolution) sufficient to start a municipal conversation or are there additional resources that would be of value? What are the challenges you would likely face in trying to get a Help Communities Lead discussion in council?

### **3. Incorporation of Climate Commitments in Senior Management Performance Metrics**

- There is significant interest in compiling information from municipalities on which have advancing the inclusion of municipal climate commitments and outputs into senior management performance frameworks.
- Incorporation of Green Human Resources Management (which is often what this action is called) is a leading climate accountability practice. It is a logical follow through from a council approved climate actions plan. Corporate commitments are a logical starting place, but can also include metrics related to implementation of community actions
- There isn't much public information on which municipalities have this in place. There seems to be more transparency in the private sector re climate commitments metrics in senior management performance metrics. Ex. 37% are tying senior leader's compensation to environmental sustainability performance. - [Deloitte](#)
- It would be helpful to do a scan of who has advanced Green Human Resources Management (which is another term for this action).
- **ACTION: Has your municipality discussed and/or advanced climate metrics into senior management performance frameworks? Has your municipality considered it and then didn't advance it? and if so what were the issues that limited its advancement? Please send info to Gaby at [gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org](mailto:gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org)**
- Once a municipal scan is compiled this will be an agenda item at a future OCC meeting.

### **4. Incorporation of Climate Commitments into Agencies, Board and Commissions' Mandates and Senior Management Performance Metrics**

- Many municipalities have struggled to get the necessary support from their utilities relating to implementation of municipal climate action plan.
- Utilities are an example of a critical municipal partner needed to support the implementation of the municipality's climate commitments, but there are many other ABC's that are also likely critical for municipal climate action implementation.
- For example, Toronto City Council directed Toronto Hydro to develop a Climate Action Plan that identifies how they will need to work with the City to achieve Transform TO outcomes: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.EX22.5>
- Toronto Hydro submitted their Climate Action Plan to the City in December of 2021 <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.EX28.1>
- In follow up to Toronto's Climate Accountability Framework: <https://www.toronto.ca/news/city-of-toronto-adopts-climate-accountability-framework-will-create-groups-to-guide-climate-strategy-implementation/> City Council just approved

[Guiding Principles for the Development of Senior Executive Compensation Policies at City Agencies and Corporations](#)

- **Action Item: Have other municipalities received/or directed their municipally owned utility to advance a Climate Action Plan that aligns with the Municipality's Climate Action Plan?**
- **Action Item: Have other municipalities updated their ABCs Guiding Principles for Executive Compensation (either within the municipality itself or for ABC's?)**

## **5. Pollinator Garden By-Laws**

- There was interest across the OCC network and which municipalities have zoning and/or by-laws related to enabling pollinator gardens in front yards of private properties.
- There is a lot of information municipalities often have on education re the value of pollinator gardens on their web site, but it is challenging to identify which municipalities have followed through with by-laws enabling front yard pollinator gardens.
- Below is more information on municipal by-laws and legal precedents that may be of value.
- **Action Item: If you can email Gaby info if your municipality has updated their by-laws recently to ensure pollinator gardens meet municipal requirements. (send info to [gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org](mailto:gkalapos@cleanairpartnership.org))**
- This will be an agenda topic on the October 18<sup>th</sup> OCC meeting.
- <https://foecanada.org/2022/08/protect-pollinators-call-for-by-law-modernization/>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/ontario-pollinator-gardens-monarch-butterfly-1.6534696>
- <https://london.ca/by-laws/yard-lot-maintenance-law-pw-9>
- <https://www.lerners.ca/lernx/making-sense-of-municipal-regulation-of-naturalized-lawns/>
- <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/public-notices-bylaws/bylaw-enforcement/turfgrass-prohibited-plants/>
- [https://ecologicaldesignlab.ca/site/uploads/2022/06/FAQ\\_Natural-Yards\\_Bylaws-for-Biodiversity22-1.pdf](https://ecologicaldesignlab.ca/site/uploads/2022/06/FAQ_Natural-Yards_Bylaws-for-Biodiversity22-1.pdf)
- <https://ecologicaldesignlab.ca/frequently-asked-questions-natural-gardens-and-bylaws/>
- <https://ecologicaldesignlab.ca/project/by-laws-for-biodiversity/>
- <https://iclei-europe.org/publications-tools/?c=search&uid=b07XuqQ5>

## **6. Assessment of IESO's Pathways to Decarbonization Study From the Perspective of Municipal Climate Action Plans**

- The Assessment report provides an overview of the gaps observed in IESO's Pathways to Decarbonization Study and 11 recommendations to improve decarbonization pathway analysis, focusing on enhancing modelling, analysis, collaboration transparency, and aligning provincial energy planning with municipal climate action plans.

- The recognition of the very important message municipalities bring to the Ontario energy planning conversation related to the importance of reducing energy demand and advancing economic development and job creation opportunities across all Ontario communities municipalities highlights the importance of municipalities engaging more in these energy planning discussions.
- The report and its recommendations have been shared with Ontario municipal council members, Minister of Energy and staff; Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and staff, and the IESO executive team.
- **Action Item: If OCC members can share the report with their council colleagues that would be great to have the report coming to them from a trusted colleague.**
- [Briefing Note: Assessment of IESO's Pathways to Decarbonization Study](#)
- [Assessment of IESO's Pathways to Decarbonization Study: From the Perspective of Municipal Climate Action Plans](#)
- Clean Air Partnership Blog: Powering the Future: Examining the Costly Imbalance in Ontario's Electricity Approach: [Linked in Link](#). [CAP Link](#)
- The recommendation were also submitted via the [Clean Air Council input to the Electrification and Energy Transition Panel](#) and the [Clean Air Council Conservation Demand Management ERO posting](#).
- Novae Res Urbis GTHA Getting Off Gas article [Linked in post](#) and [direct link to article](#) (Shared with permission of the publisher of NRU Publishing Inc. Original article first appeared in Novae Res Urbis GTHA, Vol. 26, No. 28, Wednesday, July 12, 2023).

## 7. Wetland Evaluation and Offset Leading Practices

- Just a reminder that there was a follow up webinar from [Ontario Nature on leading practices for municipal Wetland Offsets](#) that took place in June of 2023 (if you are asked for a password it is: cac). Everyone knows it is impossible to recreate the ecosystem services wetland provides, and therefore protecting the remaining wetlands is the priority, but for those municipalities who are vulnerable to wetland loss due to the changes in the provincial wetland evaluation system advancing a wetland offset policy may be something for council to discuss.
- [Wetland Evaluation Changes and their Municipal Implications](#)

## 8. Climate and Fiduciary Duties at OMERS

- In April of 2023 Toronto City Council requested OMERS report to the Committee on the climate lens it applies to its investment decisions.
- OMERS presented at [Toronto Infrastructure and Environment Committee](#) at the September 2023 [Infrastructure and Environment Committee](#)
- **Action Item: Have any other municipalities engaged with OMERS re their climate consideration and climate risks? OMERS ranked lower in comparison to other**

Canadian pension funds based on [Shift's 2022 Canadian Pension Climate Report Card](#).

**9. Sharing of Council Climate Resolutions Across OCC network**

- **Action:** There is a desire across the OCC network to share resolutions (those passed as well as those not passed). For those with resolutions they think would be transferable to other municipalities can share them by completing this [form](#) or sending an email to Gaby who will then put them up on the OCC resource hub available [here](#).
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