

Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) update

January – December 2019

The EAC last provided a Report to Priorities Committee November 13, 2018 to report on their activities for 2018. The EAC met a total of five times from January 2019 to November 2019. The EAC has been focused on addressing the items listed in their mandate letter.

Activity	Requested Completion Date	Update
Provide input on the Transit Master Plan	Q4 2019	This was completed in 2018.
Provide input on park/trail plans (Sally Stewart, Trails Strategy, etc.)	Q4 2019	This was completed in 2018.
Provide input on the Agriculture Master Plan Implementation Strategy	Q4 2019	Nothing additional was completed in 2019.
Provide input on the potential update of the Land Use Bylaw and Bremner	Q4 2019	The committee received a presentation on February 13, 2019 and had a chance for further discussion on March 6, 2019. The committee provided a letter of feedback regarding Bremner following the March 6, 2019 meeting.
Review and promotion of environmental initiative days		After discussions in the 2018 year, the EAC recommended to Council that the review and promotion of environmental initiative days be added to their mandate letter. It was approved on January 22, 2019. The committee discussed Clean Air Day and supported the Bike Tune-Up Event that Utilities put on in coordination with Clean Air Day activities by Transit.

The EAC also expressed interest in other topics outside of the scope of the mandate letter including waste and waste diversion, emerging clean technologies, air quality, and the end of life of plastics. These topics formed the base for the Committee's future task force recommendations.

The committee received numerous presentations throughout the 2019 year, including an orientation presentation from Legislative and Legal Services. The committee heard from many guests throughout the 2019 year, including representatives from various County departments (Utilities, Planning & Development Services, Legislative & Legal Services) as well as outside organizations (Inside Education).

Much of the year was focused on the Bremner discussion. The committee received a formal presentation on February 13, were invited to explore the various documents and reports associated with the Area Concept Plan, and provided formal feedback following the March 6 meeting.

The committee received a presentation from Inside Education where they learned about the various programs that Inside Education offers, specifically those active in Strathcona County. The committee explored ways to increase the presence of Inside Education within the County, including options to coordinate with Clean Air Day. With the addition of 'review and promotion of environmental initiative days' to the Mandate Letter, the committee decided to focus on Clean Air Day. They discussed what neighbouring municipalities have done in previous years to celebrate and encourage participation in Clean Air Day initiatives. The committee provided feedback to Transit on how communication about the day could be increased. The committee supported the initiative by Utilities to host a bike tune-up event at the Broadmoor Enviroservice Centre in conjunction with Clean Air Day. The event was well attended by community members.

At the July 23 Council meeting, Council passed a motion to retire the Environmental Advisory Committee as of December 31, 2019. The Committee expressed the importance of continuing work in specific task forces. Education campaigns and strategies to develop partnerships with other organizations are important to incorporate into all task forces. The Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that the Priorities Committee makes a recommendation to Council to consider the following task forces:

- A task force to focus on promoting a circular economy within Strathcona County. This task force can integrate Waste Reduction Week into its activities. This task force can work with various branches of the community, such as residential, commercial and industrial to explore innovative solutions.
- A task force to provide feedback on the Sustainability Framework update. Part of this task force could be researching more effective planting opportunities and how to elevate Arbor Day.
- A task force to explore the creation of a Climate Action Plan, annually monitor, and effectively communicate the current, and future, actions the County is taking. The intent would be to integrate with the Sustainability Framework to achieve sustainability targets, such as reducing or offsetting carbon emissions.