



**Town of Aurora
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, May 12, 2025
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Ken Turriff (Vice Chair)
Victor Carvalho
Shun Chen*
Jason Cheng
Angela Daust
Leta Dayfoot
Alain Godin

Members Absent: Councillor Ron Weese (Chair)
Denis Heng

Others Present Councillor Wendy Gaertner
Natalie Kehle, Program Manager, Energy and Environment
Will Stover, Analyst, Energy and Climate Change
Julia Shipcott, Council/Committee Coordinator
Janice Ashworth, Janice Ashworth, Senior Consultant, Dunskey
Energy and Climate Advisors*

*Attended virtually

1. Call to Order

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Introductions were made around the table.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Alain Godin

Seconded by Leta Dayfoot

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

5. Receipt of the Minutes

5.1 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2025

Moved by Angela Daust

Seconded by Leta Dayfoot

1. That the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting minutes of February 24, 2025, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 **Memorandum from Program Manager, Energy and Environment; Re: Home Energy Retrofit Program Feasibility Study Update**

Janice Ashworth, Senior Consultant, Dunsky Energy and Climate Advisors presented an update to the study of the Home Energy Retrofit Program for Aurora residents, to reach the Town 2050 target of 80% greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, as outlined in the Aurora Community Energy Plan (CEP). The feasibility study assessed market conditions, collaboration, incentives, funding options and services available, discussed recommendations and provided next steps on the study's remaining budget.

The Committee discussed the feasibility of the Town implementing by-laws pertaining to new-build labelling for performance and GHG emissions standards, as well as providing amortized retrofit financing options tied to a property. There was discussion regarding various existing provincial retrofit programs in relation to overlaps and gaps in funding, and possible opportunities available to assist homeowners through the loan program.

The Committee further analyzed initial outlay costs vs. long-term savings, clean vs. dirty fuel, and optimal energy vs. GHG savings to identify the most beneficial balance of upfront cost and incentive.

The Committee requested further review of savings options not tied to solar power as an option to decrease up-front costs to homeowners, and to provide an average annual savings per retrofit option. The Committee suggested the following models best suited to Town residents:

- **Outreach and Education** - to promote existing programs, raise awareness, and focus on target communities
- **Roadmap for Staged Retrofits** - to provide tailored solutions and a scenario tool for homeowners, including resiliency measures for prevention
- **Virtual Home Assessments and Energy Ratings** - to identify areas of savings
- **Incentives and Rebates** - offered to target audiences for specific equipment or outcomes

- **Bulk Procurement** - exploring ways to reduce the initial cost through collaboration with neighbouring communities

It was further suggested that additional information on municipal cost analysis, authority of the Town in implementing by-laws associated with new home build labelling, green building standards and neighbourhoods and demographics at risk of energy poverty be included in the forthcoming presentation to Council in June.

It was noted that following the direction from Council in June, a detailed program design will be brought to the Environmental Advisory Committee in the fall.

Moved by Alain Godin

Seconded by Jason Cheng

1. That the memorandum regarding Home Energy Retrofit Program Feasibility Study Update be received; and
2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding Home Energy Retrofit Program Feasibility Study Update be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None.

9. New Business

The Committee highlighted *Provincial Bill 5: Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*, and its potential to negatively impact the environment, through amending and/or repealing the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Vice Chair mentioned the following events as noted on the Town's website:

- Aurora's Annual Cleanup Day, Saturday, April 22, 2025 - The Committee expressed their appreciation to all volunteers, and mentioned a Fall Cleanup

Day on Saturday, September 27, 2025 with pre-registration required on the Town website.

- 2025 Curbside Giveaway Days, with six upcoming events scheduled between June and October.
- Rain Barrel purchases have now closed for 2025.
- E-Waste Collection Day is upcoming at the Joint Operations Centre on Saturday, May 24, 2025.
- Community Garage Sale is upcoming at the Aurora Community Centre parking lot on Saturday, June 7, 2025. Pre-registration is required.

The Committee thanked first responders from Central York Fire Services for tackling the grass fire outbreak in the David Tomlinson Nature Reserve in April.

The Committee discussed embracing No Mow May to help pollinators and honeybees utilize nectar from early flowers.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Leta Dayfoot

Seconded by Victor Carvalho

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Carried