

	THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG
	ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT AND WORK PLAN
TO:	Mayor and Council Members
FROM: TITLE	Minnie de Jong Chair, Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee
DATE OF MEETING:	Committee of the Whole – March 29, 2021
SUBJECT:	Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee – Annual Report and Work Plan
REPORT DATE:	March 3, 2021

1.0 MEMBERSHIP

Minnie de Jong; Anthony Pitts, Vice Chair; Councillor Adam Bureau; Marius Marsh; John Vickers; Vacancy; Judy Smith, Environmental Officer, non-voting member;

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the year of 2020 the SCCAC submitted four motions to Council, and initiated the process of meeting with other Advisory Committees to assist them in carrying out their mandate through a climate emergency lens.

3.0 MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

Due to COVID the Committee has met four times during 2020, with meetings stopped after March, and resuming Dec 2020.

4.0 COMMITTEE PURPOSE

To promote the protection, maintenance and awareness of the environment within the community, and to provide advice concerning environmental and climate change policy, planning and sustainability.

5.0 HIGHLIGHTS/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Following the Council declaring a Climate Emergency in December 2019, the following were important accomplishments:

1. Council endorsing the SCCAC recommended definition of sustainability;
2. Council formally giving support for the SCCAC to meet and work with other Advisory Committees;
3. Council sending letters to the Premier and other provincial and municipal politicians supporting the recommendation of the Clean Air Alliance for the province to phase out gas-fired electricity generation by 2030.

6.0 FUTURE GOALS/OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to support other Advisory Committees to carry out their mandate through a Climate Emergency lens
2. Provide input to Planning Department special projects, including Zoning By-Law Amendments, development of Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) and the Green Development Standard (GDS), Tannery Site Development.
3. Determine if there are ways to achieve more sustainable development and buildings while awaiting the ICSP and GDS; including achieving increased density in Cobourg
4. Assist with further developing, and advise on, Cobourg's Climate Action plan as needed
5. Provide recommendations to Council re Northumberland County initiatives that affect Cobourg's ability to address the climate emergency
6. Continue to provide comment on initiatives referred to the SCCAC by Cobourg Council
7. Continue to provide response to delegations received from members of the public

7.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Assist with community consultation and outreach in relation to the ICSP and the GDS, and Climate Action Plan.

8.0 EDUCATION

May start to proactively reach out to the community on the climate emergency and actions Cobourg citizens can take to assist with addressing the emergency.

9.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE AMENDMENTS (IF APPLICABLE)

N/A

10.0 2021 BUDGET ITEM RECOMMENDATIONS (IF APPLICABLE)

N/A

11.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The Committee's key concern is that development is proceeding that is not sustainable to the extent needed if we have any hope of mitigating the climate emergency in the time we have left. This is an emergency of a higher magnitude than COVID, given its more severe and longer terms effects such as serious food and water shortage, more deaths due do higher temperatures and more forest fires, etc. And yet we have not found the motivation to implement actions that reflect the seriousness of this pending disaster, while we have for COVID. The following statements are from a just released in relation to a UN Report urging us to "End the **'Suicidal' War on Nature**". <https://www.unep.org/resources/making-peace-nature>

"The world remains on track for catastrophic warming of 3°C above pre-industrial levels, a million species face extinction, and 90% of people live with dirty air." The Guardian writes.

<https://theenergymix.com/2021/02/22/un-report-urges-end-to-suicidal-war-on-nature/>)

Pollution was included in the report because despite improvements in some wealthy nations, toxic air, water, soils and workplaces cause at least 9 million deaths a year, one in six of all deaths. "This is still a huge issue," said Baste.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/18/human-destruction-of-nature-is-senseless-and-suicidal-warns-un-chief>

Unep and the World Health Organization have said the root cause of pandemics is the destruction of the natural world, with worse outbreaks to come unless action is taken.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/18/human-destruction-of-nature-is-senseless-and-suicidal-warns-un-chief>

12.0 COMMUNICATION RESULTS

Minnie de Jong, Chair, Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee
Krystal Christopher Secretary, Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee

13.0 ATTACHMENTS

Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee – 2021 Work Plan