

## **ANNUAL REPORT AND WORK PLAN**

February 3, 2020

Secretary, SPC on Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services (SPC EUCS)

**Re: 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Goals – Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee [CK. 175-9]**

The mandate of the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC) is to provide advice on matters relating to the environmental implications of City planning, programs, policies and operations, and to identify environmental issues of potential relevance to the City of Saskatoon. SEAC provides guidance on a variety of topics including:

- Climate change and reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions;
- Waste reduction and diversion;
- Renewable and alternative energy;
- Ecological systems and green spaces;
- Energy efficiency and building codes;
- Active and alternative transportation; and,
- Water conservation and management.

### **SEAC Membership for 2019**

- Sara Harrison (Chair)
- Erin Akins (Vice Chair)
- Brian Sawatzky
- Angie Bugg
- Kari Engele-Carter (Saskatchewan Health Authority Representative)
- Aditi Garg
- David McGrane
- Kathryn Palmer
- Kira Judge
- Andrea Lafond (Meewasin Valley Authority Representative, January to October)
- Mike Velonas (Meewasin Valley Authority Representative, November)
- Sydney Boulton (Youth Representative)
- Dallas Pelly (Indigenous Representative)

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment has declined to provide representation at this time.

### **Resource Members for 2019**

- Councillor Sarina Gersher
- Director of Sustainability Jeanna South
- Director of Transportation Jay Magus
- Director of Building Standards Kara Fagnou
- Long Range Planning Manager Don Cook
- Metering & Sustainability Electricity Manager Jose Cheruvallath
- Senior Project Engineer, Water & Waste Operations Michelle Jelinski

### **SEAC Membership for 2020**

- Sara Harrison (Chair)
- Erin Akins (Vice Chair)
- Brian Sawatzky
- Aditi Garg
- Kathryn Palmer
- Kira Judge
- Dallas Pelly (Indigenous Representative)
- Matthew Shumaker (Saskatchewan Health Authority Representative)
- Mike Velonas (Meewasin Valley Authority Representative)
- John Paul Wasan
- Anita Masse
- Vacant (Youth Representative)

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment has declined to provide representation at this time.

### **Resource Members for 2020**

- Councillor Sarina Gersher
- Director of Sustainability Jeanna South
- Director of Transportation Jay Magus
- Director of Building Standards Kara Fagnou
- A/Long Range Planning Manager Tyson McShane
- Metering & Sustainability Electricity Manager Jose Cheruvallath
- Environmental Operations Manager Mark Shaw (Interim)

## **Goals and Accomplishments**

The goals of SEAC in 2019 were as follows. Under each goal, a summary of the accomplishments of the Committee is provided. In addition, Appendix 1 provides a summary of key topics and resolutions by meeting, and Appendix 2 provides a summary of 2019 expenditures.

- ***Continue to advise City Council on the Low Emissions Community (i.e. mitigation) and Waste Diversion files.***

SEAC stayed updated on the comprehensive organics program and waste diversion efforts. Committee representatives spoke several times at Council meetings in support of these programs. We are encouraged that the Comprehensive Residential Organics Program was progressed in 2019, including the funding for carts in the 2020/21 Budget. However, we continue to see the need for incentivized waste reduction and progression of organics programs in the Corporate, Multi-unit, and ICI sectors.

SEAC actively supported and provided comments on the Low Emissions Community Plan, including funding options and 2020/21 actions. We are excited to see this plan continuing forward as it provides a foundation for greenhouse gas reduction actions within the Community.

- ***Engage further on the concerns on how Council makes financial and capital decisions related to the environment.***

SEAC provided feedback on the Triple Bottom Line Policy to Council. This policy has the opportunity to shift decision-making for Council, and also how recommendations are made by Administration.

We also provided feedback on priorities for capital funding via the 2020/21 budget debates.

- ***Stay informed on all components of the Plan for Growth, and encourage Council to ensure it is environmentally sustainable.***

SEAC received two presentations from the SwaleWatchers and provided a Letter of Concern to Council about the impacts of the Saskatoon Freeway Project on the Northeast and Small Swales. A letter from November 2019 will be provided early in 2020.

SEAC also reviewed the proposed sustainable community by Arbutus Properties, and the Brownfields Renewal project.

- ***Continue to support the progression of a Bus Rapid Transit system and support the planning and implementation of the Active Transportation Plan.***

SEAC continued to be a supporter of Active Transportation and Bus Rapid Transit, and reviewed various reports and provided comment to Council, including the routing through the Downtown core. These are two critical components to achieving the Low Emissions Plan and SEAC wishes to see these progress as rapidly as possible.

- ***Continue to financially support the work of the Student Action for a Sustainable Future.***

SEAC continued its support of the Student Action for a Sustainable Future. Over the last six years, this program has involved over 72 teachers, 49 schools, and approximately 2,000 students. The Student Showcase provides an opportunity for students to tell their own environmental success stories, highlight the results of their projects, and demonstrate how Saskatoon youth become leaders in achieving greater sustainability.<sup>1</sup>

- ***Maintain our education-based social media presence.***

SEAC continued to be active on social media. Facebook followers grew from 260 to 314 through 2019, and Twitter followers are now at 226. Organic (non-paid) post reach decreased marginally (see graph below). We continue to draw local attention, but seem to skew to women followers (see third graph).

The Committee contracted Megan Van Buskirk to support organization and preparedness for our social media campaign, which continued the consistent release of content through 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Student Action for a Sustainable Future, Youth taking action to improve our environment  
<http://environmentalsociety.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Student-Action-for-Sustainable-Future-brochure-2019.pdf>

## Total Reach

The number of people who saw any content from your Page or about your Page. This metric is estimated.



## Reactions, Comments, Shares and More

These actions will help you reach more people.



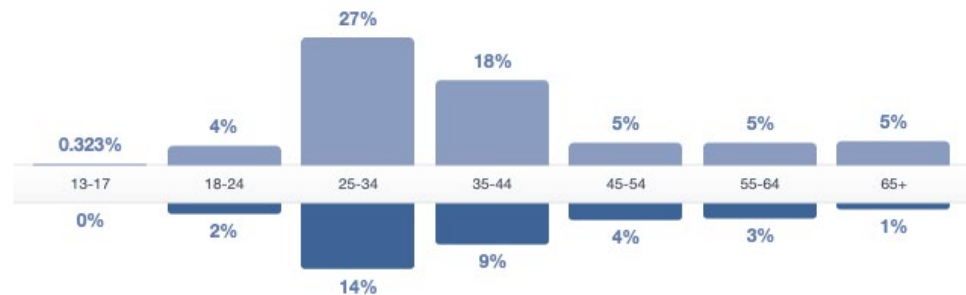
The people who follow your Page. This number is an estimate.

### Women

65%  
Your Followers

### Men

33%  
Your Followers



Country	Your Followers	City	Your Followers	Language	Your Followers
Canada	292	Saskatoon, SK, Canada	243	English (US)	252
United States of America	5	Regina, SK, Canada	12	English (UK)	51
Philippines	3	Vancouver, BC, Canada	5	French (Canada)	2
Mexico	3	Waterloo, ON, Canada	3	Spanish	1

Views of SEACs animated video were at approximately 9,700 by end 2019.

- ***Attend the 2019 Winter Cities Shake Up Conference.***

Two members of SEAC attended the Winter Cities Shake-up. This conference provided an opportunity to celebrate winter in Saskatoon. Many cities such as Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg are increasing awareness that winter in prairie cities can be fun and exciting, making for a more sustainable community. This includes education and marketing of fun winter activities and programs that embrace the beauty and grace of winter as is done in many European cities.

- ***Present at the 2019 Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication Conference.***

In May 2019, three members of SEAC presented at the 2019 Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication Conference. Our presentation was part of a panel called *Engaging Municipalities in Climate Action* and entitled *GHG is a Municipal Issue: Engaging Community and Advising City Council*.

SEAC also provided sponsorship for the conference as “Red Tail Hawk” sponsors. SEAC received a presentation from Tim Swinehart, a well-known environmental educator from Portland, Oregon, on Centring Student Voice in the Climate Policy Process.

- ***Develop a “key messages” platform.***

While this wasn’t developed as initially intended, SEAC now has a standard format for advisory letters to Council, and has base messaging embedded in these letters for each focus area. These will serve us well for follow-up letters and social media content as required through 2020 and beyond.

In addition, the following were also completed:

- SEAC reviewed and provided feedback to Council on the Civic Climate Change Adaptation strategy.
- Each year, SEAC supports administration in the evaluation of application for the Environmental Cash Grants Program. In 2019, eight applications were received and reviewed and a total of \$30,000 was awarded to support environmental projects in the community.
- SEAC has commenced operating under its updated Terms of Reference. Feedback on the first year was provided to Council.
- SEAC received an update on the development of a Food Policy for Saskatoon in order to reduce food waste, reduce food poverty, and encourage local production.

## **2019 Reports and Communications**

### **Reports/Recommendations Submitted to Council:**

1. Spoke in support of the Curbside Organics Program – January 2019
2. Spoke in support of the rolling out the Proposed Curbside Organics Program as soon as possible – March 2019
3. Spoke to highlight and take questions/feedback on SEAC's 2019 Goals – April 2019
4. Provided written feedback and spoke to highlight key points on the Adaptation Report, and some of the key facts in the report pertaining to Climate Change impacts to Saskatoon – April 2019
5. Letter providing feedback on the status of Curbside Waste and Organics Programs – April 2019
6. Spoke in support of the Downtown AAA Cycling Network – April 2019
7. Letter providing feedback on Triple Bottom Line Policy – June 2019
8. Letter of concern on the Saskatoon Freeway Project through the Northeast Swale - June 2019
9. Provided written feedback and spoke in support of the Low Emissions Community Plan (LEC) - August 2019
10. Spoke and provided letter of feedback on 2020/21 Capital Prioritization - October 2019
11. Spoke in favor of the LEC funding for the 2020/2021 budget - November 2019
12. Feedback letter on SEAC's Terms of Reference changes - December 2019

### **Communication by Committee Representatives (Chair, Vice-Chair, or designate) to the local media:**

1. Comment provided to media in support of Low Emissions Community Plan - August, 2019

### **Mentions in local media (quotes from presentations):**

1. City Hall to examine multi-year phase-in of organics and waste plan, Saskatoon StarPhoenix – January 29, 2019
2. Downtown Bike Lanes survive close Saskatoon City Council vote, StarPhoenix - April 29, 2019
3. Councillor says rethinking support for Saskatoon freeway route would be a 'horrible mistake', CBC Saskatoon - June 10, 2019
4. Saskatoon gears up for \$19-billion Low-Emissions Plan vote, StarPhoenix - August 24, 2019
5. Saskatoon homebuilders warn against setting local building standard for GHGs, CTV News Saskatoon - August 26, 2019



6. Saskatoon City Council eyes 'Triple Bottom Line' approach to future decisions, CBC Saskatoon - October 11, 2019

## **Work Plan for 2020**

In 2020 SEAC will do the following, aligned with the City of Saskatoon strategic plan:

1. *Environmental Leadership*
  - Encourage City Council to take a leading and innovative stance in Municipal issues in relation to the environment.
  - Continue to advise City Council in the implementation of the Low Emissions Community (i.e. mitigation) Plan.
  - Continue to advise City Council on Waste Reduction and Diversion files.
  - Continue to advise City Council in their adoption and implementation of the Triple Bottom Policy and update of the Official Community Plan.
2. *Sustainable Growth*
  - Stay informed on all components of the Plan for Growth, and encourage City Council to ensure it is environmentally sustainable.
  - Advise on the protection of natural areas, including the Swales, through initiatives such as the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Natural Capital Asset Valuation file.
3. *Moving Around Sustainably*
  - Continue to support the progression of a Bus Rapid Transit system and implementation of the Active Transportation Plan, which are critical components of the Saskatoon Low Emissions Community Plan.
4. *Quality of Life (Community Engagement)*
  - Continue to support community and education initiatives, such as the Student Action for a Sustainable Future.
  - Maintain our education-based social media presence.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Appendix 1 – 2019 Meeting Summary
2. Appendix 2 – 2019 Expenditures

Yours truly,

**Sara Harrison, Chair**  
Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee

## Appendix 1 – 2019 Meeting Summary – Key Topics and Resolutions

Meeting	Summary – Key Topics and Resolutions
January	<p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Committee Orientation</li><li>- Update from A/Director of Sustainability South on upcoming reports</li></ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- That S. Harrison be appointed Chair and E. Akins appointed vice-Chair for 2019</li><li>- That SEAC speak at City Council in support of the Curbside Organics Program</li><li>- That B. Sawatzky and K. Judge each be allocated a ticket to attend the Winter Cities Shake-Up Conference</li><li>- That E. Akins serve as the SEAC representative for 2019 Assistance to Community Groups - Cash Grants Program</li></ul>
February	Did not achieve quorum

March	<p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request for sponsorship for EECOM 2019 in Saskatoon</li> <li>- Planning &amp; Design newsletter Fall/Winter 2018</li> <li>- P. Belcher, SASF Coordinator regarding funding request</li> </ul> <p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verbal update on upcoming reports and engagement</li> </ul> <p>Referrals from Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waste Diversion Plan update</li> <li>- Curbside Waste and Organics Status – January 2019</li> <li>- Bottled Water Sales at City of Saskatoon Facilities</li> </ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- K. Palmer has volunteered to lead Subcommittee for 2019</li> <li>- Proposal to engage social media support for 2019</li> <li>- EECOM Conference presentation May 10-12, 2019</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That SEAC support bringing T. Swineheart to Saskatoon for EECOM and allocate \$500</li> <li>- That SEAC contribute \$1,800 from its 2019 budget to support the SASF Program for 2019/2020</li> <li>- That the GHG Subcommittee be tasked with providing feedback to EUCS as requested on Curbside Waste and Organics Program</li> <li>- That SEAC enter into a contract for 2019 for \$2,500 with M. Van Buskirk to develop and implement social media content</li> </ul>
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April	<p>Referrals from Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Development of a Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework to Address Corporate Sustainability</li><li>- Recommendations Report for a Low Emissions Community</li><li>- Climate Change Projections and Possible Impacts for Saskatoon</li><li>- Curbside Organics and Waste Funding Options</li><li>- Improving Solid Waste Systems</li></ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Update on EECOM presentation</li><li>- Update on social media progress</li></ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- That SEAC provide feedback to EUCS on the Triple Bottom Line Policy</li><li>- That SEAC provide feedback on the Climate Change Adaptation report to City Council</li><li>- That SEAC provide feedback to EUCS and to City Council at a later date on the Curbside Organics and Waste Funding Options</li></ul>
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May	<p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Letter from C. Savage, Chair, Wild About Saskatoon on Northeast Swale</li> <li>- R. Huziak, Northeast Swale Watchers presented</li> </ul> <p>Referrals from Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of the Swale - Northeast Swale Working Group Update</li> <li>- Active Transportation Implementation Plan</li> <li>- Arbutus Properties – Future Sustainable Community Project Update</li> <li>- 2019 Assistance to Community Groups – Cash Grants – Environmental Component</li> </ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update provided on drafting of social media content</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T. Swinehart (presenter at EECOM) provided a presentation on Centring Student Voice in the Climate Policy Process</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That the GHG Subcommittee draft a letter to EUCS based on concerns with the Swale</li> </ul>
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June	<p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Planning &amp; Design Newsletter, Spring/Summer 2019 edition</li></ul> <p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Update provided on timeline of Low Emissions Community Plan to Council</li></ul> <p>Referrals from Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Downtown Active Transportation Network</li><li>- Bus Rapid Transit Route and Configuration for Downtown, Nutana, and General</li><li>- Additional Information on Curbside Organics - collection frequency, opt out options, cost breakdown</li><li>- 2018 Integrated Waste Management Report</li></ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Close out of contract with M. Van Buskirk on social media content</li><li>- Began discussions on providing feedback on Terms of Reference</li></ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- That the GHG Subcommittee draft a letter to City Council on the Low Emissions Community Plan and invite Administration to the GHG Subcommittee's August meeting for presentation on the Low Emissions Community Plan</li><li>- That the GHG Subcommittee draft a feedback letter on its new Terms of Reference for SEAC's approval</li></ul>
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September	<p>Referrals from Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food Policy Update - developing a sustainable food system</li> <li>- Active Transportation Educational Opportunities</li> <li>- Corridor Growth - Brownfield Renewal Strategy – Plan Framework Approval</li> <li>- Presentation on the Low Emissions Community Plan, and Preliminary Initiative (2020-21)</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion on EcoHack 2019</li> </ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General planning and guidance</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That the GHG Subcommittee address the opportunity to become a community partner in EcoHack 2019</li> <li>- That the GHG Subcommittee call a meeting around the various items identified.</li> </ul>
October	<p>Referrals from Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approval of Triple Bottom Line City Council Policy</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reviewed feedback letter on Terms of Reference</li> </ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General update on Ecohack, Triple Bottom Line, and Low Emissions Community Plan discussions</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That SEAC recommend to City Council its Terms of Reference be changed as outlined in its letter, dated October 2019</li> <li>- GHG Subcommittee draft a letter of support for a staff member for the Triple Bottom Line implementation resource</li> </ul>



November	<p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Request to speak from R. Huziak, The Northeast Swale Watchers</li></ul> <p>Referrals from Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Low Emissions Community Plan Funding Options</li><li>- Low Emissions Community Plan - Opportunities and Partnerships</li><li>- Saskatoon Freeway Project Update – October 2019</li></ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- General discussion and update on social media</li></ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- GHG Subcommittee provide feedback on the Low Emissions Community Plan funding options to the 2020/21 Corporate Business Plan and Budget for consideration.</li><li>- That the GHG Subcommittee draft a letter regarding the Swale to EUCS</li></ul>
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## Appendix 2 – 2019 Expenditure

Date	Description	Amount
March 20, 2019	Student Action for a Sustainable Future for 2019/2020	\$1,800
April 5, 2019	EECOM 2019 Conference Sponsorship - Red Tailed Hawk	\$500
June 3, 2019	Megan Van Buskirk - Social Media Support	\$2,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,800</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$7,800</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$3,000 surplus</b>