

2021 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2022 WORK PLAN

February 10, 2022

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

**Re: 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Goals – Saskatoon Environmental Advisory
Committee [CK 175-9]****Committee Mandate**

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 2021

Membership on SEAC for the year 2021 was as follows:

- Erin Akins, Chair
- John Paul Wasan, Vice Chair
- Sara Harrison
- Kira Judge
- Brett Maerz (resigned in July)
- Anita Masse
- Christina McRorie
- Alasdair Morrison
- Kathryn Palmer
- Matthew Shumaker, Saskatchewan Health Authority Representative
- Mike Velonas, Meewasin Valley Authority Representative
- Rourke Wunder-Buhr

Resource Members for 2021

- Councillor Sarina Gersher
- Director of Sustainability Jeanna South
- Director of Transportation Jay Magus
- Director of Building Standards Kara Fagnou
- Long Range Planning Manager Tyson McShane
- Metering & Sustainable Electricity Manager Jose Cheruvallath
- Environment Projects and Protection Manager Dan Gauthier
- Committee Assistant Debby Sackmann

Goals and Accomplishments

The goals of SEAC in 2021 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 2021 expenditures.

1. Environmental Leadership

- ***Encourage City Council to take a leading and innovative stance in Municipal issues in relation to the environment and environmental justice.***

SEAC invited a guest speaker, Chris Stark to speak on “Local and National Climate Actions and Reflections from the United Kingdom”. The presentation provided valuable insights into successes and challenges of international efforts in reaching net zero.

Feedback was provided to the Governance and Priorities Committee on SEAC’s Terms of Reference to ensure the continued effectiveness of the Committee.

SEAC reviewed an update on the Environmental Sustainability Reserve Implementation, and also reviewed a report on the joint Climate Commitment and Call to Action signed between the City of Saskatoon and the University of Saskatchewan.

- ***Continue to advise City Council in the implementation of the Low Emissions Community (i.e. mitigation) Plan, including renewable energy and supporting infrastructure.***

SEAC reviewed the proposed options for the implementation of the Home Energy Loan Program and provided feedback to City Council at their February 22, 2021 meeting. SEAC's comments were featured in local media.

SEAC drafted a letter of support with additional considerations on the approach for High-Performance Civic Building for City Council's June 28, 2021 meeting. SEAC supported the proposed recommendations and provided additional input for the development of a comprehensive approach that would incorporate both existing and new buildings in reporting. The Committee also reviewed the policy once drafted.

SEAC reviewed the 2020 Progress Report on the Climate Action Plan including the status of key actions in the Low Emissions Community and Climate Adaptation strategies. The Committee discussed barriers to achieving the Plan's goals and recommended next steps.

SEAC reviewed a report on carbon offset systems and discussed the implications of the City undertaking carbon offset programs within the Saskatchewan framework.

- ***Continue to advise City Council on Waste Reduction and Diversion files.***

SEAC received a presentation on the Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan and also reviewed a report on Curbside Organics Processing Contract Updates. Overall, SEAC was glad to see progress on the residential waste program even though the original targets have not been met yet.

The Committee received an update on the Waste Utility Timing, Phase-in and Affordability Options Report.

- ***Advise City Council on water quality and quantity management topics.***

SEAC reviewed updates on and discussed the direction of the Water Conservation Strategy.

- ***Continue to advise City Council in their adoption and implementation of the Triple Bottom Policy.***

SEAC received a presentation on the Triple Bottom Line and LEAP program and provided feedback on the Social Equity Toolkit and recommendations for implementation. This was received by the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services at their November 1, 2021 meeting.

2. Sustainable Growth

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

The Committee received a presentation on the Official Community Plan Redesign Project - Phase 2 as follow-up to a 2020 presentation on Phase 1. The Committee reviewed and discussed how the OCP supported related environment and sustainability efforts.

SEAC reviewed a report of the College Corridor Plan and discussed considerations for the alignment with sustainability goals.

- ***Advise on the protection of natural areas, including the Swales, through initiatives such as the Green Infrastructure Strategy, the Natural Capital Asset Valuation file and food security through community gardening policy.***

SEAC received a presentation on the Meewasin Valley-wide Monitoring Framework. The Committee also reviewed information concerning Swale Education, Communications and Partnerships.

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.***

SEAC reviewed an update on the Active Transportation Plan and discussed policies and procedures, education and promotion.

4. Quality of Life (Community Engagement)

- ***Continue to support community and education initiatives, such as the Student Action for a Sustainable Future.***

SEAC continued its support of the Student Action for a Sustainable Future. Over the last seven years, this program has involved over 3,000 students. The Student Showcase provides an opportunity for students to highlight the results of their projects and demonstrate how Saskatoon youth can become leaders in sustainability.

The Committee also received a presentation from the Saskatchewan Environmental Society on its environmental programming.

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

SEAC continued to be active on social media. Facebook followers grew from 401 to 496 through 2021. The Committee contracted Greg Basky to support the social media campaign, helping to ensure consistent release of content through 2021.

Particularly successful posts included those that highlighted the achievements of the Bridge City Bicycle Co-Op as well as the Off the Grid (Saskatoon Public Schools) and EcoJustice (Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools) programs for their efforts towards environmental sustainability.

- ***Support the Environmental Cash Grants program***

Each year, SEAC supports administration in the evaluation of applications for the Environmental Cash Grants Program. In 2021, sixteen applications were received with a combined request \$81,249 in funding. Nine community projects received funding. Overall, \$56,960 in grants was awarded, with \$8,100 to the General category, \$17,500 to Active Transportation, \$16,360 to Green, \$10,000 to Waste, \$0 to Water, and \$0 to Events.

Reports and Communications in 2021

Reports/Recommendations Submitted to Council:

1. February 22, feedback to Council on Home Energy Loan Program
2. June 28, feedback to City Council on the approach for High-Performance Civic Building.

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

1. SEAC mention regarding Home Energy Loan Program:
<https://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/council-approves-a-host-of-major-projects-initiatives>
2. SEAC mention regarding Home Energy Loan Program:
<https://globalnews.ca/news/7656288/saskatoon-green-home-loan-program/>

WORK PLAN FOR 2022

The 2022 membership on SEAC is as follows:

- John Paul Wasan, Chair
- Erin Akins, Vice-Chair
- Diane Bentley
- Mostofa Kamal
- Anita Masse
- Christina McRorie
- Alasdair Morrison
- Palash Sanyal
- Matthew Shumaker, Saskatchewan Health Authority Representative
- Angela Spence
- Mike Velonas, Meewasin Valley Authority Representative
- Rourke Wunder-Buhr

Resource Members:

- Councillor Sarina Gersher
- Director of Sustainability Jeanna South
- Director of Transportation Jay Magus
- Director of Building Standards Kara Fagnou
- Long Range Planning Manager Tyson McShane
- Metering & Sustainable Electricity Manager Jose Cheruvallath
- Environment Projects and Protection Manager Dan Gauthier
- Committee Assistant Debby Sackmann

Work Plan Goals for 2022

In 2022 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 relating to environment and sustainability.
 - Continue to advise City Council in the implementation of the Low Emissions Community (i.e. mitigation) Plan, including renewable energy and supporting infrastructure.
 - Continue to advise City Council on Waste Reduction and Diversion, including Green Bin and composting programs.
 - Advise City Council on water quality as well as quantity management topics.

- Continue to advise City Council in their adoption and implementation of the Triple Bottom Line Policy.

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 alignment of building and construction standards with waste, water, transportation and emissions reduction goals.
- Advise on the protection of natural areas, including the Swales, through initiatives such as the Green Infrastructure Strategy, the Natural Capital Asset Valuation file and food security through community garden policy.

3. Moving Around Sustainably

- Continue to support the development 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

Appendix 1 – 2021 Meeting Summary

Appendix 2 – 2021 Expenditures

Sincerely,



John Paul Wasan
Chair, Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee

Appendix 1 – 2021 Meeting Summary – Key Topics and Resolutions

Meeting	Summary – Key Topics and Resolutions
January	<p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee Orientation <p>Referrals from Council or Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curbside Organics Processing Contract <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That Erin Akins be appointed Chair and John Paul Wasan be appointed Vice-Chair for 2021 <p>GHG Subcommittee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anita volunteered to serve as Subcommittee Chair for 2021
February	<p>Referrals from Council or Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan - Options for the Design of a Home Energy Loan Program <p>Resource or Committee Member Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meewasin Valley-Wide Monitoring Program <p>Motions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That SEAC draft feedback on Options for a Home Energy Loan Program. - That Christina McRorie serves as the SEAC representative for 2020 Environmental Cash Grants Program - That SEAC proceed with issuing a RFI regarding its social media content on Featuring Local Success Stories for selection of a proponent.
March	<p>Referrals from Council or Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Sustainability Reserve Implementation - Inquiry on Swale Education, Communication and Partnerships

	<p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal to engage social media support for 2021 based on the evaluation of proposals received and evaluated using a rubric <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the Committee approve entering into a contract with Greg Basky to provide social media expertise content regarding the climate change and environmental responsibility campaign and public engagement. - That the contract be drawn up in the amount of \$5,000, including applicable taxes, and outlining expectations for fulfilling the position; and - That the rubric scores be used to select a new candidate if the selected proponent is unable to fulfill the contract.
<p>April</p>	<p>Resource or Committee Member Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Official Community Plan (OCP) Redesign Project - Phase II. <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the GHG Subcommittee move forward with coordinating Chris Stark's presentation for SEAC's May meeting and identify other potential future guest speakers.
<p>May</p>	<p>Resource or Committee Member Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active Transportation Update <p>Referrals from Council or Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Action Plan – Progress Report 2020 <p>Motions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the GHG Subcommittee be tasked with drafting a feedback letter to the Governance and Priorities Committee regarding the Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

	<p>Guest Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chris Stark presented on “Local and National Climate Action: Reflections from the United Kingdom”.
June	<p>Motions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the GHG Subcommittee be tasked with drafting a feedback letter/letter of support to City Council for its June 28, 2021 meeting based on the Committee's discussion on the matter. - That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee provide a \$50 honorarium to guest speakers as invited by the GHG Subcommittee for 2021. - That the Committee defer its proposed budget discussion to its September meeting.
September	<p>Resource or Committee Member Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Component for the Community Cash Grants Program - Update <p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon Offset Systems - Climate Commitment and Call to Action: City of Saskatoon and University of Saskatchewan - College Corridor Plan – Progress Update <p>Motions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To contribute \$2,500 from its 2021 budget to support the Student Action for a Sustainable Future (SASF) Program for 2021/2022. - That the GHG Subcommittee propose a budget plan for future social media sponsorship. - That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee put forward a proposed budget submission for 2022 of \$9,600 and draft a letter providing the Committee's justification for requesting an increase to its 2022 budget.
October	<p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Triple Bottom Line and LEAP Update and Next Steps- Water Conservation Strategy Update <p>Motions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- That the GHG Subcommittee be tasked with drafting a feedback letter to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services based on the Committee's discussion on the Triple Bottom Line and LEAP Updates. - That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee allocate \$100.00 in total, taxes included, toward its social media sponsorship (Facebook) for October, November, and December 2021.
November	<p>Resource or Committee Member Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Waste Utility Timing, Phase-in and Affordability Options Report <p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- High Performance Civic Building Policy

Appendix 2 – 2021 Expenditures

Date	Description	Amount
April 12, 2021	Greg Basky- Social Media Support (Contract)	\$997.50
June 28, 2021	Greg Basky- Social Media Support (Contract)	\$4,000.50
September 23, 2021	Student Action for a Sustainable Future for 2020/2021	\$2,500.00
September 23, 2021	Honorarium for guest speaker	\$38.85
December 20, 2021	Promoting SEAC Social Media Posts	\$53.47
	Total	\$7,590.32
	Budget	\$7,800
	Difference	\$209.68 surplus