

Summary of Renewable and Low-emissions Energy Council Resolutions

At its meeting held on January 25, 2016, City Council considered the Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategy – Response to Saskatchewan Environmental Society Letter report and resolved, in part:

2. That the Administration report on opportunities to include solar orientation and access in new neighborhoods as part of the Official Community Plan (OCP);

At its meeting held on November 20, 2017, City Council considered the Facilitating Solar Energy Opportunities in Saskatoon report and resolved, in part:

1. That Administration report back in 2018 on developing solar projects on civic lands, buildings, and city-owned properties, such as rights-of-way and under-utilized sites; and
2. That Administration report back in 2018 on addressing barriers to solar uptake and facilitating solar opportunities including: green revolving funds, lack of protection for solar access, insufficient rooftop strength, building permits, virtual metering, and policy implications.

At its meeting held on November 6, 2018, the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services, considered the following recommendations from the Solar Opportunities – Protecting Solar Access report:

1. That Administration investigate the potential to establish a municipal authority to grant or facilitate the negotiation of solar easements; and
2. That Administration investigate the implications of using zoning for developments with favourable conditions for solar energy generation as a method for protecting solar access.

The Committee resolved:

That consideration of this matter be deferred until further reporting on Solar Opportunities is before the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services no later than July 2019.

At its meeting held on November 4, 2019, the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services considered the Changes to Net Metering and Small Power Producer Programs report and resolved:

1. That the matter be referred to the Administration to report more information specifically including feedback from stakeholders as well as an assessment of the GHG and LEC Plan related impacts of the proposed change as well as consider opportunities for financial impact equity; and

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2. That the Administration report on business models in place in other jurisdictions and any consideration of the benefits of solar in terms of time and day power production and lower maintenance costs and medium to long term risks of better technology affecting SaskPower revenues.

At its meeting held on November 18, 2019, City Council also considered the Changes to Net Metering and Small Power Producer Programs report and resolved:

That when any changes are made to go-forward rates, customers with approved applications be considered existing net metering customers for the purposes of grandfathering.

At its Preliminary Business Plan and Budget meeting in November 2019, City Council approved \$180,000 in capital funding for the Integrated Solar/Renewable Energy Strategy project (#2650).

At its meeting held on June 29, 2020, City Council also received the Renewable Energy Strategy Update report as information.