

2022 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2023 WORK PLAN

March 17, 2023

Secretary, Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services

**Re: 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Plan – Saskatoon Environmental
Advisory Committee (File No. CK. 175-9)**

The mandate of the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (the Committee) 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. The Committee provides guidance on a variety of topics including:

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

Committee Membership

Membership on the Committee for the year 2022 was as follows:

Members

- John Paul Wasan, Chair
- Erin Akins, Vice Chair (resigned in September)
- Rourke Wunder-Buhr, Vice Chair (Oct. to Dec.) and Indigenous Representative
- Diane Bentley
- Mostofa Kamal
- Anita Masse (resigned in May)
- Christine McRorie (Youth Representative)
- Alasdair Morrison
- Omar Nawara
- Palash Sanyal
- Matthew Shumaker (Saskatchewan Health Authority Representative)
- Angela Spence
- Mike Velonas (Meewasin Valley Authority Representative)

Resource Members

- Councillor Sarina Gersher
- Director of Sustainability Jeanne 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

The 2023 membership on the Committee is as follows:

Members

- John Paul Wasan, Public, Chair
- Angela Spence, Public, Vice Chair
- Diane Bentley, Public
- Manvi Ghai, Public
- Carmen Gilmore, Public
- Mostofa Kamal, Public
- Eve Keller, Meewasin Valley Authority
- Alasdair Morrison, Public
- Omar Nawara, Public
- Palash Sanyal, Public
- Matthew Shumaker, Saskatchewan Health Authority

Resource Members

- Councillor Sarina Gersher
- Director of Sustainability Jeanne South
- Director of Transportation Jay Magus
- Director of Building Standards Kara Fagnou
- Senior Planner, Planning & Development, Lars Ketilson
- Metering & Sustainable Electricity Manager Jose Cheruvallath
- Environment Projects and Protection Manager Dan Gauthier

Work Plan Goals and Accomplishments

The work plan goals of the Committee in 2022, aligned with the City of Saskatoon Strategic Plan, were as follows.

1. Environmental Leadership
2. Sustainable Growth
3. Moving Around Sustainably
4. Quality of Life (Community Engagement)

1. Environmental Leadership

- ***Encourage City Council to take a leading and innovative stance in Municipal issues relating to environment and sustainability.***

Feedback was provided to the Governance and Priorities Committee on the SEAC Terms of Reference to ensure the continued effectiveness of the committee. The Committee also received several presentations on the development of the Pilot Shared Electric Scooter Program and provided feedback to Administration.

- ***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 a report on the Home Energy Loan Program in March. The Committee has followed and advised on the development of HELP over the years.

- ***Continue to advise City Council on Waste Reduction and Diversion, including Green Bin and composting programs.***

In February we reviewed a report on the Curbside Organics Program, as well as a report on Waste Diversion for the ICI Sector in March. The expansion of Green Bin programs has been of interest to SEAC for many years.

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

In May we reviewed a report on the ongoing Water Conservation Strategy.

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

SEAC received a report on the continuation of the TBL Policy in May. The Committee has encouraged the use of TBL in decision-making and supports the further implementation of this policy.

2. Sustainable Growth

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

While SEAC did not receive any updates on the Official Community Plan in 2022, we will continue to encourage Council to balance sustainability and urban growth.

- ***Advise on the alignment of building and construction standards with waste, water, transportation and emissions reduction goals.***

SEAC reviewed reports on HELP and Waste Diversion in the ICI sector and will continue to advise Council on sustainable building standards.

- ***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.***

In June, the Committee reviewed a report on the Green Infrastructure 10-Year Implementation Plan. Maintaining conservation areas and a healthy green network is a strong focus of SEAC.

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.***

Auxiliary to active transportation, SEAC advised on the development of the Shared Electric Scooter Pilot. Encouraging alternative transportation, especially through BRT and cycling networks, has been of interest to SEAC for many years.

4. Quality of Life (Community Engagement)

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

This year we provided \$1,800.00 to SASF to continue their work supporting elementary classrooms' sustainability projects. We also assisted with the adjudication of the Environmental Community Cash Grants program.

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

SEAC distributed a new RFI in March 2022 for a social media content creator with the value of \$5,000.00 for the creation of 24 posts on Facebook and Instagram platforms. Greg Basky was contracted to create education-based

social media content for SEAC for the second consecutive year. Two to three posts were released monthly at the direction of Angela Spence and Rourke Wunder-Buhr. These posts have had some success on Facebook, reaching 40 to 555 pages per post for a to-date reach of 1930 pages (down 70.6% from 2022) and to-date reach of 431 profiles on Instagram (down 68.4% from 2021). Facebook page visits increased 210.0% from 2021 for a total of 878. Instagram profile visits decreased 63.8% from 2021 for a total of 141. Overall, SEAC gained 88 followers on Facebook and 0 followers on Instagram in 2022. A large part of this reduced success can be attributed to the fact SEAC boosted (paid for viewing increase) less posts than in 2021.

2022 Reports and Communications

Matters Referred by SPC or City Council

1. Julia Adamson, City Nature Challenge 2022 [CK 150-1] – Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services
 - a. Considered on January 13, 2022
2. Governance Review – Advisory Committees – Review of Terms of Reference [CK 225-1 x 255-2]
 - a. Considered on January 13, 2022
3. Curbside Organics Program Update [CK 7830-7] – Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services
 - a. Considered February 10, 2022
4. Waste Diversion Regulation for the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sector – Bylaw Compliance and Education [CK 7830-1] – Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services
 - a. Considered on March 16, 2022
5. FCM Funding Decision for Home Energy Loan Program [CK 752-2] – Standing Policy Committee on Environmental, Utilities and Corporate Services
 - a. Considered on March 16, 2022
6. Triple Bottom Line Program Continuation [CK 7550-1 x 17021] – City Council
 - a. Considered May 18, 2022
7. Water Conservation Strategy [CK 7900-1] – Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services
 - a. Considered May 18, 2022
8. Green Infrastructure 10-Year Implementation Plan [CK 4110-38] – Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services
 - a. Considered June 15, 2022

Reports/Recommendations Submitted to City Council:

1. There were no matters submitted to City Council.

Reports/Recommendations Submitted to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services:

1. 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Work Plan [CK 175-9]
 - a. Submitted February 10, 2022

Reports/Recommendations Submitted to the Governance and Priority Committee:

1. There were no matters submitted to the Governance and Priority Committee.

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

1. The Chair spoke to Global News Saskatoon regarding Earth Day and SEAC's Activities on April 22, 2022.

Work Plan for 2023

In 2023 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 Plan and the Corporate Climate Adaptation Strategy, including renewable energy such as solar and supporting infrastructure.
- Continue to advise City Council on Waste Reduction and Diversion, including Green Bin and organics programs.
- Advise City Council on water conservation and quality management.
- Continue to advise City Council in their adoption and implementation of the Triple Bottom Line Policy.
- Advise City Council in the sustainable development of new facilities.

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, through initiatives such as the Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Natural Capital Asset Valuation program.
- Advise on the protection of significant natural areas, including boundary delineation, rare species habitat and integration with urban development, such as for the NE and Small Swales and the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area.

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.
- Continue to advise on alternative transportation methods such as development of the electric scooter program.

4. Quality of Life

- Advise City Council on food security and community garden programs.
- Advise City Council on implications of climate change on community health and well-being.

Community Engagement

- Continue to support community and education initiatives, such as the Student Action for a Sustainable Future program.
- Maintain our education-based social media programming.
- Support the Environmental Cash Grants program.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix 1 – 2022 Meeting Summary
2. Appendix 2 – 2022 Expenditures

Sincerely,



John Paul Wasan
Chair, Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee

Appendix 1 – 2022 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"> • A letter from Julia Adamson regarding the City Nature Challenge (EUCS) • Review of Terms of Reference (GPC) <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That John Paul Wasan be appointed Chair and Erin Akins be appointed Vice-Chair for 2022. <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anita Masse was appointed to serve as Subcommittee Chair for 2022
February	<p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric Scooter Pilot Project Framework Project Update <p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curbside Organics Program Update (EUCS) <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Christina McRorie serves as the SEAC representative to the Community Groups - Cash Grants Program - Environmental Component for 2022. • That the 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Work Plan be approved. <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subcommittee reported that it was continuing with the social media campaign for 2022
March	<p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Diversion Regulation for the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sector (EUCS) • Bylaw Compliance and Education and FCM Funding Decision for Home Energy Loan Program (EUCS)

	<p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That \$1,800.00 be contributed to Student Action for a Sustainable Future. <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subcommittee reported on the drafting of an RFI for the social media campaign and current engagement
April	<p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Shared Electric Scooter Program: Update and Input Request <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 urban environmental sustainability and 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. <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subcommittee reported on the selection of a proponent for the RFI for the social media campaign
May	<p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triple Bottom Line Program Continuation to Committee (City Council) • Water Conservation Strategy (EUCS) <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the resignation of Anita Masse from SEAC, Angela Spence was appointed Subcommittee Chair for 2022
June	<p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Infrastructure 10-Year Implementation Plan (EUCS) <p>Committee Member Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christina provided an update on the outcome of the 2022 Environmental Community Cash Grants Program

September	<p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Regulatory Framework – Shared Electric Scooter Program Pilot <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Rourke Wunder-Buhr was appointed Vice Chair for the remainder of 2022 (due to the resignation of Erin Akins from SEAC).
October	<p>No meeting was held due to insufficient items.</p>
November	<p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Plan – Progress Report 2021 (EUCS) • Renewable and Low-emission Energy Implementation Plan (EUCS) <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee approve its 2022 Annual Report for submission to City Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services by March 31, 2023 <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media campaign update

Appendix 2 – 2022 Expenditures

Date	Description	Amount
March 25, 2022	Student Action for a Sustainable Future (SASF) Program Funding for 2022/2023	\$1,800.00
August 3, 2022	Social Media Content – May-Aug Facebook & Instagram posts - G. Basky Contract (1 st Payment)	\$2,499.00
November 24, 2022	Social Media Content – September – December Facebook & Instagram posts - G. Basky Contract (2 nd Payment)	\$2,499.00
	Total	\$6,798.00