

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

November 17, 2023

Deputy City Clerk, Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services

**Re: 2023 Annual Report – Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee  
[ADV2023-1106]**

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 2023 was as follows:

#### **Members**

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

## **Resource Members**

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

## **Work Plan Goals and Accomplishments**

The work plan goals of the Committee in 2023, aligned with the City of Saskatoon Strategic Plan, are given below. 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 2023 expenditures.

### **1. Environmental Leadership**

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

SEAC was very active at City Council meetings this year. We provided letters at 3 Regular Business Meetings and at the 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget Meeting. The Chair spoke at the February 22, 2023, Council meeting.

- **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.**

We provided feedback to City Council on the Carbon/Climate Budget and on the LEC Plan Refresh. We also reviewed a report on the Climate Budget (GHG Implications of Capital Projects).

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

While SEAC did not receive any items on this matter in 2023, waste reduction and especially the expansion of organics programs remain a priority for the Committee.

- **Advise City Council on water conservation and quality management.**

SEAC did not consider any items on this matter in 2023.

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

Through the TBL framework, SEAC has been able to advise Council on non-financial impacts of their decisions. In our reports to City Council regarding the Carbon/Climate Budget and the Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement, we encouraged Council to consider social and environmental costs of each decision and how they may lead to future financial costs. SEAC encourages Council to continue to use the TBL framework as a more effective decision-making tool.

- **Advise City Council in the sustainable development of new facilities.**

We reviewed a report on the Downtown Event and Entertainment District Plan and provided feedback to the Administration via the City's engagement survey.

## **2. Sustainable Growth**

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

In our feedback to City Council regarding the Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement, we advised Council to balance conservation and green infrastructure with urban development. We also advised Council to consider the long-term impacts of urban expansion on the viability of conservation efforts.

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

SEAC provided feedback to City Council on the Carbon/Climate budget and reviewed a report on the later developed Climate Budget (GHG Implications of Capital Projects).

- **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.**

We received a report on the Natural Areas Management Pilots at the Small Swale and Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area. SEAC also advised on the Northeast Swale

and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement. The protection of natural areas and green infrastructure is a leading priority for 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.**

In our feedback to the Administration on the Downtown Event and Entertainment District, we discussed how advancing and expanding the Bus Rapid Transit system would address parking and transportation issues. As Saskatoon expands, BRT will be an essential part of ensuring accessibility.

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

SEAC did not consider any items on this matter in 2023.

### **4. Quality of Life**

- **Advise City Council on food security and community garden programs.**

The Chair presented to SEAC regarding native prairie gardens and landscaping at the April and October meetings. Based on this, he discussed opportunities for the City in this area with the Mayor in May.

- **Advise City Council on implications of climate change on community health and well-being.**

While SEAC did not receive any items on this matter this year, this may be an increasingly important component of climate change adaptation strategies.

### ***Community Engagement***

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

SEAC provided \$3,600.00 to support the Student Action for a Sustainable Future program for 2023-2024. In the previous school year, with SEAC's support, this program reached 23 classes at both the elementary and secondary school levels. SEAC also resolved to submit a letter encouraging Council to continue funding this program as well. SEAC also provided \$4,200.00 to support the Saskatchewan Environmental

Society's green infrastructure project, which will increase green spaces in a Saskatoon neighbourhood.

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

The Committee decided to direct its efforts towards local environmental education programs and providing more feedback letters to City Council and Administration in 2023, rather than social media programs. SEAC has found that it has been able to reach more Saskatoon citizens through this than online.

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

A SEAC representative served on the adjudication committee, which awarded \$56,000.00 in funding to 15 local organizations.

## **2023 Reports and Communications**

### **Matters Referred by SPC or City Council**

1. Natural Areas Management Pilots – Small Swale and Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area [CK 4110-38] – Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services
  - a. Considered on January 20, 2023
2. Carbon/Climate Budget – Analysis and Next Steps [EUCS2023-0105] – Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services
  - a. Considered on January 20, 2023
3. Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement [PDCS2023-0207] – Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services
  - a. Considered on February 17, 2023
4. Downtown Event and Entertainment District Plan – Introduction [ADV2023-0303] – Administrative Report
  - a. Considered March 17, 2023
5. Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw Review – Environmental Initiatives [ADV2023-0304] – Administrative Report
  - a. Considered on March 17, 2023
6. Climate Budget – Greenhouse Gas Implications of Capital Projects [EUCS2023-0302] – Standing Policy Committee on Environmental, Utilities and Corporate Services
  - a. Considered on March 17, 2023
7. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets and Low Emissions Community Plan 2024-2025 Refresh [EUCS2023-0404] – Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services
  - a. Considered April 21, 2023

8. Greenhouse Operating Model Long-Term Options [PDCS2023-0206] – City Council
  - a. Considered September 22, 2023
9. Funding Environmental Sustainability Actions and Climate Budget – Update [EUCS2023-1103] – Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services
  - a. Considered November 17, 2023

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

1. Carbon/Climate Budget – Analysis and Next Steps [EUCS2023-0105]
  - a. Submitted January 23, 2023
2. Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement [PDCS2023-0207]
  - a. Submitted February 20, 2023
3. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets and Low Emissions Community Plan 2024-2025 Refresh [EUCS2023-0404]
  - a. Submitted April 24, 2023
4. Student Action for a Sustainable Future Funding – 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget Meeting
  - a. Submitted November 20, 2023

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

1. 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Plan [EUCS2023-0405]
  - a. Submitted March 17, 2023

**Reports/Recommendations Submitted to the Governance and Priority Committee:**

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

**Feedback Letters Submitted to City Administration**

1. Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw Review – Environmental Initiatives [ADV2023-0304]
  - a. Submitted March 27, 2023
2. Greenhouse Operating Model Long-Term Options [PDCS2023-0206]
  - a. December 18, 2023

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

1. There was no communication with media in 2023.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Appendix 1 – 2023 Meeting Summary
2. Appendix 2 – 2023 Expenditures

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Paul Wasan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**John Paul Wasan**  
**Chair, Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee**

**Appendix 1 – 2023 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>• Environmental Grant Program – Adjudication Committee Member</li> </ul> <p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Areas Management Pilots – Small Swale and Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area (EUCS)</li> <li>• Carbon/Climate Budget – Analysis and Next Steps (EUCS)</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That John Paul Wasan be appointed Chair and Angela Spence be appointed Vice-Chair for 2023.</li> <li>• That a Work Plan Subcommittee be established and be comprised of all voting members of the Saskatoon Environment Advisory Committee; and</li> <li>• That Angela Spence be appointed as Chair of the Work Plan Subcommittee for 2023.</li> <li>• That the Chair be tasked with writing a feedback letter to City Council regarding the Carbon/Climate Budget – Analysis and Next Steps.</li> </ul>
February	<p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northeast Swale and Small Swale Boundary Endorsement (PDCS)</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Chair and Vice Chair be tasked with submitting a feedback letter to City Council based on the Committee’s discussion regarding the above report.</li> </ul>
March	<p>Referrals from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downtown Event and Entertainment District Plan – Introduction</li> <li>• Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw Review – Environmental Initiatives</li> </ul> <p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Budget – Greenhouse Gas Implications of Capital Projects (EUCS)</li> </ul>



	<p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee provide a feedback letter to the Administration on the Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw Review - Environmental Initiatives.</li> <li>• That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee approve its Work Plan for 2023, for inclusion in the 2022 Annual Report, for submission to City Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services by March 31, 2023.</li> </ul>
April	<p>Reports from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets and Low Emissions Community Plan 2024-2025 Refresh (EUCS)</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee contribute \$3,600.00 from its 2023 budget to the Student Action for a Sustainable Future Program for 2023/2024.</li> <li>• That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee draft a feedback letter to be submitted to City Council on the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets and Low Emissions Community Plan 2024-2025 Refresh.</li> <li>• That an Education Subcommittee be established and be comprised of all voting members of the Saskatoon Environment Advisory Committee.</li> <li>• That Palash Sanyal be appointed Chair of the Education Subcommittee for 2023.</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No meeting was held due to insufficient items.</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No meeting was held due to insufficient items.</li> </ul>
September	<p>Reports from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenhouse Operating Model Long-Term Options (City Council)</li> </ul> <p>Motions</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee provide a feedback letter to Administration on the Greenhouse Operating Model Long-Term Options.</li> </ul> <p>Education Subcommittee to replace GHG Subcommittee going forward.</p>
<p>October</p>	<p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee provide a letter of support to the 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget meeting regarding the program funding for Student Action for a Sustainable Future, Saskatchewan Environmental Society.</li> </ul>
<p>November</p>	<p>Referrals from Council or Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding Environmental Sustainability Actions and Climate Budget – Update (EUCS).</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee contribute \$4,200.00 from its 2023 budget to the Saskatchewan Environmental Society.</li> <li>• That the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee approve its 2023 Annual Report for submission to City Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Environmental, Utilities &amp; Corporate Services.</li> </ul>

**Appendix 2 – 2023 Expenditures**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
May 11, 2023	Student Action for a Sustainable Future (SASF) Program Funding for 2023/2024	\$3,600.00
November 23, 2023	Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) funding for Living Cities Project	\$4,200.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,800.00</b>