

SEAC 2024 WORK PLAN

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

Re: 2024 Work Plan – Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (File No. CK. 175-9)

Work Plan for 2024

In 2024 SEAC will do the following, aligned with the City of Saskatoon strategic plan:

1. Environmental Leadership

- Encourage City Council to take a proficient proactive stance in Municipal issues relating to environment and sustainability applicable to the City size.
- 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.
- Consideration of climate resilience infrastructure (landfills, utilities, etc.).
- Advise City Council on environmental best practices.
- 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 (request an update on the water conservation strategy and the smart metering system).
- 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, such as the new central library.
- Instituting change is difficult and changing behavior even more so. It requires clear, concise, consistent communication. SEAC will encourage and assist city council in developing a broadcast environmental communication platform to inform, educate and engage all citizens in the merits of changing behaviors that help conserve and protect any and all facets of the environment.

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 with the upcoming Federal building code update.
- Advise on the protection of natural areas, including the Swales, through initiatives such as the Natural Areas Policy, the Green Infrastructure Strategy, and the Natural Capital Asset Valuation program.
- Provide feedback on the Natural Areas Policy management plans for the Small Swale and Richard St. Barbe areas.
- Provide feedback on management of the current park spaces on naturalizing the areas and adding diverse vegetation.
- Advise City Council on development of the National Urban Park.

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.
- Advise on accessibility for sustainable systems.

4. Quality of Life

Sustainability and Health

- Advise City Council on food security and community garden programs.
- Advise City Council on implications of climate change on community health and well-being.
- Research Planetary boundary – if 6 of 9 boundaries have been crossed, what will that mean for the City.
- Advise City Council on sustainability metrics reporting.
- Advise City Council on noise/light/air pollution mitigation.

Community Engagement

- Continue to support community and education initiatives, such as the Student Action for a Sustainable Future program.
- Support the Environmental Cash Grants program.
- Encourage community groups to attend SEAC meetings.
- Arrange for training opportunities in the meetings (i.e., Meewasin presentation, etc.).
- Maintain our education-based social media programming including information on the following:
 - Emergency preparedness checklist (storm, fire, water)
 - Water restrictions during a drought
 - Turning lawns to gardens and xeriscape.