

**ANNUAL REPORT AND WORK PLAN**

April 1, 2019

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

**Re: 2018 Annual Report and 2019 Goals – Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee [File No. CK. 175-9]**

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 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**

Membership on SEAC for the year 2018 was as follows:

- Ms. Sara Harrison, Chair
- Ms. Erin Akins, Vice Chair
- Councillor S. Gersher
- Mr. Brian Sawatzky
- Ms. Angie Bugg
- Ms. Kari Engele-Carter (Saskatchewan Health Representative)
- Ms. Aditi Garg
- Mr. Sean Homenick (completed 6<sup>th</sup> yr term in 2018)
- Mr. David McGrane
- Ms. Kathryn Palmer
- Ms. Kira Judge

The 2019 membership on SEAC is as follows, noting that the committee reflects the change in terms of reference, specifically the removal of the Council representative as a

voting member, and the addition of Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA), Youth, and Indigenous representation. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment has declined to provide representation at this time:

- Ms. Sara Harrison, Chair
- Ms. Erin Akins, Vice Chair
- Mr. Brian Sawatzky
- Ms. Angie Bugg
- Ms. Kari Engele-Carter (Saskatchewan Health Representative)
- Ms. Aditi Garg
- Mr. David McGrane
- Ms. Kathryn Palmer
- Ms. Kira Judge
- Ms. Andrea Lafond (MVA Representative)
- Ms. Sydney Boulton (Youth Representative)
- Mr. Dallas Pelly (Indigenous Representative)

## **Goals and Accomplishments**

The goals of SEAC in 2018 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 2018 expenditures.

### ***1. Support City Council and hold them accountable to meet the approved community-wide greenhouse gas and other performance targets.***

SEAC engaged with City Council and SPC EUCS several times in support of initiatives to meet Saskatoon's corporate and community GHG Reduction targets and Saskatoon's waste diversion target.

### ***2. Support and challenge City Administration in the development of plans, programs, and policies in order to meet greenhouse gas and other performance targets, including through stakeholder engagement.***

SEAC worked collaboratively with Administration through providing independent advice on the Low Emissions Community File. SEAC was provided several updates and presentations throughout the year, and subsequently contracted Karen Gorecki to provide an in-depth independent review of the Plan on behalf of the Committee. Her report was submitted to SPC EUCS, along with a detailed cover letter from SEAC. SEAC supported public engagement opportunities either through participation or volunteering at workshops, including "Sense-making Saturday" to understand

engagement results regarding waste diversion; the GHG subject-matter expert workshop; the Trash Talk workshop; and BRT engagement sessions.

**3. Advocate for the development of municipal practices and policies that support emissions reductions, in the following domains:**

**a. waste diversion, including city-wide organics diversion**

With changes in plastic recycling markets, SEAC began to advocate for waste reduction along-side diversion. A Committee representative spoke on this issue at a SPC EUCS meeting, in particular investigating a plastic bag ban for Saskatoon. At this same time, Committee also showed its continued support for multi-unit residential waste diversion opportunities and Recovery Park.

SEAC stayed updated in the work towards the comprehensive organics program and waste utility. Committee representatives spoke several times at both SPC EUCS and City Council meetings in support of these programs.

SEAC supported the Second Chance Food initiative to divert food waste to those in need. SEAC recommended that food reclamation be considered within the scope of the waste diversion planning, including the City consider a role in advocacy and communication for food reclamation; that the City provide leadership by way of having City-owned and operated venues participate where possible in existing food reclamation programs such as Food Renew; and that the City participate in the Food Security Action Team by way of having a staff member sit on that Committee.

**b. building codes and energy efficiency**

SEAC reviewed several reports on the high-performance building policy. Building efficiency is a key part of the Low Emissions Community Plan.

**c. renewable energy programs**

SEAC reviewed reports on solar opportunities and policy within Saskatoon. Saskatoon Light & Power (SL&P) provided an update to SEAC so the Committee may better understand SL&P's mandate as related to renewable energy, and the on-going programs related to clean energy and environmental initiatives.

**d. public and alternative transportation AND active transportation, including well-connect infrastructure**

SEAC received an update on planning for the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and renewed Transit Plan. The Committee submitted feedback on the plan to Administration. The key recommendations provided were as follows:

- i. The transportation strategy should prioritize low-emitter options;
- ii. The plan should include interim plans before transit villages are developed to encourage ridership in the shorter term;

- iii. Investment is required to remove barriers to ridership;
- iv. The plan needs to account for future expansion now to support a growing population and increased mode share.

SEAC also provided feedback to City Council in support of the BRT and Downtown 'AAA' Cycling Network to Council.

***e. green infrastructure asset management***

SEAC received updates related to the Northeast Swale, and Administration response to concerns raised regarding this sensitive area. SEAC also received updates on the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

***f. other areas arising from target setting.***

SEAC submitted a letter to SPC EUCS regarding concerns on how City Council makes decisions on allocating capital reserves, particularly related to environmental investments. This was a result of several presentations where funding for environmental initiatives was perceived by the Committee to be lacking in comparison to other services (e.g. single vehicle traffic; facility construction). The Committee noted that significant investment would be required to support implementing the Low Emissions Community Plan. SEAC subsequently received a presentation from Finance & Supply so the Committee may better understand the complexities of capital investment in the municipality.

***4. In addition to regular engagement with the Environment department, seek to regularly be present and engage the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services; City Council; and Planning and Transportation departments.***

SEAC significantly increased its presence at SPC EUCS and City Council meetings throughout 2018, as noted below.

***5. In recognition of the role of public education and communication in achieving these goals, SEAC will continue to promote the short animated video on climate change in the City of Saskatoon, and plan for further engagement.***

SEAC continued to be active on social media, running several promotional campaigns. Followers grew from 180 to 260 through 2018. Organic (non-paid) post reach increased from 112 to 960, while promotions added approximately 1000 additional in reach per promotion. The Committee contracted Megan Van Buskirk to support organization and preparedness for these campaigns, which also increased the content released through 2018.

Views of SEAC's animated video were at approximately 9,500 by end 2018.

SEAC submitted a proposal to present on the creation of this video at the 2019 Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication to be held in Saskatoon in May 2019. The proposal was accepted.

**6. *SEAC will continue to support the work of Student Action for a Sustainable Future.***

The Committee continued to support this initiative with financial funding totalling \$1,800. The SASF showcase was held April 26, 2018 and was very well attended.

In addition, the following were also completed:

- Each year, SEAC supports Administration in the evaluation of application for the Environmental Cash Grants Program. In 2018, eighteen applications were received and reviewed. Eight project applications were selected to be awarded funding. A total of \$20,000 was awarded in 2018 to support environmental projects in the community.
- SEAC was asked to consider noise pollution as an environmental issue for Saskatoon through presentation by a concerned citizen. While the Committee could not see how it could directly help with the particular issue, SEAC noted it appreciated the concern.
- SEAC's Terms of Reference were updated for the first time in 2018. The Committee provided significant input to this process.
- Members of SEAC met with a global corporate VP Sustainability to better understand climate change initiatives in industry.

**2018 Reports and Communications**

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

1. Spoke in support of the proposed organics and waste utility programs – June 2018
2. Spoke in support of the proposed organics and PAYT waste utility programs – September 2018
3. Spoke in support of PAYT Waste Utility – November, 2018
4. Spoke in opposition to rescind motion on the PAYT Waste Utility – December, 2018

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

1. Spoke in support of waste reduction alongside diversion with changes in plastic recycling markets, specifically investigation of a plastic bag ban – February 2018
2. Submitted in writing and presented SEAC 2018 Goals and Objectives – March 2018
3. Submitted in writing SEAC 2017 Annual Report – April 2018
4. Submitted letter and spoke in support of the proposed organics and waste utility programs – June 2018
5. Submitted letter in support of Second Chance Food's initiatives regarding waste diversion – June 2018
6. Spoke in support of Low Emissions Community Plan, and submitted in writing a cover letter and the Gorecki Report documenting SEAC's detailed review of the plan – November 2018
7. Submitted a letter regarding concerns to capital allocation and decision-making as it relates to environmental issues – November 2018

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

1. Spoke in support of Bus Rapid Transit and the Downtown All Ages and Abilities Cycling network – June 2018
2. Submitted a letter capturing feedback on the draft revised SEAC Terms of Reference – June 2018

**Reports/Recommendations Submitted to Administration:**

1. Submitted a letter capturing feedback regarding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Transit Plan – April 2018

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

1. Climate Change engagement, CFCR live interview on "From the Ground Up" – February 5, 2018, Erin Akins
2. Climate Change is a Municipal Issue – response to IPCC Special Report, CBC Saskatoon Radio Live Interview – October 10, 2018, Erin Akins
3. Response to Council Decision regarding PAYT Waste Utility, CKOM 650 Live Interview – December 19, 2018, Sara Harrison
4. Response to Council Decision regarding PAYT Waste Utility, Global News Saskatoon Interview, December 19, 2018, Sara Harrison (did not air)

**Mentions in local media (quotes from presentations):**

1. Plastic bags could soon be forbidden in recycling bins Saskatoon Star Phoenix – February 14, 2018
2. Saskatoon city council cancels plan to charge garbage collection user fees, CBC – December 17, 2018

**Work Plan for 2019**

In 2019 SEAC will do the following, aligned with the City of Saskatoon strategic plan:

1. *Environmental Leadership*

- Continue to advise City Council on the Low Emissions Community and Waste Diversion files.
- Engage further on the concerns on how Council makes financial and capital decisions related to the environment.

2. *Sustainable Growth*

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

3. *Moving Around Sustainably*

- Continue to support the progression of a Bus Rapid Transit system and support the planning and implementation of the Active Transportation Plan.

4. *Quality of Life*

- Continue to financially support the work of the Student Action for a Sustainable Future.
- Maintain our education-based social media presence.
- Attend the 2019 Winter Cities Shake Up Conference.
- Present at the 2019 Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication Conference.

5. *A culture of continuous improvement*

- Develop a “key messages” platform.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Appendix 1 – 2018 Meeting Summary
2. Appendix 2 – 2018 Expenditures

Yours truly,

**Sara Harrison, Chair**  
Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee



## Appendix 1 – 2018 Meeting Summary – Key Topics and Resolutions

| Meeting  | Summary – Key Topics and Resolutions   |
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| January  | <p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High Performance Building Policy</li> <li>- Waste Diversion Plan Engagement</li> <li>- Climate Change Engagement and Communications</li> <li>- City-wide Organics and Waste Utility Program</li> <li>- ICI Waste Diversion Opportunities</li> </ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recap meeting with Administration on supporting GHG Engagement planning</li> <li>- Social media update</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That Sara Harrison be appointed Chair and Erin Akins appointed vice-Chair for 2018.</li> <li>- That Ms. Akins serve as the SEAC representative for 2018 Assistance to Community Groups - Cash Grants Program.</li> </ul>   |
| February | <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student Action for a Sustainable Future (SASF), Leah Luciuk, SASF Program Coordinator, regarding a funding request</li> </ul> <p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update on Recycling Markets: Plastic Film</li> <li>- Climate Change Action Plan: update on Phase 1 engagement</li> <li>- Waste Diversion Plan: update on engagement</li> <li>- Facilitation Solar Energy Opportunities in Saskatoon</li> <li>- Utility Scale Solar Power Plant</li> <li>- Development of the Swale – response to Northeast Swale Watchers 12 points</li> <li>- Principals for a high-performance building policy</li> </ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Palmer to serve as sub-committee coordinator</li> <li>- Conclusion of work provided by Megan van Buskirk</li> </ul> |

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|              | <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That SEAC contribute \$1,800 from its 2018 budget to support SASF Program for 2018/2019.</li> <li>- That a SEAC rep. speak [to SPC EUCS] to the value of waste reduction and diversion and support investigating a municipal bag ban in Saskatoon.</li> <li>- That SEAC support the recommendations [to SPC EUCS] in both Multi-unit Residential Waste Diversion Opportunities report and Recovery Park.</li> <li>- That Admin. be invited to SEAC's March meeting to provide an update in Transit Plan re-configuration based on the BRT</li> <li>- That SEAC allocate \$500 to sponsored social media promotion.</li> </ul> |
| <p>March</p> | <p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update on environmental performance of events</li> <li>- Update on Climate Change and Waste Diversion Engagement</li> <li>- Presentation on Bus Rapid Transit and Transit System Plan</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That the GHG Subcommittee be tasked with providing the Administration with feedback on BRT and the Transit Plan</li> <li>- That the 2017 Annual Report be approved and submitted to City Council through the SPC EUCS</li> </ul>  |
| <p>April</p> | <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saskatoon Second Chance Food, Stefanie Foster, Chair, regarding the positive environmental impacts of food reclamation</li> <li>- Raj Randhawa, citizen, presented on the impacts of noise pollution</li> </ul> <p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate Change Action Plan: update on Phase 1 engagement</li> <li>- Waste Diversion Plan: update on engagement</li> <li>- Investigating Solar Energy Opportunities in Saskatoon</li> </ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update on March sub-committee meeting</li> </ul>             |

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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion on progressing social media</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That SEAC recommend to SPC EUCS that food reclamation be considered within the scope of the waste diversion planning, including the City consider a role in advocacy and communication for food reclamation</li> <li>- That the City provide leadership by way of having City-owned and operated venues participate where possible in existing food reclamation programs such as Food Renew</li> <li>- That the City participate in the Food Security Action Team by way of having a staff member sit on that Committee</li> <li>- Megan Van Buskirk be asked to submit a proposal to support ongoing social media campaign on climate change</li> <li>- That the Committee put forward a proposed budget submission for 2019 of \$7,800</li> </ul>  |
| <p>May</p> | <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Terry Neefs, email on the 5R's of Zero Waste</li> </ul> <p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation on the Green Infrastructure Strategy</li> <li>- Climate Change Action Plan: updated timelines for mitigation plan.</li> <li>- CoS submission to Low Carbon Economy Fund</li> <li>- Internal auditors report on climate change</li> <li>- Waste Diversion Plan: recommendations to Council on instituting green cart program and PAYT waste utility forthcoming</li> </ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion on proposal from Megan Van Buskirk for social media support</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft terms of reference: question and answer with members of Governance team, requesting written feedback. Discussion on key feedback points.</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That SEAC supports a comprehensive organics green cart program and a pay-as-you-through waste utility</li> </ul> |

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|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That SEAC approves the proposal as submitted by Megan Van Buskirk in the amount of \$500 from its 2018 budget.</li> <li>- That SEAC provide written feedback to the Core Committee regarding the presented Terms of Reference for SEAC no later than May 31, 2018</li> </ul>   |
| June      | <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leah Luciak, SASF Program Coordinator, thank you letter regarding SEAC’s financial support for the 2017/18 program</li> </ul> <p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate Change Action Plan: updated timelines for mitigation plan</li> <li>- Waste Diversion Plan: update on multi-unit engagement and timeline through 2018. Discussion on illegal dumping concerns.</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That SEAC present its support at City Council's June meeting to be regarding the recommendation of a comprehensive green cart program and PAYT waste utility.</li> </ul>   |
| September | <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Planning and Design Newsletter, Spring/Summer 2018 edition'</li> <li>- 2018 Wícihitowin Aboriginal Engagement Conference information was provided</li> </ul> <p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation Update on Mitigation Business Plan that spoke to Analysis, Methodology, Factors under Review, and Milestone Dates.</li> <li>- Waste Diversion Plan: update on reports to Council</li> </ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EECOM Proposal Draft</li> <li>- Invite Director SL&amp;P to meeting to provide update on GHG initiatives</li> <li>- Draft RFP for support work in reviewing Climate Change Mitigation Plan</li> </ul> |

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|          | <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That final edits be made to the EECOM Proposal and Contract RFP as discussed.</li> </ul>  |
| October  | <p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director of Saskatoon Light &amp; Power provided update on Clean Energy Projects and Environmental Initiatives highlighting SL&amp;P's mandate, clean energy projects and environmental initiatives.</li> <li>- Climate Change Action Plan: update on reports to Council</li> <li>- Waste Diversion Plan: update on reports to Council, Council discussion. Update on ICI Strategy</li> </ul> <p>In Camera:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft - Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan Recommendations</li> </ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Karen Gorecki was the selected candidate through the Committee's RFP process</li> </ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That SEAC invite Administration from Finance &amp; Supply to provide an overview on capital decision-making and financing processes within the City of Saskatoon, in particular to how it relates to environmental investments.</li> <li>- That the GHG Subcommittee be tasked with drafting a letter to SPC EUCS regarding concerns on how City Council makes financial decisions on funding allocations/capital reserves, particularly related to environmental investments.</li> <li>- That SEAC speak at City Council's, October 22, 2018, meeting regarding its support of the proposed Pay as You Throw (PAYT) Waste Utility and Comprehensive Organics Program.</li> <li>- That SEAC present its findings at the SPC EUCS November meeting regarding the Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan Recommendations report.</li> </ul> |
| November | <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Sokyryka provided a letter entitled Improve Recycling Practices</li> </ul>   |

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|  | <p>Reports from Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Director of Finance &amp; Supply provided presentation and answered SEAC questions on City of Saskatoon Capital Budget Process Overview, highlighting various aspects of both the City's capital and operating budgets. Discussion followed revolving around capital reserves.</li><li>- Written report update on Climate Change Action Plan and Waste Diversion Plan.</li></ul> <p>GHG Subcommittee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Karen Gorecki's contract was closed</li><li>- Draft RFP for support work in reviewing Climate Change Mitigation Plan</li></ul> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- That SEAC send a representative and/or a letter in support of the Waste Management Levels of Service (PAYT) report and the Recommendations Report for a Low Emissions Community to City Council's November 19, 2018 meeting.</li></ul> |
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## Appendix 2 – 2018 Expenditure

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Amount</b>  |
|-------------------|---|----------------|
| May 4, 2018       | Student Action for a Sustainable Future for 2018/2019       | \$1,800        |
| June 7, 2018      | Facebook - Social Media Campaign on Climate Change (1 of 2) | \$38           |
| October 25, 2018  | Megan Van Buskirk - Social Media Support                    | \$500          |
| November 8, 2018  | Karen Gorecki – Low Emissions Community Report Review       | \$4,998        |
| December 16, 2018 | Facebook - Social Media Campaign on Climate Change (2 of 2) | \$55           |
|                   | <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$7,336</b> |
|                   | <b>Budget</b>   | <b>\$7,800</b> |
|                   | <b>Difference</b>   | <b>(\$464)</b> |