



Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Committee Room

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Pages

Land Acknowledgment

The City of Oshawa is situated on lands within the traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Anishinaabeg and the signatories of the Williams Treaties, which include the Mississaugas of Scugog Island, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations, and the Chippewas of Georgina Island, Rama and Beausoleil First Nations. We are grateful for the Anishinaabeg who have cared for the land and waters within this territory since time immemorial.

We recognize that Oshawa is steeped in rich Indigenous history and is now present day home to many First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. We express gratitude for this diverse group of Indigenous Peoples who continue to care for the land and shape and strengthen our community.

As a municipality, we are committed to understanding the truth of our shared history, acknowledging our role in addressing the negative impacts that colonization continues to have on Indigenous Peoples, developing reciprocal relationships, and taking meaningful action toward reconciliation.

We are all Treaty people.

Additional Agenda Items

(As may be presented at the meeting)

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

(As may be presented by Members)

Presentations

City of Oshawa's Official Plan Review and Envision Durham

Laura Moebs, Principal Planner, Policy to provide the Committee with a presentation concerning the commencement of the City of Oshawa's Official Plan Review process as a result of Envision Durham.

Central Oshawa Major Transit Station Aarea Study

Connor Leherbauer, Senior Planner, Planning Services to provide the Committee with a presentation concerning the Central Oshawa MTSA Study Stage #3 of the Central Oshawa MTSA Study.,

Delegations

None

Referrals from Council and Committees

None

Correspondence

None

Reports

OEAC-24-29 - Second Quarter Budget Update

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Recommendation

That Report OEAC-24-29 concerning the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee's second quarter budget update be received for information.

OEAC-24-30 - Work Plan Second Quarter Update

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Recommendation

That Report OEAC-24-30 concerning the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee's second quarter work plan be received for information.

OEAC-24-31 - Event Coordination Working Group Report for May 2024

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Recommendation

That Report OEAC-24-31 dated May 7, 2024 from the Event Coordination Working Group be received for information.

OEAC-24-32 - Mind Your Plastic Working Group Report for May 2024

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Recommendation

That based on Report OEAC-24-32 dated May 7, 2024 from the Mind Your Plastic Working Group that the City works with Mind Your Plastic to implement a Plastic-Free Events Policy and that the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee offer \$2,500 from their advertising budget line for the development of a Plastic Reduction Toolkit and webinar series for consideration from Committee and Council should they choose to proceed with implementing the aforementioned policy.

OEAC-24-33 - Road Salt Working Group Report for May

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Recommendation

That the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to the Community and Operations Services Committee:

That based on Report OEAC-24-33 dated May 7, 2024 from the Road Salt Working

Group the presentation on the impacts of road salt be approved and that A.J. Groen present to the Durham Environmental and Climate Advisory Committee on behalf of the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee.

OEAC-24-34 - Information from Oshawa City Council concerning the Bloor Street Intensification Working Group Report (Ward 5) (Previously OEAC-24-20)

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Recommendation

That Report OEAC-24-34 dated April 29, 2024 from Oshawa City Council be received for information.

Items Introduced by Members

Adjournment



Information Report

Economic and Development Services Department

Date: May 7, 2024

To: Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (O.E.A.C.)

From: Branden Morris, O.E.A.C. Policy Advisor,
Economic and Development Services Department

Item: **OEAC-24-29, 2024 O.E.A.C. Second Quarter Budget Update**

Attachment 1 is the 2024 second quarter budget update for the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (O.E.A.C.).

Recommendation:

That Report OEAC-24-29 dated May 7, 2024, concerning the 2024 O.E.A.C. Budget be received for information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Morris", written in a cursive style.

Branden Morris, Planner A
Policy

Attachment

2024 O.E.A.C. Budget

Program: 120 – ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Location: 402 – Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (O.E.A.C.)

Account	Description	2024 Approved Budget	2024 Actuals*	2024 Budget Remaining	Comments
N/A	Donations	\$0	\$0	\$0	
20000	Office Materials & Supply	\$300	\$0	\$300	
21000	Printing & Reproduction	\$500	\$0	\$500	
40000	Advertising	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	
44000	Civic Reception & Meals	\$500	\$0	\$500	
47000	Seminars & Training	\$600	\$0	\$600	
48000	Membership & Dues	\$200	\$100	\$100	\$100 DIG membership
49330	Events/Promo Expenses	\$8,500	\$0	\$8,500	
	Total Expenses		\$100		
	Total Revenues		\$0		
	Total Remaining			\$16,500	
	TOTAL	\$16,600			



Information Report

Economic and Development Services Department

Date: May 7, 2024

To: Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (O.E.A.C.)

From: Branden Morris, O.E.A.C. Policy Advisor,
Economic and Development Services Department

Item: **OEAC-24-30, 2024 O.E.A.C. Work Plan Second Quarter Update**

Attachment 1 is the 2024 second quarter update of the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee's (O.E.A.C.) work plan.

Recommendation:

That Report OEAC-24-30 dated May 7, 2024, concerning the 2024 O.E.A.C. Work Plan be received for information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Morris", written in a cursive style.

Branden Morris, Planner A
Policy

Attachment

2024 O.E.A.C. Work Plan

Mandate: To assist, advise and educate City Council, staff and the community with respect to the protection, enhancement, restoration, management and appreciation of the natural and built environments, and to advance the goals of the [Oshawa Strategic Plan](#).

Action	Examples of Actions to be Taken	Timing	Lead	Support
Category #1: Community Outreach, Education and Stewardship				
Explore public outreach opportunities to increase community knowledge/ education with respect to significant environmental issues and which accelerate the community's adoption or commitment to such issues as energy conservation, local food production, greenhouse gas emissions, water conservation, etc.	Participate in/collaborate on events related to Earth Day	April 22, 2024	O.E.A.C.	City Staff
	Host an event related to native plants and pollinators as a "Bee City", ideally collaborating with other relevant clubs or organizations	May/June 2024	O.E.A.C.	City Staff
	Booth at Oshawa Garden Sale	May 2024	O.E.A.C.	City Staff
	Booth at the Feathered Friends Festival by the Friends of Second Marsh	May 2024	Friends of the Second Marsh	O.E.A.C.
	Assist with City Compost Day	May 2024	O.E.A.C.	City Staff
	Booth at Oshawa Peony Festival	June 2024	O.E.A.C.	City Staff
	Booth at City's Canada Day event	July 1, 2024	O.E.A.C.	City Staff
	Booth at Farmers Market	TBD	O.E.A.C.	City Staff
	Collaborate on a joint event with the Oshawa Public Library, the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change, the Durham Environmental and Climate Change Advisory Committee (DECAC),	TBD	O.E.A.C.	City Staff

	Green Jobs Oshawa, Climate Justice Durham, Ontario Tech University, and/or Durham College			
	Host a tree giveaway event	September 14 2024	O.E.A.C.	City Staff
	Host a Fall Film Night Event	October 24, 2024	O.E.A.C.	City Staff
	Participate in Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority initiatives and activities	TBD	CLOCA	O.E.A.C.
	Other opportunities, as identified	TBD	N/A	N/A
Explore education and training opportunities for O.E.A.C. members and the public.	<p>Seek out education opportunities and engage DECAC to increase collaboration (e.g. presentations, workshops, etc.) related to the following topics, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agriculture and food security; relevant federal and provincial environmental legislation; forests, native and invasive species; net-zero development; bird-window collisions and the Fatal Light Awareness Program (F.L.A.P.); the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe; Indigenous land management; training from Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation; soil quality; and road salt/sodium chloride pollution 	Ongoing	O.E.A.C.	City Staff
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other topics, as identified 	TBD	N/A	N/A

Category #2: Policy Review, Development and Implementation

Assist, where appropriate, in the review, development and implementation of Regional environment/sustainability-related Plans, policies and programs.	Provide input on and assist in the implementation of certain Regional environment/sustainability-related matters, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham Community Energy Plan; Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan; and, Durham Region Municipal Comprehensive Review; and Envision Durham. 	As required	City Staff	O.E.A.C.
	Other opportunities, as identified.	As required	City Staff	O.E.A.C.
Assist, where appropriate, in the review, development and implementation of City environment/sustainability-related Plans, policies and programs.	Provide input and assist in the implementation of certain City environment/sustainability-related matters, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oshawa Community Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan; Municipal Natural Assets Initiative; Oshawa Second Marsh Management Plan; City Tree Protection By-law; Naturalization Strategy; and, Oshawa Executive Airport Business Plan. 	As required	City Staff	O.E.A.C.
	Other opportunities, as identified.	As required	N/A	N/A
Assist, where appropriate, in the review of plans, documents, studies, etc. related to planning and development.	Provide input on certain planning and development related matters, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certain development applications; Environmental assessments; Secondary Plans; Provincial planning initiatives; New and existing trail development initiatives; Park 	As required	City Staff	O.E.A.C.

	redevelopment and community park development initiatives; Watercourse improvement projects; Oshawa Harbour Development; Go Transit Expansion (Metrolinx); Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Watershed Plans; and, Lake Ontario Shoreline Hazard Management Plan.			
	Other opportunities, as identified.	As required	N/A	N/A

Category #3: Administration

Complete basic administrative tasks to facilitate the completion of and reporting on actions in Categories 1 & 2.	Provide a summary of 2024 accomplishments to the Economic and Development Services Committee.	Q1 2025	O.E.A.C.	City Staff
	Create a calendar of O.E.A.C's events for the year, establishing an itinerary for timely planning.	January 2024	O.E.A.C.	City Staff

OEAC-24-31

Event Coordination Working Group Report for O.E.A.C. Meeting May 7, 2024

Prepared by members: Emily Posteraro (Chair), A.J. Groen, Joseph Young, & Gregory Waclawek

Report:

The following public events are taking place in Oshawa over the course of the next few months, which O.E.A.C. members may be interested in tabling at or participating in an official capacity:

- Oshawa Garden Club annual plant sale - Saturday, May 25, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., South Oshawa Community Centre
- Annual Peony Festival - Saturday & Sunday June 8-9, 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- Canada Day - Monday, July 1 (typically all day, around 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
- Mayor's Cleanups – 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 - Saturday, May 25 - located in Downtown Oshawa
 - Saturday, June 22 - located in Downtown Oshawa
 - Saturday, September 7 - located at Friends of Second Marsh
- Convergence Festival – Friday-Sunday September 20-22
- A Greener Future cleanup events

Budget implications: None

Recommendations: That this report be received for information by the Committee.

OEAC-24-32

Mind Your Plastic Working Group Report for O.E.A.C. Meeting May 7, 2024

Prepared by members: Emily Posteraro (Chair), Gregory Waclawek, Joseph Young

Report:

Background

Mind Your Plastic is a federal not-for-profit organization established in 2016. They initially presented a letter to the Economic and Development Services Committee (EDSC) in June 2023, proposing that the City of Oshawa adopt a plastics-free event policy. This was referred to O.E.A.C. for comment at the June 2023 O.E.A.C. meeting, and a report was submitted by a working group for the September 2023 meeting. A working group was struck up again to provide recommendations to the EDSC after Mind Your Plastic delivered an informational presentation to O.E.A.C. at the February 2024 meeting.

The proposed *Plastic-Free Events Policy* is one of three campaigns led by Mind Your Plastic. The goal of the policy is to reduce waste, introduce benefits of using reusable packaging at municipal events, and for the group to build partnerships with municipalities. As the organization stated in their correspondence with the EDSC, “events are a great opportunity to adopt reusable materials and infrastructure, as [they] typically take place in one centralized location, which allows reusables to be easily tracked and returned throughout an event.”

Within Durham Region, Mind Your Plastic has worked with the Town of Ajax to create a *Plastic Awareness and Reduction Toolkit*. The document offers information for both individuals and businesses to reduce their usage of single-use plastics (SUPs) at events and large gatherings. The Town of Ajax has *not* adopted the *Plastic-Free Events Policy*, which is what is being proposed to the City of Oshawa.

Implications for the City of Oshawa

Oshawa has a number of large public events throughout the summer where this policy could be implemented, such as the Peony Festival, Fiesta Week, Canada Day, and the Oshawa Rotary Ribfest to name a few. The City already has water bottle filling stations and water fountains at Lakeview Park for the Canada Day event. This is a good first step towards reducing waste, beginning with plastic bottles, which are a ubiquitous form of SUPs. The City could go above and beyond by introducing a *Plastic-Free Events Policy*, for example by partnering with a company that provides reusable items (like plates, cups and cutlery) for large public events (examples of

this can be found on page 12 of the Town of Ajax's *Plastic Awareness and Reduction Toolkit*). This policy would make Oshawa stand out as a leader on sustainability within Durham Region, lessen the burden on our municipal waste system, and set an example for residents to follow in their everyday lives.

As an example of a plastic-free event, the Peterborough Folk Festival has volunteers running dishwashing stations, cleaning reusable plates and cutlery that are provided at the event rather than allowing food vendors to use disposable materials. Water bottle filling stations are available at the event, and beverages in cans and plastic bottles are not sold.

Budget implications: \$2,500 from the OEAC advertising budget is being offered for the creation of a *Plastic Awareness and Reduction Toolkit* if a *Plastic-Free Events Policy* is adopted.

Recommendations: That the City works with Mind Your Plastic to implement a *Plastic-Free Events Policy* and that the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee offer \$2,500 from their advertising budget line for the development of a *Plastic Reduction Toolkit* and webinar series for consideration from Committee and Council should they choose to proceed with implementing the aforementioned policy.

OEAC-24-33

Road Salt Working Group Report for O.E.A.C. Meeting May 7, 2024

Prepared by members: AJ Groen (Chair), Emily Posteraro, Joseph Young, Tim Speirs

Report:

Pending final approval from City Council, A.J. will be delivering a brief presentation (see attached) on the impacts of road salt to the Durham Environmental and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC).

Budget implications: None

Recommendations: That the Committee recommend to City Council that they approve the attached presentation on the impacts of road salt and grant permission to A.J. Groen to present it as such to DECAC.



ROAD SALT POLLUTION

A.J. Groen, Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee

The Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee & Road Salt Working Group

- O.E.A.C. provides comments and recommendations to Oshawa City Council on environmental matters, projects and initiatives that may impact the environment
- Form smaller working groups to further research specific issues
- Road Salt Working Group's mandate is to educate:
 - Raise public awareness on the over-use of road salt and the risks it imposes on our infrastructure, environment and water resources
 - Directed O.E.A.C. to receive presentations from an Ontario Tech University researcher on road salt impacts and from a City staff member on Oshawa's salt application protocols
 - Created an informational postcard on how to reduce household usage of road salt, to be distributed at public tabling events

Road Salt Impacts

- Access to fresh water is a subject around the world, with wars being fought over water. These factors impact our freshwater ecosystems and resources.
- Indigenous people call water the blood of our earth mother. Being more aware of how we treat our water resources would be a good way of putting into practice the spirit of land acknowledgments.



Road Salt Impacts

- Environment Canada lists road salt as a toxic substance and states “that the Government of Canada is not banning the use of road salt nor proposing any measures that would compromise nor reduce road safety”.
- Chlorides accumulate in our water systems, as they are not filtered by soils, plants or water treatment plants.
- Freshwater plants, fish and invertebrates are particularly affected by road salt application because they are not adapted to saltwater environments. Chlorides from road salts can also enter groundwater sources.



Road Salt Legislation

- Many of the salt practices that currently exist are as a result of fear of litigation. The cost of winter maintenance-related insurance has become so expensive that some municipalities are now self insured and may therefore look to minimize litigation wherever possible.
- There are no regulations that limit road salt use, although municipalities may voluntarily follow best practices to reduce their usage.
- There are organizations like the Smart About Salt Council that offer training and certification to apply road salt wisely, but this is all voluntary.



Road Salt Legislation

- There are four primary groups that apply road salt. The first two, the Region and the City make informed decisions and are conscious of the impact road salt has on both the environment and infrastructure.
- The other two, private contractors and the public, are totally unregulated. All of the salt that one sees at retail outlets or on household driveways goes into the environment. Improperly stored salt, especially as the winter season draws to a close, also poses a concern.



Taking Action

- Within the City of Oshawa we have been successful in starting conversations about the negative side of the overuse of road salt. We are not against the use of road salt but feel that how, where and when to use road salt needs to be reviewed with both safety and environmental impact in mind.
- OEAC has published a card showing how citizens can reduce their use of road salt. More are planned. We challenge the notion that road salt is the cheapest way to keep our roads clear by pointing out that the cost of infrastructural and environmental damage is not included in the calculation. The costs of maintenance related to infrastructure damage (e.g., replacement of metal doors and frames, etc.) are often hidden in budgets, and true or whole costs are not evaluated.



OEAC
Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee

Are you using too much winter road salt?

**Flip this card over to discover how
you can help**

- **infrastructure**
- **drinking water**
- **freshwater habitats**



Road salt: less is more

By limiting road salt use, you can safeguard the ecosystem, especially freshwater lakes and streams by:

- Spreading a small amount of salt evenly on driveways and walkways when snow or temperatures below freezing are expected to prevent ice formation.
- Using a 12-ounce coffee mug of salt. It is enough to treat a 500-square-foot driveway or around 10 squares of sidewalk.
- Clearing the sidewalk around your property to help prevent ice buildup and limit the need for salt.
- Directing downspouts away from walkways and driveways.
- Considering alternatives like sand, grit, non-clumping kitty litter, or magnesium chloride when temperatures go below -10°C.
- Sweeping any loose salt and store it safely for reuse.



If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact Service Oshawa by calling 905-436-3311 or email service@oshawa.ca

Taking Action

- Our goal is to develop programs that educate the public about the risks and the damage caused by the overuse of road salt. The hope is that with a greater public understanding of the destructive power of road salt, we would see best storage and application practices that would result in a reduction in salt pollution and municipalities would receive fewer calls complaining about snow clearing.

Taking Action

- We are not against the use of road salt, but we encourage municipalities to review how and when salt is applied and stored.
 - Does a cul-de-sac need to be salted before a snowstorm? How many times have streets been salted and brine been applied and then no snowfall happens? When the weather forecast suggests snowfall, might we consider pre-salting major roads only prior to the expected snowfall?



Taking Action

- We would like to see discussions on regulating private contractors, very specifically how they store road salt.
- We hope to urge the public to be quicker to use shovels and sand on private property.



Taking Action

- We would like the conversations to go well beyond the City of Oshawa and Region of Durham. A coalition of groups province wide, all encouraging conversations and educating about the dangers of road salt and seeking better ways of using it and other materials and techniques.
- We ask that DECAC consider starting a road salt working group that mirrors the mandate of OEAC's salt working group, that educates people about the long-term risks to infrastructure and our environment and ensures that Durham Region is following best practices when it comes to road salt application and storage.



Memorandum

Date: April 29, 2024

To: Chair and Members of Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee

From: Pamela Aguilera, Council-Committee Coordinator

Re: Information from Oshawa City Council – April 29, 2024

At a meeting on April 29, 2024, Oshawa City Council adopted the following recommendation:

ED-24-47 Bloor Simcoe Intensification Working Group Report (Previously OEAC-24-20) (Ward 5)

That in accordance with Report ED-24-47 (previously OEAC-24-20) concerning the Bloor Simcoe Intensification Working Group Report, the following be referred to Report ED-24-44:

1. Bike lanes be installed along Bloor St to support the intensification of the area;
2. Conserving the old growth trees that are present at the southwest segment of the vacant lot located at the Northwest corner of Wentworth Street West and Simcoe Street South;
3. Part of the vacant lot be utilized to create green space and sports/exercise equipment or fields for the community;
4. The study team considers our comments and questions during the intensification study process;
5. A mitigation plan be developed should de-vehicalization in the area be not as successful as projected; and,
6. The City should continue to promote applicable Community Improvement Plan financial incentives to help grow and support development.

These items are provided for information to the Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee, no further action is required.