



## EarthCare Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 4:30 p.m.

McNaughton Room - 3rd Floor, City Hall

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Pages

1. **EarthCare Advisory Committee Meeting 01-2025**

Chair: Councillor Andrew Foulds

2. **Members**

Shannon Costigan

Kiera Essex

Councillor Andrew Foulds

Taylor Munro

Sandra Stiles

3. **Officials**

Michelle Warywoda, Director - Environment Division

Louisa Costanzo, Manager - Community Safety & Well-Being

Jacob Porter, Climate Adaptation Coordinator

Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist

Lori Wiitala, Committee Clerk/Legislative Specialist

4. **Land Acknowledgement**

Councillor Andrew Foulds, Chair of the EarthCare Advisory Committee to provide a Land Acknowledgement.

5. **Presentations**

5.1 **The Thunder Bay Climate Transition Collaborative**

The Thunder Bay Climate Transition Collaborative to provide a presentation relative to Green Development Standards.

4 - 5

Draft Memorandum pertaining to Accelerating the Implementation of Green Development Standards in Thunder Bay, provided, for discussion.

6. **Disclosures of Interest**

7. **Agenda Approval**

WITH RESPECT to the January 15, 2025, meeting of the EarthCare Advisory

Committee, we recommend that the agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

**8. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the EarthCare Advisory Committee for 2025.

The newly-appointed Chair will assume the position of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**9. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of Meeting 06-2024 of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, held on December 18, 2024, be confirmed.

THAT the Minutes of Meeting 06-2024 of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, held on December 18, 2024, be confirmed.

6 - 9

**10. Net-Zero Strategy, Sustainability and Working Group Update**

Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist to provide an update on Net-Zero Strategy, Sustainability and Working Group(s).

**11. Climate Adaptation Update**

Jacob Porter, Climate Adaptation Coordinator to provide an update relative to Climate Adaptation.

**12. Announcements and Upcoming Events**

**13. New Business**

**14. Gratitude**

**15. Next Meeting**

The EarthCare Advisory Committee Meetings will be held the 3rd Wednesday of each month with the exception of July and August, in the McNaughton Room, at 4:00 p.m. as follows:

- Wednesday, February 19, 2025
- Wednesday, March 19, 2025
- Wednesday, April 16, 2025
- Wednesday, May 21, 2025
- Wednesday, June 18, 2025
- Wednesday, September 17, 2025
- Wednesday, October 15, 2025

- Wednesday, November 19, 2025
- Wednesday, December 17, 2025

**16. Adjournment**

# MEMORANDUM (Draft V.1)



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**TO:** Krista Power, City Clerk

**FROM:** [NAME], Chair – EarthCare Advisory Committee

**DATE:** [DATE]

**RE:** **Accelerating the Implementation of Green Development Standards in Thunder Bay**

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Residential, commercial and institutional buildings represent the single largest sector of greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters in Thunder Bay. Since beginning formal greenhouse gas inventorying in 2016, buildings have consistently produced nearly 50% of the community’s annual GHG emissions.

Reducing the GHG emissions produced by new buildings is essential for the future growth and prosperity of Thunder Bay. In order to lessen the impacts of climate change, our community must begin an incremental transition to high-performance, net-zero new construction using tools such as Green Development Standards (GDS).

Municipalities create GDS to encourage environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable community design. Each GDS consists of a by-law which enforces a set of criteria that requires developers to design and construct buildings to higher standards than the minimums required by other legal imperatives such as the Ontario Building Code. In effect, this reduces residents’ reliance on future municipal programs to perform energy retrofits on existing homes and helps communities address concerns about air quality, building energy emissions and resilience, water quality and efficiency, ecology and biodiversity, and waste and the circular economy using a single mechanism.

Knowing this, this memorandum identifies how the development of a GDS in Thunder Bay aligns with the City’s Net-Zero Strategy and Climate Adaptation Strategy.

## **Net-Zero Strategy**

Implementing a GDS would directly impact the following objectives and priority actions outlined in the Net-Zero Strategy:

- Objective 3: New Buildings are Net-Zero ready (p. 32)
  - Target B.6 – 90% of new residential construction is net-zero by 2030

- Target B.7 – Increase efficiency of new commercial and industrial buildings in line with the Toronto Green Standard by 2030
- Priority Action: Develop green building standards to enable net-zero ready construction (p.77).

### **Climate Adaptation Strategy**

Implementing a GDS would also directly impact the following objectives and priority actions outlined in the Climate Adaptation Strategy:

- Action 4.1 a: Identify suitable best management practices for design, construction, and maintenance that can be adopted and implemented into City standards and projects
- Action 4.3 a: Identify new and existing best management practices for green infrastructure, land-use planning, and design which address climate change impacts to the community, and review annually
- Action 4.3 a: Identify new and existing best management practices for green infrastructure, land-use planning, and design which address climate change impacts to the community, and review annually

As such, the EarthCare Advisory Committee endorses the creation of a Green Development Standard, knowing it will move the City closer to meeting its goals and objectives under the City's Net-Zero Strategy and Climate Adaptation Plan.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME], Chair

EarthCare Advisory Committee

cc. [NAME], [TITLE] – [DIVISION]



## **EarthCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 5:32 p.m.  
McNaughton Room - 3rd Floor, City Hall**

**1. EarthCare Advisory Committee Meeting 06-2024**

Chair: Shannon Costigan

**2. Members**

Shannon Costigan  
Kiera Essex  
Taylor Munro  
Sandra Stiles

**3. Officials**

Michelle Warywoda, Director - Environment Division  
Louisa Costanzo, Manager - Community Safety & Well-Being  
Jacob Porter, Climate Adaptation Coordinator  
Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist  
Lori Wiitala, Committee Clerk/Legislative Specialist

**4. Land Acknowledgement**

Keira Essex of the EarthCare Advisory Committee provided a Land Acknowledgement.

**5. Welcome and Disclosures of Interest**

**6. Agenda Approval**

MOVED BY: Sandra Stiles  
SECONDED BY: Keira Essex

WITH RESPECT to the December 18, 2024, meeting of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, we recommend that the agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

**7. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of Meeting 05-2024 of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, held on November 20, 2024, be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Keira Essex  
SECONDED BY: Taylor Munro

THAT the Minutes of Meeting 05-2024 of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, held on November 20, 2024, be confirmed.

CARRIED

**8. Net-Zero Strategy and Sustainability Update**

Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist provided an update on Net-Zero Strategy and Sustainability.

**Maamawe – All together. We honour the truth and reconcile for the future.**

The Mayor’s Monarch Pledge 2024 report has been submitted and approved.

**Safety and well-being. Our community is healthy, safe, and strong.**

Confederation College Energy Summit 2025 will be held at Confederation College on February 27, 2025. Three panel moderators have been confirmed Jacob Porter, John Stephenson and Amy Coomes; invitations will be distributed in the new year.

Lakehead University Innovation Week: Heat Pump Event will be held on February 26, 2025, location tbd. Panelist invitations and promotion will begin in 2025.

**Growth. We attract and retain new and diverse businesses and community members.**

Phase 2: Home Energy Improvement Loan Program Design. Initial interviews have been conducted with local contractors, the workforce development lead from Confederation College, potential financial partners (Bay Credit Union, Northern Credit Union, TD Bank), and Synergy North. Public engagement is underway; a Get Involved survey for homeowners opened on December 2, 2024 and will close on January 31, 2025. Public information sessions were conducted at Goods & Co. and the Thunder Bay Country Market. The last session will be held at Intercity Shopping Centre on January 18.

**Sustainability. We advance a thriving economy and environment.**

Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law report back date was December 16, 2024; the Draft By-Law was referred back to Administration, and an amended version of the Draft By-Law will be presented on January 13, 2025.

**9. Climate Adaptation Update**

Jacob Porter, Climate Adaptation Coordinator provided an update relative to Climate Adaptation.

**Maamawe – All together. We honour the truth and reconcile for the future.**

- Presented on climate risks and urban planning considerations at northwest planning forum.
- Application submitted to FCM for updating adaptation strategy with improved equity considerations.

**Safety and well-being. Our community is healthy, safe, and strong.**

- Provided in-kind support to Emergency Food Plan's emergency exercise in December
- Heat mapping undertaken with CityStudio and Confederation College; the data will help inform what interventions may be most effective

**Growth. We attract and retain new and diverse businesses and community members.**

- Will moderate panel on resilient infrastructure at energy summit in February

**Sustainability. We advance a thriving economy and environment.**

- Risk assessment for all asset classes is underway as part of the asset management plan



- Climate lens guidance for Thunder Bay focused on climate adaptation and equity is being developed in partnership with the Ontario Resource Centre for Climate Adaptation

**10. Gratitude**

Committee Members and Administration provided a roundtable of gratitude.

**11. Next Meeting**

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**12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.