



EarthCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 4:30 p.m.
McNaughton Room - 3rd Floor, City Hall

1. EarthCare Advisory Committee Meeting 06-2025

Chair: Keira Essex

2. Members

Shannon Costigan
Kiera Essex
Councillor Andrew Foulds
Taylor Munro

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. Guests

Matthew Lawrence, Mobility Coordinator

5. Land Acknowledgement

Taylor Munro, Member of the EarthCare Advisory Committee provide a Land Acknowledgement.

6. Disclosures of Interest

7. Agenda Approval

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

SECONDED BY: Shannon Costigan

WITH RESPECT to the June 18, 2025, meeting of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, we recommend that the agenda as amended, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

8. Presentations

8.1 Active Transportation

Mobility Coordinator Matthew Lawrence provided a presentation on Active Transportation.

Bike Racks for Business

Costs for bike racks on city property will be covered by the City, bike racks will be sold to private businesses at cost.

Bike Valet Program

Soft launch of the bike valet program will be held at the Kite Festival with an official kick-off at Marina Park on Canada Day. Looking to have the service available at larger-scale events. Maps and connections to transit and main bike routes to be provided. There will be 4 options available for the Kite Festival and 10 or more options available for Canada Day, more information can be found on the events website

<https://www.thunderbay.ca/en/tbay-games/new-events-kite-festival.aspx>.

Pedal Forward Program

The goal of the program is to provide access to bikes and repairs. Donations are available through partners including Community Spokes and Second Spin. The launch is planned for Canada Day.

Local Partners & Programming

- EcoSuperior: Education and outreach.
- Community Spokes: Access to bikes.
- City Funding: Supporting the Traffic Garden Project (safe road-scenario practice space for children).
- TBDHU Active Commuter Challenge

- Funding and media sharing supported by CTB.
- 2025 theme will focus on sustainability.

Emphasis will be focused on:

- Local safety practices.
- Provincial and federal best practices.
- Education initiatives.
- Building partnerships.

Continuous Improvement through Planning

- Keep active transportation in mind during: Construction planning.
- Infrastructure design (signage, shoulder width, tactile functions, etc.).
- Technology integration.

Data Collection & Research

Eco counters will be used to track infrastructure usage and trail patterns, the data will inform future improvements.

The CityStudio Program partners with post-secondary institutions (e.g., LU) for research on travel habits and patterns, including household travel surveys.

Eco Counting

Explore how and where eco counters can be used (e.g., Victoria Ave bike lane without vehicle interference), consider funding support through data-driven justification, and finally review technical/electrical installation requirements.

What's Next

- Explore partnerships (municipal, provincial, federal) and expand road programming.
- Integrate opportunities into new builds and replacement projects.
- Apply for funding to support infrastructure and programs, including:
 - Hilliard Lands: greenway, dirt trail, Carrick St. dog walk connection (linking Pioneer Ridge and Academy areas to Lakehead University).
 - Academy/Parkway: address food desert and long distance from green space, improve existing infrastructure.
- Ontario Cycling Summit

- Discussion of bike share program challenges:
 - Cost and risk (bike retrieval).
 - Membership or fee requirements.
- Recommendation: Invest in programming for bike repair and ownership (via Community Spokes).
- Provide information and comments in collaboration with supervisor involved in the project.

9. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting 05-2025 of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, held on May 21, 2025, be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Shannon Costigan
 SECONDED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

THAT the Minutes of Meeting 05-2025 of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, held on May 21, 2025, be confirmed.

CARRIED

10. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

10.1 Transit Fleet Zero Emission Transition Plan Implementation

Climate Action Specialist Danielle Thom provided an overview of the Zero Emissions Fleet Electrification Plan Implementation including future implications, funding sources and potential loss of funding.

It was recommended to amend paragraph 3 of the Proposed Governance Structure - City Council Procedural By-law Briefing Note prepared by Climate Action Specialist Thom, and the following motion was considered.

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds
 SECONDED BY: Taylor Munro

WITH RESPECT to the Proposed Governance Structure - City Council Procedural By-law Briefing Note dated June 18, 2025, prepared by Climate Action Specialist

10.2 Endorsement of CityStudio Program

Discussion was held relative to the Memorandum prepared by Climate Action Specialist Danielle Thom supporting continuation of the CityStudio Program.

The following motion was provided for consideration.

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

SECONDED BY: Shannon Costigan

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Keira Essex, Chair of the EarthCare Advisory Committee (EAC), we recommend approving the memo in principal to include the following factors:

- outline all completed projects
- highlight partnerships
- highlight cost savings on consultant fees
- provide examples civic engagement
- opportunity to educate on municipal government

CARRIED

11. 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.

A. Active Commute Challenge 2025

- i. Event registration is OPEN at www.tbayonthemove.ca
- ii. Join the ACC from June 1-30, 2025

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

A. Energy Summit Community of Practice

- i. Input survey closed June 2, 2025
- ii. TOR creation, member recruitment, and resource development through Summer 2025

B. Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup 2025

- i. Tentatively confirming the participation of several community groups
- ii. Meeting as a larger group over the summer to coordinate activities

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

A. Phase 2: Home Energy Improvement Loan Program Design

- i. Finalizing loan terms with local credit unions
- ii. Received the first draft of the design study
- iii. Received implementation grant application approval from ELT and City Council
- iv. Working with FCM on the implementation grant application

A. EarthCare Rebranding

- i. Working with the CSWB group to develop a cohesive visual identity
- ii. Streamlining social media pages
- iii. Migrating web content

We advance a thriving economy and environment.

A. Green Development Standard Research

- i. CityStudio Project #1: Initial Cost-Benefit Analysis (complete)
- ii. CityStudio Project #2: Developing an Energy Poverty Study Design (in progress)
- iii. The Thunder Bay Climate Transition Collaborative Spring Round Table

12. Climate Adaptation Update

Jacob Porter, Climate Adaptation Coordinator provided an update on Climate Adaptation.

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

- Will kick off climate adaptation strategy renewal in July. Expected completion December 2026.
- Ongoing work on a climate equity lens for corporate reporting: Heading changed to Climate Equity Considerations in municipal report template; still optional at this time

- Begin this year's Climate Disclosure Project (CDP) reporting

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

- Continuing to support updates to Emergency Management Program and annual emergency exercise.
- Continued CityStudio projects on heat mapping

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

- Supporting new Climate Adaptation communities of practice through FCM, and ICLEI Canada

Sustainability. We advance a thriving economy and environment.

- Asset Management program went to council Monday. Will integrate results from asset management risk assessments into the community climate risk and vulnerability assessment process.

13. New Business

13.1 Report 154-2025 - Proposed Governance Structure - City Council Procedural By-law

Climate Action Specialist Danielle Thom provided a Briefing Note for the committee to outline the proposed governance structure changes to the City Council Procedural By-law.

The committee was advised that there is a small window to submit a deputation request to voice any concerns surrounding the dissolution of EarthCare Advisory Committee, along with 9 other Advisory Committees of Council.

The Memo provided the following 2 options for consideration if the recommendation passes at the June 23, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting:

1. Create a new, informal climate change committee that regularly communicates with the Climate Action Specialist; and,
2. Collaborate with existing community groups such as the Thunder Bay Climate Transition Collaborative to regularly communicate with the Climate Action Specialist.

The following concerns were shared:

- loss of credibility
- holds weight in decisions of Council
- formal process holds value
- involvement with city projects in early stages to guide the Net Zero and Sustainability Strategies
- beneficial influence
- loss of resources
- inhibit the quality of advice provided
- quick turn around for re-presentation and ratification of Report 154-2025 - Proposed Governance Structure - City Council Procedural By-law
 - no time for consultation with committees

The Chair agreed to prepare a deputation letter to be included in the June 16, 2025 Committee of the Whole agenda, and the committee agreed to review via email and provide any feedback prior to 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 18. The Committee agreed to reach out to an advocate to present an in-person deputation to Council supporting EAC concerns with the proposed dissolution.

14. Gratitude

The Committee Members and Administration provided a roundtable of 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 4:30 p.m. as follows:

- Wednesday, September 17, 2025

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.