

Moved By C. Debbo, Seconded by R. McMillan & Carried –

That the Sustainability Advisory Committee hereby amends the Terms of Reference for the Sustainability Advisory Committee; and further

That the amended terms of reference be brought forward to Council at the December 13, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting for consideration by Council.

5. Budget Discussions

The City has included in the draft 2024 budget, the same \$75,000 for the sustainability committee. If you look at the plan, it extends with a budgeted amount. The Committee should have a discussion regarding what the priorities are and what you need money for going forward.

Table 3. Prioritization, Timing and Cost Estimates for all 14 Sustainability Projects, 2022 - 2031*

PROJECT	Priority	ESTIMATED DURATION	TARGET COMPLETION DATE	ESTIMATED COSTS***
SUSTAINABILITY THEME 1: ENERGY CONSERVATION				
1. Build on the existing Community Energy Plan (CEP) to create an emissions reduction plan for Kenora, including targets and accountability mechanisms.	MEDIUM (start 2023)	2 years	2025	\$ - \$\$
2. Evaluate the potential to develop a program to facilitate energy conservation retrofits for existing and new buildings.	HIGH (start 2022)	2 years	2024 (but program could run indefinitely)	\$
3. Implement and promote demonstration projects to showcase delivery of renewable energy in Kenora.	MEDIUM (start 2024)	10 years	2031 (more than one project in this time)	\$ - \$\$\$ per project
SUSTAINABILITY THEME 2: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT				
4. Identify tools and funding for storm water infrastructure renewal in a changing climate.	MEDIUM (start 2024)	2 years	2026	\$
5. Incorporate green infrastructure into the City's asset management process.	HIGH (start 2023)	3 years	2025**	\$\$
6. Research and evaluate alternatives for public transportation that meet the needs of the public, are environmentally friendly and are cost-effective.	MEDIUM (start 2024)	2 years	2026 (but activities to run indefinitely)	\$\$\$
SUSTAINABILITY THEME 3: LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION & WASTE REDUCTION				
7. Expand local micro-farming, food collection and community gardening to build local food security.	MEDIUM (start 2024)	10 years	2031 (but activities to run indefinitely)	\$ - \$\$
8. Implement a local household composting initiative.	HIGH (started 2021)	2.5 years	2024	\$
9. Develop and implement a community composting program that includes institutional and / or commercial partners.	MEDIUM (start 2024)	5 years	2029 (but activities to run indefinitely)	\$\$ - \$\$\$
10. Develop and implement mechanisms for the local salvage, re-use and exchange of housing and building materials.	LOW (start 2026)	5 years	2031 (but activities to run indefinitely)	\$\$
SUSTAINABILITY THEME 4: WATER STEWARDSHIP				
11. Provide water bottle filling stations for the community in Kenora's downtown.	MEDIUM (start 2024)	2 years	2026	\$\$
12. Build relationships with Anishinaabe and other Treaty Partners through a joint program focused on local water security.	LOW (start 2026)	10 years	2031 (but activities to run indefinitely)	\$ - \$\$
13. Develop and implement a Healthy Shorelines Program.	HIGH (start 2022)	2 years	2024	\$\$\$
14. Identify, monitor and manage flood risk areas in the City of Kenora, building on work done outside the City by local Treaty Partners	LOW (start 2026)	6 years	2029 (but activities to run indefinitely)	\$\$\$\$

* The prioritization, duration and target dates for completion may be refined based on the implementation details of the given project as well as further engagement with the various existing and potential partners, including Indigenous partners, to be undertaken in support of this Plan going forward.

** The Province of Ontario requires green infrastructure to be incorporated into municipal asset management planning by July 1, 2025.

*** These are estimates of City costs, excluding labour, based on the anticipated scope: \$ = <50K, \$\$ = 51K - 100K, \$\$\$ = 101K - 250K, \$\$\$\$ = >250K

From the plan, #8 was a priority for the committee with #13 as the next priority.

#9 - With the community composting program there are different rules around composting and making it safe for use. If there is a public one you must maintain certain standards, very challenging to manage. The committee does not want to give up on it but need to explore other options.

7 - The committee discussed expanding on the success of the Homerun Gardens in Keewatin. This is a good item that Jake Boutwell has led. The Committee was interested in inviting Jake to come to the committee and discuss the possibility of a community garden at Central Park. That is

an ambitious project and these two areas may be all the committee should focus on for 2024. Heather will reach out to Jake and ask him to attend the January meeting if possible.

#13 - The Committee discussed the Lake of the Woods District Stewardship Association and their shoreline erosion program. They already have resources that they have developed as to what is a healthy shoreline. We could piggyback on their information and invite them to a meeting to have a discussion. Their program is outside of the municipality. Heather will invite Ashley Hoffmeister to attend the March meeting for approximately one hour to discuss this potential.

The Committee would like to hear from City staff representatives Joe Kurtz (and possibly Planning) to come to the March meeting along with Ashley Hoffmeister. This would be an informal discussion on their program for healthy shorelines. It is a priority to develop a healthy shorelines program and have a City rep also talk about what we are doing.

It was suggested that there are a number of groups and agencies that are picking away at environmental priorities and the committee could consider an environmental conference for one day and try to come out of it with one community plan. The foundation of the action plan is to develop a community wide plan, and initiatives led by the City. The committee could benefit from determining where there is duplication in the community. Try to develop one community sustainability action plan that everyone buys into. That commitment would have to come from everyone who sits around the table, the partners. If our plan has duplication in it, it is simply because we aren't talking to each other. A future conference possibility should be included on the next agenda.

#10 - There was not a lot of uptake on the Free Cycle days this year and we need to enhance our communications on this. Permanent signage was supposed to be installed at the Transfer Station regarding the two dates for Free Cycle Program (May long and Labour Day long weekend) that was coming from the committee's budget. Heather will check if these signs got ordered and the status.

6. Current Action Items

#11 - This item is supplementary for further discussion. It was questioned if fillable water stations would be an option that attach to the fire hydrants. Ethan has seen these in other communities and wondered if it was something we could do here. Ethan will gather some resources and share with the committee.

7. Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 16th, 2023 at 1:00pm.

Adjourn Meeting – The meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm.