



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

MINUTES

COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING COMMITTEE

October 12, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

City Hall, Upstairs Boardroom

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the Upstairs Boardroom at City Hall. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chairperson: Councillor S. Morgan,
S. Anderson,
J. Carr,
A. Fowler,
R. Gervais,
J. Hazenberg,
J. Newton, and
C. Scott,

The following Committee members were absent:

Mayor M. Heyck (ex-officio),
C. Correa,
J. Pickett, and
R. Sexton.

The following guest of the Communications Department was in attendance:

R. McIntosh

The following members of Administration were in attendance:

M. Auge,
C. Vaughn, and
C. Kida.

Call to Order

1. Councillor Morgan called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Introductions

2. Roundtable introductions were made for the benefit of new members.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

3. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.



Approval of Agenda

4. Committee agreed unanimously to amend the agenda to move item #7 on the agenda, Update on Communications Plan after item #4, Approval of the July 20, 2017 Minutes and combine the discussion on item #8, Potential for Large Building Energy Disclosure Program with item #5, Discussion on Community Promotion and Partnerships to Achieve Community Targets. Committee further agreed to add a discussion regarding Living Building Standard as part of the item #5.

That the Agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of the Minutes

5. A. Fowler moved,
J. Newton seconded,

That the Minutes of the meeting held on July 20, 2017 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Update on Communications Plan

6. R. McIntosh, the Communications Department representative, informed Committee that the City of Yellowknife is updating its infographic to include both goals and targets from 2016 – 2026 plan and accomplishments to date. He further informed Committee that some ads are planned as follows:
 - a. Bus ads.
 - b. Advertising on each retrofitted building/facility explaining how much energy is being saved there.
 - c. Create videos to focus on green reduction to be shown in movie theater and social media pending budget availability.
 - d. Place icons on City Explorer on different facilities that are saving energy.

Committee made additional suggestions to:

- a. Encourage more ownership over energy initiatives from facility staff. Provide City staff with speaking points and pamphlets to hand out to the public that are interested in the energy initiatives.
- b. Use the Capital Update to highlight a building each week that is saving energy.
- c. Use electronic signs and airport screen to promote energy saving.
- d. Highlight individuals in the community that are promoting sustainability, similar to Our Yellowknife Campaign.
- e. Highlight organizations/businesses that are adopting sustainable energy practices.
- f. Contact schools and Northern Properties and inquire if they are interested in promoting the sustainability campaign on their buildings.



R. McIntosh stated that the City is interested in the Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA) programs and to establish partnership on communications. J. Carr, the Arctic Energy Alliance representative further stated that AEA has hired Kevin Cull, a new cross-promoting communications officer.

Action: *C. Vaughn and/ or R. McIntosh to contact Kevin Cull at Arctic Energy Alliance to coordinate communications strategies.*

Discussion on Community Promotion and Partnerships to Achieve Community Targets

7. Committee discussed the challenges in collecting data to measure progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Members agreed that the most accurate data would be the amount of fuel sold in Yellowknife. However this data is not available for the public, only the Department of Finance of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) holds this information. Over the years numerous organizations have requested the release of this data in order to be more effective in their energy and climate change related work. Committee suggested that Administration and/ or the Community Energy Planning (CEP) Committee reach out to the GNWT Department of Finance to explain the need for the fuel sales data. Committee further suggested that Administration work in partnership with Arctic Energy Alliance to avoid duplication of communication effort. Committee further suggested that the community promotion should focus its attention where the biggest greenhouse gas reduction can be achieved such as large buildings.

Action: *Administration and/or CEP Committee to contact the GNWT Department of Finance requesting the release of the amount of fuel sold in Yellowknife for measuring progress purposes.*

Potential for Large Building Energy Disclosure Program

8. Committee reviewed a model of the Large Building Energy Disclosure Program being implemented in Edmonton. Administration advised that a pilot project of this program would take from 1 – 2 years to be implemented in Yellowknife. Administration further advised that a variety of buildings should be involved in this project, buildings such as restaurant, hotels, and schools, could be an efficient way to gather data in order to improve the greenhouse gas benchmarking. Committee agreed that the program would have to be voluntary; the idea is active participation, networking and awareness amongst the private sector.

Committee emphasized that the City must lead by example setting up publicly transparent goals for individual buildings in terms of energy reductions/efficiency. Committee further emphasized that a big part of the Edmonton pilot program involved the City of Edmonton leading by example.

Committee suggested that the City's Green Procurement Policy should be reviewed and that the sustainability integration into departments and City operations should be more efficient.

C. Scott, the Ecology North representative, relayed to Committee that Ecology North is looking at a program called the Living Building Challenge. The focus of this program is on establishing a standard for how a building is operated and monitored long-term instead of how the building is



built. It has not yet been implemented in the North. C. Scott further relayed that while it is challenging to meet the standard, the cost of certification is much less than the cost of LEED certification.

Update on Funding Proposals and Planned Proposed Items for 2018 Budget Draft

9. Administration stated that a proposal for electric vehicles was submitted to the GNWT but it was rejected. Administration further stated that another proposal with a suite of transportation-related items was submitted and that a response is yet to be received.

Committee noted that funders are more willing to fund electric transportation infrastructure, such as charging stations, etc. rather than funding the purchase of individual vehicles. Committee further noticed that an electric vehicle implementation strategy is needed at the territorial level.

Committee members relayed that the GNWT is currently negotiating with the Federal Government on a large funding package for sustainability initiatives to be distributed through the GNWT. Committee encouraged Administration to become part of the conversation in order to advise the Federal Government and GNWT on the necessary support the City of Yellowknife would need to advance its Community Energy Plan.

C. Vaughn, City of Yellowknife Sustainability Projects Coordinator, informed the Committee that Administration had submitted three project concepts to Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) for potential funding. The projects are as follows:

- a. City Hall district biomass heating system (design/negotiation stage with various partners).
- b. Demo veggie oil waste-to-fuel technology at Solid Waste Facility.
- c. Retrofitting of boiler to include other types of biomass fuels.

C. Scott, Ecology North representative, encouraged Administration to consider submitting application for a Dark Sky compliance project.

Adjournment

10. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.