



EAC

WOODSTOCK ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Reports of Special Committees and Advisory Task Forces

To: Mayor & Members of City Council
From: Woodstock Environment Advisory Committee
Re: Report to Council Year End 2025

Aim:

To update City Council on the activities of the Woodstock Environment Advisory Committee (WEAC) for 2025

Background:

WEAC has existed in the City of Woodstock since 1990 in order that City Council may receive direct citizen input on environmental matters. The general objectives of the Committee include advising and making recommendations to Council on matters of environmental concern as they pertain to the projects, policies and programs of the municipality. The responsibilities of the Committee include advising and presenting recommendations to Council. WEAC also takes a role in public education regarding environmental policies of the City and provides volunteers for related City events.

Budget Request;

WEAC requests an extension of the operating budget value from last year with no additions.

2025 year in review

Recommendations and reports submitted to Council:

Report to City Council to seek Councils' approval of the Woodstock Environmental Advisory Committee's (WEAC) application for the City of Woodstock to become designated as Bird Friendly by Nature Canada, in partnership with the Bird Friendly Team subcommittee. This is a low cost way to leverage community resources and gain a favourable certification for the City in alignment with Strategic Plan Objectives 12 & 13.

- Outcome: WEAC has completed a second revised application to Nature Canada to gain Bird Friendly status.

Recommendation to City Council for approval to amend the composition of the Woodstock Environmental Advisory Committee by appointing the Oxford County Coordinator of Community Environmental Sustainability as a standing non-voting member. *The committee recommends adding the Oxford County Coordinator of Community Environmental Sustainability as a member to support collaboration between the City and the County, and to leverage the dedicated staff member's knowledge and expertise in environmental and sustainability matters, including funding opportunities, sharing study results and to seek feedback on local initiatives.*

- Outcome: City Council passed a resolution to approve the recommendation.

Volunteer Events

- In April, 2025 WEAC members participated in the Thames River Clean-up which coincided with the date of the Municipal cleanup.
- In April, 2025 WEAC members participated in the City Clean Up
- May, 2025 WEAC members participated in the Children's Water Festival
- July, 2025 Canada Day WEAC members operated the Municipal waste diversion tent and supported community volunteers
- August, 2025 Cowapalooza WEAC members operated the Municipal waste diversion tent and supported community volunteers

Public Awareness of Environmental Issues

Seed Saturday

- WEAC, in conjunction with the Woodstock Public Library organized and hosted an event which brought together community volunteer groups to promote native pollinator species awareness and provided education and resources for community and citizen gardeners of Woodstock.

What's On Woodstock Articles

- WEAC has taken a permanent half page section in the 'What's On Woodstock' community services guide. Articles include updates on municipal environmental initiatives, "Green Tips", seasonal suggestions and ideas that will benefit the environment.

Community Events

- TrashapaloozAHA WEAC members supported these waste diversion events in Oxford County

WEAC Initiatives

- Continued maintenance and education regarding the Seed Library at Woodstock Public Library.
- Communication with community and Works Department re: revised waste diversion and collection
- Communication with community and Parks Department re: native pollinator species planting on private residences, municipal lands and industrial lands
- Participation in City Beautiful Awards with addition of a WEAC Environmentally Friendly category

Conclusion:

The members of the WEAC team have contributed towards our environment both through their labours and investigations at council's request. The committee members throughout 2025: Leslie Armstrong-DeJongh, Dinath Ratnayake, Elise Gabrielli, Daniel Binns, Samantha Mason, Allison Elgie, Jillian Deman, Kate Leatherbarrow & Mark Shadenberg (City Council Representatives and voting members), Harold Dehan (City Staff Representative and non-voting member), Evelyn (Student Representative and non-voting member) & Chelsea Martin (County Representative and non-voting member). WEAC would like to thank retired members Cathy Stewart and Leah Santos for their contributions to the committee and welcome new member Laszlo Alt.

Recommendation:

Woodstock City council accepts the WEAC annual report.

Woodstock City council accepts our thanks for the support staff and council members who support in our endeavors.