

Climate Action Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The Climate Action Advisory Committee met virtually through zoom on July 2, 2025, at 5:05 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Vice-Chair Christopher Millar

Members: Jim Campbell
 Owen Gray
 Kim Pickett

Council Rep: Mayor Measures
 Councillor Beelen

Staff: Community Economic Development Officer, Briar Kelly
 Legislative Coordinator – Committee & Boards, Shannon Peart

Regrets: Chair, Jerry Sampson
 Allison Fachnie

In the absence of the Chair, Co-Chair Christopher Millar called the meeting to order and read the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

1. Approval of Agenda

Resolution:

Moved by Kim Pickett, Seconded by Councillor Beelen, Be It Resolved that the Climate Action Advisory Committee hereby approve the agenda dated July 2, 2025, as presented. Motion Carried.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Resolution:

Moved by Councillor Beelen, Seconded by Jim Campbell, Be It Resolved that the Climate Action Advisory Committee hereby approve the meeting minutes dated June 4, 2025, as presented. Motion Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Proposed Climate Action Awards

The committee reviewed feedback from Briar Kelly, Community Economic Development Officer on the proposed Climate Action Awards. Members generally supported the Climate Action Awards idea as a way to recognize and inspire local environmental efforts.

The Chair, Christopher Millar disconnected from the Zoom meeting at approximately 5:24 p.m. and Councillor Beelen assumed the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The committee had a general discussion about how the proposed Climate Action Awards fit within its overall mandate. Suggestions were made to consider more simplified forms of recognition and to focus on practical, action-oriented initiatives that benefit the community. Broader ideas were also shared around showcasing municipal climate efforts, exploring support for energy-related programs, and aligning future work with key priorities such as green house gas reduction, emergency preparedness, and public education.

Due to time constraints and limited attendance, the committee agreed to pause further discussion on the awards. Members will meet informally to draft a plan and bring back a refined version for future consideration. Further development may be supported by staff as needed.

5. Two-Minute Fact Share

- Owen Gray shared that his sump pump and check valve failed during a seemingly light rainfall, illustrating how changing weather patterns can cause unexpected issues.
- Kim Pickett referenced Environment Canada's climate projections, noting the world is on track to hit a 2° increase as early as 2025, emphasizing the urgency for action.
- Jim Campbell highlighted insights from the book Fire Weather, including early CO₂ predictions from the 1900s that align with today's models, reinforcing concerns about rising emissions and wildfire risks.
- Councillor Beelen observed that large-scale fires are not common in Simcoe County, with the closest memory being in Huntsville. Highlighting the unusual nature of recent climate events.

6. Next Meeting

August 6, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

7. Adjournment

Resolution:

Moved by Mayor Measures, Seconded by Jim Campbell, Be It Resolved that the Climate Action Advisory Committee meeting hereby be adjourned at 6:06 p.m. Motion Carried.

Original Signed By:

Jerry Sampson, Chair

Original Signed By:

Shannon Peart, Legislative Coordinator – Committee & Boards