

Memorandum to Council

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer



Strategic Initiatives Division

To: Mayor and Members of Council

CC: Sarah Klein, Director of Strategic Initiatives
and Junaid Khan, Project Manager,
Sustainability and Climate Change

**Acknowledged by M. Gaskell,
Chief Administrative Office**

From: Kristin Palilionis, Climate Change
Coordinator

Date: January 9, 2024

Subject: Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee's
(WSAC) 2023-2026 Work Plan and 2023
Annual Report

The purpose of this memorandum is to present the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee's (WSAC) 2023-2026 Work Plan and 2023 Annual Report to Council for their information.

Staff will continue to work with the WSAC on items within their 2023 to 2026 Work Plan. Updates to Council will be provided through the annual reporting process.

Should you have any questions regarding the information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

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Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee's

2023 – 2026 Work Plan

The Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee (WSAC) is pleased to present its 2023 – 2026 Work Plan which has collaboratively been developed by the Committee.

The first meeting of this term's WSAC was on February 1, 2023. There are 13 members, including a member of Council as the Mayor's designate.

According to their Terms of Reference, the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee advises Council on sustainability, environmental management and climate change response.

The Committee's functions include:

1. Providing advice, support and guidance to Council on sustainability, climate change and environmental management issues;
2. Supporting education, awareness and stewardship of sustainability in the community through engagement, outreach and advocacy; and,
3. Helping the Town of Whitby identify, develop and implement plans, programs and policies, strategies and action around sustainability.

The Committee's mandate will be furthered through the following focus areas:

- Education - Providing information and advice to support understanding of sustainability, climate change and environmental management issues.
- Awareness - Promoting awareness and stewardship regarding climate change and the built and natural environment through engagement, outreach and advocacy.
- Advice - Providing input and guidance for the preparation and prioritization of plans, programs, policies, strategies, actions, corporate operations and decision making.

The WSAC 2023-2026 Work Plan follows their mandate and incorporates specific aspects of the Town's Sustainability Plan and can be measured against the goals laid out in the Sustainability Plan Annual Reports.

The Sustainability Plan includes:

- Nature, Trees and Greenscaping
- Sustainable Transportation
- Waste, Litter and Recycling
- Local Food
- Climate Changes and Extreme Weather
- Water Quality, Storm Management and Flooding

Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee 2023 achievements include the following:

- Creation of WSAC 2023-2026 Work Plan.
- A WSAC member was directly involved with the implementation of the “Help Choose the Town of Whitby’s Official Tree” campaign.
- A WSAC member acted as a judge for the Roebuck Street Art Project event.
- WSAC members reviewed and provided feedback for the Town of Whitby’s Climate Emergency Response Plan: Phase 2 Mitigation.
- WSAC discussed the Durham Meadoway project in detail. This discussion brought new ideas to consider regarding the current design plan.
- The WSAC made a presentation and recommendation to Council to endorse a one-time funding request for zero carbon projects in the 2023 budget in the amount of \$721,080. This recommendation was approved in the 2023 budget and the total estimated GHG emissions savings resulting from these projects is 165,373 KgCO₂e. This funding encourages the continued support of the Zero Carbon Whitby plan.

The Work Plan will be revisited each year through the annual report of the Committee to ensure work plan items are being met and to address any new items that should be added for upcoming years.

Attachments: Whitby Sustainable Advisory Committee’s 2023-2026 Work Plan

Attachment 1: WSAC's 2023-2026 Work Plan

Sustainability Plan	Advice, Support & Guidance to Council	Education & Awareness	Assist Development of Plans, Programs, Strategies, Actions
Nature, Trees and Greenscaping Nature provides important, environmental, social and economic benefits. These benefits include the air we breathe, helping us fight climate change and beautifying our community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide recommendation to Council to adopt tree and natural ground cover preservation policies and regulations.• Consider a recommendation to Council to limit residential use of artificial turf.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase awareness regarding invasive plant species and benefits of natural ground cover including preservation of old growth trees.• Attend Town events to promote sustainability such as Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forest (LEAF) Community Greening Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a community gardeners' program.• Host educational events.• Look at what other municipalities are doing in this area.

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<p>Sustainable Transportation</p> <p>Transportation is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and poor air quality. In order to reduce this impact, the Town is committed to encouraging the transition to more sustainable modes of transportation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide recommendation to Council to require all new developments in Whitby to include infrastructure for sustainable modes of transportation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and/or increase awareness of sustainable transportation in Whitby such as EV chargers, public transportation, biking, and carpooling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with the Active Transportation Committee. • Host educational events.

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<p>Waste, Litter and Recycling</p> <p>The Town of Whitby provides curbside residential waste collection services to Whitby residents. This includes garbage, green bin organics, yard waste, and a special collection program for bulky items, metal goods, porcelain and electronic waste. The Town is committed to keeping the community clean, litter free and promoting the reduction of waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice to Council on working with the Region of Durham to establish a compost pick-up program for multi-residential properties and provide more public litter containers (e.g., to existing and former bus stops). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Whitby Waste Buddy tool to create awareness around good waste practices and waste reduction events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop initiatives to promote environmentally sustainable practices in multi-unit residences.
<p>Local Food</p> <p>Whitby is dedicated to supporting local food opportunities. By supporting local food-sourcing, we can become more self-sufficient as well as support local farmers and increase access to healthy food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice to Council on Town-run events that encourage the use of local food vendors and locally sourced food including plant-based options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education program about supporting local food sourcing and the benefits of a plant-based diet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the United Nation's recommendation to reduce meat consumption by encouraging residents to explore and enjoy plant-based foods through local vendors.

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Climate Change and Extreme Weather The Town of Whitby has declared a climate emergency and is working to develop policies to combat climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide recommendations on prioritization of actions in Whitby's Climate Emergency Response Plan, Phase 1 and Phase 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a high-level education program on Whitby's Climate Emergency Response Plan, Phase 1 and Phase 2 including residential actions. • Educate residents on Zero Carbon Whitby. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the UN recommendations as a base and promote them at regular intervals using social media to educate, highlight benefits etc.
Water Quality, Storm Management and Flooding Whitby delivers a number of initiatives to improve and maintain the health of our natural waterways as well as helping to protect our natural based hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding • Stormwater management ponds • Source water protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Council in improving the Town's stormwater infrastructure through advocating the implementation of 1 to 2 action items in CERP, Phase 1 Implementation Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a stormwater education campaign to encourage residents to consider alternatives such as rain gardens, bioswales etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at natural ways to reduce localized flooding and improve stormwater infiltration.