

City of Toronto
Climate Advisory Group (CAG)
Meeting #6: December 7, 2023
9:30 am - 12:30 pm



Agenda Item 1: Presentation from Environment & Climate Division on the Annual Budget

Description: Annual Budget Presentation from Grant Kozlik, Manager of Program Administration, Environment & Climate

Discussion/Notes

Grant Kozlik presented a high-level overview on the Environment and Climate Budget. The budget launch is scheduled for January 10, marking the start of a comprehensive evaluation. After the launch, there will be an opportunity to review the budget in detail to understand what Council aims to implement and how it aligns with the priorities set throughout the year. The adjustments will reflect Council's mandates and will address emerging concerns. This process is an opportunity to align financial resources with the evolving priorities of Council and address critical issues affecting the City.

Outcomes/Next Steps

The CAG will receive a special Climate Budget Baseline Note briefing in mid-January 2024 to continue the conversation.

Agenda Item 2: Presentation from Environment & Climate Division on the Carbon Budget

Description: Presentation on Carbon Budget Process from Charlie Hatt, Program Manager, Policy & Research, Environment & Climate

Discussion/Notes

- Charlie Hatt provided an update on the City's carbon accountability framework. The main goal is to establish a process aligned with the annual financial budget cycle process to improve accountability for the City's climate objectives. This approach aims to make information more transparent for stakeholders and residents, particularly regarding emission budgets (e.g., fleet vehicles and buildings). The framework is structured into three main categories: policy, process, and tools
- The "Carbon Budget Baseline Note" replaces the Climate Investment Briefing Note of previous years; scheduled for public release in January 2024.
- In 2024, the Carbon Budget Prioritization Process will begin to operate on an annual cycle in tandem with the preparation of the financial budget.

Outcomes/Next Steps

- The CAG will convene for a special (optional) briefing in mid-February 2024 to review and discuss the City of Toronto's and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund Greenhouse Gas Inventories.
- Later in 2024, the CAG will also discuss the Net Zero Annual reporting process.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation from Environment & Climate Division Outreach and Engagement team on Indigenous Climate Action Grants Program

Description: Presentation from Miranda Black, Project Lead and Megan Maclean, Program Manager of Outreach & Engagement of the Environment and Climate Division

Discussion/Notes

- Miranda Black and Megan Maclean discussed the evolution of the Environment and Climate (E&C) Division's work to engage Indigenous community members in climate action. This process has provided a model for Indigenous Engagement and has the potential to help the Transform TO team develop a space for Indigenous Peoples to provide input in parallel to the CAG.
- The **Climate Action Fund**, a predecessor of the Indigenous Climate Action Grants Program, that ran from 2020 to 2022, set the foundation and provided a lot of learning about Indigenous engagement. After the initial lack of uptake from Indigenous-led groups, E&C Division collaborated with the Indigenous Affairs Office on building relationships with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Earth Workers and community members in land stewardship. This included holding gatherings for feasts and visioning sessions, and participation in ceremonies. This approach helped to increase the number of Indigenous-led projects in the second year of the program.
- The **Indigenous Climate Action Grants Program** was launched in 2023. It demonstrates an important shift towards working alongside the Indigenous community and supporting Indigenous-led climate and environment initiatives. The program offers financial support for Indigenous placemaking projects, education, and support for cultural and ceremonial activities.
- The Climate Action Grants Program includes an Indigenous Review Committee that consists of First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis representing many Indigenous Nations who live in Toronto. It also assists groups with developing applications and supports projects on the ground.

- In addition, the presentation highlighted some of the work across the City's divisions, catalyzed by the [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) to improve the engagement and build stronger relationships with Indigenous community members.

Outcomes/Next Steps

The Q&A and discussion identified several learnings on engaging Indigenous communities in climate action:

- The importance of building trusting relationships with Indigenous-led organizations grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing to strengthen climate action efforts.
- How the adoption of Indigenous perspectives in climate action work can help to redefine the understanding of terms like GHG reduction to align it with Indigenous ways of knowing and understanding. This shift contributes to a more inclusive and effective approach to climate initiatives.
- The importance of engaging Indigenous people in staff roles to be able to support Indigenous communities in the ways that are expected.

Next steps:

- CAG members expressed interest in attending events hosted by the Indigenous Affairs Office and expressed interest in volunteering to support projects undertaken by the Indigenous Climate Action Grants recipients.
- CAG members were encouraged to think about intersections and opportunities for connecting their work in working groups with the Indigenous Climate Action Grants Program and other Indigenous engagement work led by the E&C Division.

Agenda Item 4: CAG Working Groups

Description: Updates from Working Group and identifying next steps

Discussion/Notes

Buildings and Energy Transitions Group

- The Buildings and Energy Transitions group convened in November 2023. In collaboration with the City staff, they are in the process of determining a comprehensive list of barriers to help identify priority areas. Discussions within the group included topics such as emission performance standards, and they have established a monthly meeting cadence to ensure regular progress.

Engagement Communications and Community Benefits Group

- The group held its second meeting in November 2023 and is currently exploring undertaking community asset mapping.

Waste Diversion Group

- The Waste Diversion working group has met twice and is working on expanding the working group scope to include sustainable consumption and building a framework or recommendations for community waste diversion.

Working with Other Levels of Government Group:

- The working group leads met with the City staff assigned to this group and are working on a proposal to present to the CAG.

Climate Resilience Group

- This group will hold its first meeting in December 2023.

Transportation: An update on the Transportation group will be provided at a later time.

After the working group updates, all CAG members were invited to share what working group they would be interested in contributing to.

Outcomes/Next Steps

- CAG members are interested in improving communication among working groups through information and knowledge sharing.
- The City of Toronto will connect the Climate Resilience Working Group with the Resilience team in E&C's Policy and Research team.

Present:

Andria Babbington
Chris Ballard
Christian Cianfrone
Colin Guldemann
Dave Campbell
Derek May
Jack Zhou

John Robinson
Joyce McLean
Julius Lindsay
Kristen Evers
Lidia Ferreira
Lyn Adamson
Maria Constantinou

Marine Sanchez
Maggie Chang
Neil MacNeil
Rosemarie Powell
Sarah Buchanan
Zamani Ra

Regrets:

Alienor Rougeot
Tinashe Kanengoni

Barnabe Geis
Joseph Ogilvie

Jeff Ranson

Guests/Delegates:

*Jennifer Murphy delegate for Cara-Lynne Wade

City of Toronto Staff:

Cecelia Fernandez
Lindsay McCallum
Andrew Plunkett

James Nowlan
Grant Kozlik
Miranda Black

Charles Hatt
Megan Maclean

Facilitators (Groundswell Projects):

Destiny Laldeo

Olga Semenovych