

# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

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# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Tuesday, November 3, 2020  
10:00 a.m.  
Meeting to be held electronically.

## **Agenda**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Adoption of October 7, 2020 Minutes
3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
4. Election of Chair
5. Election of Vice Chair
6. Developing an Action Plan – Facilitated Discussion
7. Correspondence – Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign Letter
8. Correspondence – Ontario Blue Box Program News Release
9. Date of Next Meeting
10. Adjournment

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# ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORIENTATION SESSION

**Meeting:** Environmental Advisory Committee Orientation Session  
**Date:** October 7, 2020  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Webex

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**Attendees:** Dave Mennill, Warden  
Grant Jones, Councillor  
Sally Martyn, Councillor  
Robert Braam, Community Member  
Sarah Emons, Community Member  
Primrose Kisuule, Community Member  
Michaela Lenz, Community Member  
Ray Price, Community Member  
Kim Smale, Community Member

**Staff:** Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer  
Brian Lima, Director of Engineering Services  
Katherine Thompson, Supervisor of Legislative Services and  
Community Relations  
Carolyn Krahn, Legislative Services Coordinator  
Megan Shannon, Legislative Services Coordinator

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## DRAFT MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

The Environmental Advisory Committee Orientation Session met this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

### 2. Introductions

The newly appointed members of the Committee introduced themselves to County Council members and staff supports.

### **3. Review of Terms and Conditions and Code of Conduct**

The Supervisor of Legislative Services and Community Relations presented an overview of the Committee's Terms of Reference and Mandate and the Elgin County Code of Conduct.

### **4. Overview of Current Elgin County Environmental Initiatives**

The Supervisor of Legislative Services and Community Relations presented an overview of the current Elgin County Environmental Initiatives followed by a presentation from the Director of Engineering Services on energy conservation, roads, and cycling infrastructure in the County.

### **5. Who Does What? – An Overview of Government Jurisdictions**

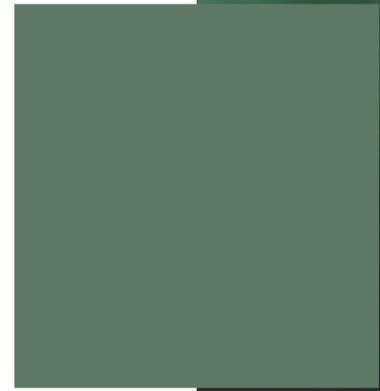
The Supervisor of Legislative Services and Community Relations presented an overview of Government Jurisdictions.

### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

The Warden suggested the next meeting be facilitated by Jennifer Kirkham to help the Committee develop their plan of action. The Committee agreed to meet again on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. provided that Jennifer Kirkham was available to meet.

### **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.



# Environmental Advisory Committee

Developing An Action Plan

# Agenda

## Key Discussion Topics



Understanding the challenges



Establishing our purpose & setting goals



Meeting our goals



Planning our next steps





## **PRIORITY**

Growing Elgin: To be the place where people want to live, work and play.



## **OBJECTIVE**

Fostering a healthy environment.



## **ACTION**

Develop an annual plan that identifies ways to reduce the County's environmental footprint.



# **Purpose & Goals**

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

## Members of the Environmental Advisory Committee shall:

- Provide input and comments on policies, procedures and regulations of the County including any environmental issues impacting the County;
- The Committee may recommend and advise Council on the policies to be developed and offer suggestions for the formulation of environmental policies and comment on policies prepared by staff;
- Review studies, proposals and other documents referred to the Committee by Council or staff and provide advice regarding their application;
- Assist Council and staff in identifying research needs and environmental data gaps and formulating a strategy for Council's consideration.



# Purpose & Goals

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

## The Advisory Committee is responsible for the following:

- To serve as an advisory, resource and information support group to the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee, Municipal Council and its Committees as required, and to the citizenry to encourage and promote sustainable programs and functions: Waste reduction, reuse and recycling programs; Water and energy conservation measures; and Climate change mitigation.
- To investigate such other aspects of environmental concern as may be suggested by County Council, its other Committees, or civic administration.
- To initiate and/or receive submissions and/or delegations regarding any environmental concerns and to report with recommendations to the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee and/or County Council when appropriate.



Role

# How will we know if we have achieved our goals?

What do deliverables look like?  
How can we measure our performance?





# Areas of Influence



County Operations (County Roads, LTC Homes, Libraries, County Admin, etc.)



County Facilities/Grounds



Advocacy



Promotion & Awareness



Council Advice



# How can we meet our goals?



What are our objectives as a committee?



What do we want to achieve?



What will be different because of the work that we do?



Example: To increase Elgin County residents' awareness about...

# Idea Generation

What can be done to achieve  
your objectives in the County's  
areas of influence?





# Next Steps

Environmental Committee Members  
County of Elgin

October 28, 2020

*Re: Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign – Environmental Impact of Coroplast Signs*

Dear Environmental Committee Members,

At its meeting held on October 27, 2020, Elgin County Council considered implementing a lawn sign road safety campaign in response to continuing concerns about speeding on County roads. The lawn signs would be used on local roads within built-up settlement areas in order to raise awareness to the issue of speeding and to remind drivers of the importance of driving safely and obeying the speed limit. The lawn signs would be constructed with coroplast and could be reused for successive road safety campaigns. Council expressed concerns about creating disposable items that will eventually end up in a landfill. After considerable discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

**RESOLVED THAT the report titled “Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign” from the Director of Engineering Services, dated October 16, 2020, be received and filed; and,**

**THAT the matter be referred to the Environmental Committee to review the environmental impact of a lawn sign road safety campaign.**

Of particular concern for Council, was that the negative environmental impact of creating disposable items would outweigh the positive effects of the road safety campaign. Council are requesting further information from the Environmental Committee regarding the use of coroplast signs, specifically in relation to their environmental impact.

A copy of the report titled “Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign” is attached for reference.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Dave Mennill, Warden

cc: Julie Gonyou, CAO/Clerk, County of Elgin



## REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Brian Lima, Director of Engineering Services

**DATE:** October 16, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign

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### RECOMMENDATION:

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THAT the report titled “Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign” from the Director of Engineering Services, dated October 16, 2020, be received and filed.

### INTRODUCTION:

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A Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign provides another tool for municipalities to confront the issue of speeding predominantly and most effectively on local roads within built-up settlement areas. The intent is to raise awareness to the issue of speeding and to remind drivers of the importance to drive safely and obey the speed limit. Staff have investigated lawn sign programs in other municipalities and if directed by Council, a pilot Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign, in partnership with local municipal partners could be implemented in 2021.

As requested by Council at its October 13, 2020 meeting, this report is in response to continuing concerns about speeding on County roads, and the suggestion that lawn signs encouraging drivers to slow down could be made available to concerned residents.

### DISCUSSION:

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Historically, requests have been received from residents for additional road safety measures to address concerns of speeding and aggressive driving. Lawn signs are a cost-effective method to bring awareness and to educate motorists of their driving behaviours.

The effective use of lawn signs predominantly on local roads within build-up settlement areas, is increasingly more common as many municipalities across the province have implemented campaigns in recent years, including but not limited to City of London, City of Toronto, City of Mississauga, City of Burlington, etc.

County staff receive numerous concerns annually from residents regarding excessive speeding. To address these concerns, staff undertake technical evaluations to determine if posted speed reductions are warranted. In addition, the Elgin detachment of the OPP assists County staff with enforcement and monitoring activities aimed at reducing the speed of vehicles. It should also be noted that in the absence of a County wide traffic calming policy, County staff also periodically relies upon the latest edition of the Transportation Association of Canada's *Canadian Guide to Traffic Calming*, being a guide aimed to provide up-to-date information and guidance related to the planning, design, installation, operation, and maintenance of traffic calming measures on local, collector and arterial roads in Canada.

A Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign provides another tool for municipalities to confront the issue of speeding predominantly and most effectively on local roads within built-up settlement areas. The intent is to raise awareness to the issue of speeding and to remind drivers of the importance to drive safely and obey the speed limit. Staff have investigated lawn sign programs in other municipalities and if desired by Council, a pilot Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign, in partnership with local municipal partners could be implemented in 2021 if so directed.

The following outlines the details of a proposed Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign:

### Lawn Sign Design

Lawn signs would be printed double sided and constructed with a durable material (coroplast) with a metal stake provided. The size of the signs would be approximately 48 centimeters (19 inches) wide by 40 centimeters (16 inches) tall. The design of the sign itself would be prepared by staff in partnership with local municipal partners, ensuring professionalism and branding. Below are examples of similar signs offered by other municipalities and other agencies:





As directed by Council in 2019, similar targeted traffic calming speed reduction education temporary signage was installed along Bank Street and Dexter Line as part of the ongoing Port Bruce – Temporary Bridge Traffic Control Plan.



### Guidelines for Lawn Sign Placement

To ensure the success of a Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign and to ensure the placement of signs does not create a sightline obstruction or a hazard for any roadway users, staff propose the following program guidelines:

The signs must:

- be set-back a minimum of 0.6 meters (2 feet) from curb or edge of the roadway shoulder;
- not obstruct the travelled portion of the roadway, median, traffic island, sidewalk, bicycle path, or multi-use trail;
- be inserted into the ground using the wire frame only;
- be placed where it will not obstruct sight lines for pedestrians, cyclists or drivers; and,
- be placed as supplied and without further illumination or the use of reflective tape.

Any lawn signs determined to be unsafe or require relocation for any reason may be removed or relocated by either County and/or local municipal partner staff.

## Sign Distribution

The County and its local municipal partners would offer one sign per household, on a first come first serve basis, free of charge to residents. County staff would work collaboratively with all stakeholders to establish a distribution method to be in place and communicated to the public in the spring of 2021.

Following the manufacturing and distribution of lawn signs, County staff in consultation with local municipal partners would evaluate the uptake and public response to the program and report back to Council before the end of 2021 to coincide with 2022 budget deliberations.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The cost of lawn signs is approximately \$6.94 (excluding HST) per sign. Based on the production of 500 sign units, which could be supplied to Elgin County's local municipal partners and stakeholder agencies for distribution to the public, the anticipated total cost to produce signage in support of a Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign would cost approximately \$3,500 (excluding HST). Such material signage cost would need to be accounted for within the 2021 operating budget. Furthermore, and following an evaluation of the pilot campaign's success in the fall of 2021, Council may wish to allocate additional funding for the purchase of additional signs to be included in the 2022 budget deliberations.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

<b>Serving Elgin</b>	<b>Growing Elgin</b>	<b>Investing in Elgin</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Ensuring alignment of current programs and services with community need.</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Exploring different ways of addressing community need.</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Engaging with our community and other stakeholders.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Planning for and facilitating commercial, industrial, residential, and agricultural growth.</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Fostering a healthy environment.</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Enhancing quality of place.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ensuring we have the necessary tools, resources, and infrastructure to deliver programs and services now and in the future.</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Delivering mandated programs and services efficiently and effectively.</b>

## **LOCAL MUNICIPAL PARTNER IMPACT:**

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County staff would work collaboratively with all stakeholders to establish a distribution method.

## **COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

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County staff would work collaboratively with all stakeholders to establish a public communication campaign strategy for release in the spring of 2021, which could include but may not be limited to campaign information made available on the County's and each participating local municipal partner's websites, and social media accounts.

## **CONCLUSION:**

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A targeted traffic calming speed reduction education Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign provides municipalities a tool to confront the issue of speeding predominantly and most effectively on local roads within build-up settlement areas. The intent is to raise awareness to the issue of speeding and to remind drivers of the importance to drive safely, obey speed limits, and to be cautious of all active transportation road provisions.

Staff have investigated lawn sign programs in other municipalities and if directed by Council, a pilot Lawn Sign Road Safety Campaign, in partnership with local municipal partners could be implemented in the spring 2021 at a cost of approximately \$3,500 (excluding HST).

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Brian Lima  
Director of Engineering Services

Julie Gonyou  
Chief Administrative Officer

*News Release***Ontario Developing a Stronger, More Effective Blue Box Program**

October 19, 2020

**Province consulting on plan to increase recycling in more communities and help divert more waste from landfills**

TORONTO — Ontario is kicking off Waste Reduction Week by unveiling regulations to improve the blue box program. The enhancements include expanding the items that can be recycled and making producers of products and packaging fully responsible for the waste they create.

"We're creating a stronger and more effective Blue Box program that actually works," said Minister Yurek. "By harnessing the innovation and ingenuity of industry and expanding recycling opportunities for people and businesses across the province, we can divert more waste away from landfills by finding new purposes for products and reinserting them back into the economy."

The proposed new Blue Box regulation will:

- Standardize and increase the list of materials accepted in the blue box including paper and plastic cups, wraps, foils, trays, and bags and other single use items such as stir sticks, straws, cutlery and plates.
- Transition the costs of the program away from municipal taxpayers by making the producers of products and packaging fully responsible for costs, resulting in an estimated savings of \$135 million annually for municipalities.
- Expand blue box services to more communities, such as smaller, rural and remote communities, including those under 5,000 people.
- Set the highest diversion targets in North America for the various categories of waste producers are expected to recycle such as paper, glass, beverage containers and rigid and flexible plastic, encouraging innovation such as better product design and the use of new technologies for better environmental outcomes.

The province will also expand blue box services to facilities such as apartment buildings, long-term care homes, schools and municipal parks in 2026 to provide the people of Ontario with more opportunities to recycle and keep their communities clean.

The [draft Blue Box regulation](#) will be posted for 45 days for public feedback, ending December 2, 2020.

Reducing plastic waste and litter and making producers responsible for managing the full life-cycle of their products is a key part of the [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#) commitment to balance a healthy economy, a healthy environment and keep Ontario clean and beautiful.

### QUICK FACTS

- The proposed framework ensures that programs already having a positive impact on the environment, like the Beer Store's deposit return program, can continue under the new producer responsibility model.
- Waste Reduction Week runs from October 19-25 to promote environmental stewardship and increase opportunities for Ontarians to participate in efforts to reduce waste.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan](#)
- [Waste management in Ontario](#)
- [Waste Discussion Paper](#)

### QUOTES

"The Ontario Waste Management Association supports the Ontario government's commitment to strengthen the Blue Box recycling program and set some of the highest waste diversion targets in North America. Shifting funding responsibility of the Blue Box to producers will create a catalyst to improve Ontario's recycling performance. This is not only good for the

environment, it is good for the economy, and will encourage investment, job creation and innovation in the recycling and resource recovery sector."

— *Mike Chopowick, CEO, Ontario Waste Management Association*

"The Canadian Beverage Association welcomes the government's proposed beverage container diversion targets of 75 per cent by 2026 and 80 per cent by 2030. Our sector plans to build on the success of the Blue Box collection system and meet these targets by introducing a new, comprehensive beverage container recycling program with convenient public space recycling at parks, public buildings and special events."

— *Jim Goetz, President, Canadian Beverage Association*

"As one of Canada's leading beverage companies, Keurig Dr Pepper Canada supports the Ontario Government's policy to expand and improve the recycling system, by ensuring items like recyclable coffee pods will be included. Our company remains steadfastly committed to reducing packaging waste. We look forward to continuing to work with the government and municipalities across the province to build a more sustainable Ontario for generations to come."

— *Stéphane Glorieux, President, Keurig Dr Pepper Canada*

## CONTACTS

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Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

<http://www.ontario.ca/mecp>