

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP of BILLINGS

Climate Action Committee (CAC)

AGENDA – 23rd February 2022 7:00 p.m.

Virtual (Zoom)

- 1) OPEN**
- 2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3) DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**
- 4) ADOPTION OF MINUTES – 26th January 2022**
- 5) DELEGATIONS**
- 6) OLD BUSINESS**
 - i. Communication – Website and Blog
 - ii. Climate Change Implementation Coordinator – Update
 - iii. Municipal Office Renovation – Energy Analysis
 - iv. Spring Public Event
- 7) NEW BUSINESS**
 - i. CAC Budget
 - ii. Moving forward with other CEEP actions
- 8) CORRESPONDENCE**
- 9) INFORMATION**
- 10) CLOSED SESSION**
- 11) RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL REPORT**
- 12) NEXT MEETING**
- 13) ADJOURNMENT**

Memorandum

To: CAC

cc: CAO/Clerk, Deputy Clerk

From: Todd Gordon, Municipal Project Manager (CAC Staff Liaison)

Date: 02.21.2022

RE: Agenda Items – February 23rd CAC Meeting

14) OLD BUSINESS

v. Communication – Website and Blog

There is widespread agreement that communication related to climate change, climate change action, and related environmental sustainability is an important role of the CAC. Among other methods, the committee can use the climate change page on the municipal website for longer-term document-type communication. The committee has also agreed to engage in “blogging” as a means of communicating more in-the-moment and ongoing activities, initiatives and events related to the CEEP.

To that end, Chris T. has “resurrected” the blog used by the former Go Green Committee. For the record and for clarity here, I’ll just provide a description of a what a blog is:

A blog (a shortened version of “weblog”) is **an online journal or informational website** displaying information in reverse chronological order, with the latest posts appearing first, at the top. It is a platform where a writer or a group of writers share their views (*and I would say, in our case, more importantly – information*) on an individual subject.¹

To get moving and use the blog as an effective communication tool, the committee needs to make a couple of critical decisions, including the following:

1. Should the CAC use the former Go Green blog and just carry-on with new blog entries? The “pros” of this approach include the reality that the blog is already established. I’m not sure there are any significant “cons,” to this approach, although one may be longer term administration of the blog – log-in credentials in Blogger (as I understand it – Chris?) are based on a Google account. Would it be better to set up a new Blogger account?
2. Theme and Colour – etc. Perhaps not critical, but important, nonetheless. Chris T. emailed some comment on this last week:

Blog 'Theme' [options](#): Here are four possible formats we can choose from.

- Colour and background image are possible for all options.

- Need to choose one of the four formats based on the overall 'style' and where links are available. E.g., Option A has rounded corners on the areas, and the 'Home', 'Events' tabs are below the main title (red rectangle provided on the slide to help you find what I'm talking about)

- a. I personally like the theme in the 2nd slide.

A potential introductory (starter) blog post(?):

¹ <https://firstsiteguide.com/what-is-blog/>

Welcome to the Billings Climate Action Committee (CAC) Blog! The Billings CAC was established in early 2020 as an ad hoc (limited, special purpose) committee to advise Council on the development of a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP), as part of the municipality's response to the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The CAC, in working with the Climate Change Coordinator, other staff, and Council, was successful in this mandate, and the CEEP was recently accepted as a key tool in the municipality's approach to climate change. With that, the Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Committee were modified to make the committee a standing committee, and its mandate modified to focus on assisting Council in implementing actions under the CEEP.

This blog will be one communication method used by the CAC moving forward – to communicate to the Billings community about climate change, the CEEP, and climate action. Please watch for posts on this blog related to climate change, corporate (municipal) climate change actions and initiatives, and steps you as a Billings resident or rate-payer can take to contribute to positive climate action.

Website:

The web page for climate action needs some work/re-structuring – I know this, but I just haven't got to it:

- i. I'd like to combine the CEEP appendices into one document. BTW, the listed Billings GHG inventory is NOT the most current/most accurate one.
- ii. Some of the annual energy report links are not working. These need to be fixed.
- iii. There are other issues . . .
- iv. There is consensus (I think) on the part of the committee, that there be some very brief synopsis of COP26 and its implications for Billings and the CAC. It should likely be on the Climate Action web page – it can be referred to on the blog and the municipal FB as/if appropriate . . .

b. Climate Change Implementation Coordinator – Update

Unfortunately, a CCIC has still not been hired. Of approximately 15 applicants, the Billings and Central CAOs contacted 4 for interviews: 2 declined, 2 were interviewed, 1 was considered a good candidate. During the interview process, it came to light that Billings and Central did not have the same understanding of the nature of the position: Billings saw the CCIC position as a permanent full-time job – shared between the two municipalities – while Central was anticipating hiring for a 1-year contract.

c. Municipal Office Renovation – Energy Analysis

To the point on this topic: I was wrong – in that I am guilty of not taking the time to see the bigger picture at all on this topic:

- i. It is a given that the municipal office renovation was never motivated, in the first instance, by energy efficiency, - it was motivated by the need to address serious air quality/work environment concerns.
- ii. However, the renovation is presented in the CEEP, in Section 1.5 (pg. 8) – “Environmental Responsibility – Mitigation vs. Adaptation” where there is a statement that *Deep Energy Retrofit (DER) measures [were taken] to improve energy efficiency during the Old Mill municipal office renovation (2019/20)*. This is simply wrong. The concept of “Deep Energy Retrofit” (DER) is a well defined and developed one in the Climate Change/Energy Efficiency/CHG Reduction “world” with careful processes (including pre and post energy usage analysis, and expected outcomes of 50% energy use reduction.)

- iii. As the staff person responsible for coordinating/handling the final revisions to the CEEP – and acknowledging, then and now, that the CEEP is not a perfect plan or document, I apologize to the committee, and to Council for not having caught, “seen,” nor grasped the significance of this misleading statement.
- iv. Having said all that, I would be truly shocked if some form of proper (as in legitimate “best-we-can-do-with-the-best-data-we’ve-got”) analysis on the before and after (to-date, and hopefully going forward) heating energy (propane) use in the municipal office space.
- v. Therefore, I recommend that the Committee recommend, to Council, that this type of analysis be undertaken, and that the Committee take a few minutes, in this meeting, to discuss the “how” of this.

d. Spring Public Event

Chris T. sent an email late last week, with some food for thought on this topic. I’ve included the text of the email, as well as the text from his linked Google document here (below, under “Options for Spring Earth Day Event?”) – again, all just thought/discussion provoking material:

Spring Event [options](#): Here are some starter/brainstorming ideas to discuss (to get things started, more ideas are certainly welcome!)

- We should likely choose one main theme to focus on, e.g., one of the four topics in the document
- Possible subtopics might be useful to recruit an expert speaker or presentation topic
- a 'Small' event in the past usually had either a morning or afternoon of events/presentations, and a selection of 'booths' where local businesses or interest groups could set up and talk to attendees between the larger presentations

Options for Spring Earth Day Event?

Some possible topics to consider, and some subtopics that could be included as talks or elements of the events.

1. Agriculture
 - Natural agriculture - modern innovations to reduce GHG
 - Home gardens - how start simply, what to grow
 - Composting - hints on how to, and benefits
 - Connecting to local food - how it reduces GHG, options to find more
2. General Climate Change Education
 - Evidence of climate change - global stats, Canadian stats
 - Predictions for our region - our future in 2030, 2050, 2100
 - Timeframe for change - 1.5 vs 2.0 vs 3.0 temperature increase
 - Plans for 2030 - CEEP elements, personal choices to make
3. Home Heating
 - GHG Considerations - What impact does home heating have?
 - Choices for home heating - oil, propane, wood, electric
 - Green Options - Costs and challenges for various options
 - Funding opportunities - Government grant systems
 -
4. Steps towards making a difference
 - Making choices for reducing GHG - what level of change will you make
 - Variety of choices available - various high impact and various easy choices

- Balancing financial choices for effective change - Which options cost less? Save more?
- CEEP elements for the community - Parts of the CEEP that involves the community

Also, a note shared by Paul on this:

Just my thoughts here to put on the table for discussion.

If we agree to hold an event in the spring – it would be perfect for promoting the concept of tree planting, assuming we have identified a source of trees by then. Speaker for the event might come from Manitoulin Streams?

Alternatively, on the waste management side – we continue to have the problem of no recycler taking glass – resulting in glass being added to waste going into dump.

Maybe a speaker on the topic of what we can do to either a) find bulk recyclers who will accept glass or b) find glass crushing equipment for the dump which will at least reduce the volume that glass takes up.

7) NEW BUSINESS

a. CAC Budget

Please find a basic committee worksheet attached. Meaningful climate action has potential widespread budget implications going forward – many of which are never going to be seen as explicit action items or line items, on any budget. The purpose of the current discussion, and the worksheet, is primarily to think about budget with respect to committee activities for 2022 – like a potential Earth Day event, as an example . . . There may be others. Give this some thought for the meeting, please.

Note: It's a budget worksheet, so it includes a revenue section. I'm not suggestion the CAC should be generating revenue . . .

Climate Action Committee: 2022 Budget Development Worksheet					
Todd Gordon, MPM: February 21, 2022					
Expenditures	Item	Sub-Item	Cost	Item Total	Notes
	Spring Event (Earth Day Event)				
		Advertisizing?			
		Speaker Honoriaum(s)			
		Other 1			
		Other 2			
		Subtotal		\$ -	
	Other Event/Activity				
		Item 1:			
		Item 2:			
		Item 3:			
		Subtotal		\$ -	
	Other Expenditure				
		Item 1:			
		Item 2:			
		Item 3:			
		Subtotal		\$ -	
	Other Expenditure				
		Item 1:			
		Item 2:			
		Item 3:			
		Subtotal		\$ -	
Total Expenditures				\$ -	
Revenues					
Total Revenues				\$ -	
Budget Balance				\$ -	

iii. Moving forward with other CEEP actions

Give some thought to other CEEP actions – perhaps already discussed (maybe the January 26th minutes help?) or otherwise come to mind. Some quick wins? Some incremental steps in 2022 on larger, longer-term actions?

Respectfully submitted,
 Todd Gordon, Municipal Project Manager