



The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Environmental Sustainability Committee
Agenda

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Biggings Room, Civic Centre

As a courtesy meetings may be viewed live on the City's YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/saultstemarieca>

Pages

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge, with respect that we are on Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

3 - 5

Mover _____

Seconder _____

Resolved that Minutes of Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting of November 12, 2026 be approved.

4. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

5. **Adoption of Agenda**

Mover _____

Seconder _____

Resolved that the Agenda for Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting for January 15, 2026 as presented be approved.

6. **2026 ESC Chair & Vice Chair Selection**

Mover _____

Seconder _____

Resolved that _____ be appointed as the Chair for the 2026 Environmental Sustainability Committee.

Mover _____

Seconder _____

Resolved that _____ be appointed as the Vice Chair for the 2026 Environmental Sustainability Committee.

7. **ESC Letter Update** 6 - 6

8. **2026 Committee Planning Discussion**

- 2026 ESC Earth Day Event –T.Parmar
- Discussion on Global Climate Change Action Outlook

9. **Staff Update** 7 - 14

10. **Next Meeting**

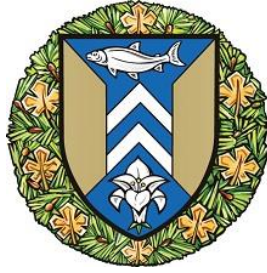
Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

11. **Adjournment**

Mover _____

Seconder _____

Resolved that this Committee now adjourn.



**The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Environmental Sustainability Committee Minutes**

Wednesday November 12, 2025

12:02 PM

Video Conference – Virtual

Present: D. Hilsinger, A. Riopel, M. Britton, E. Emilson, C. Gardi, T. Parmar, N. Roubal, V. Prouse

Absent: S. Luzzi

Officials: E. Cormier

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by: M. Britton

Seconded by: T. Prouse

Resolved that Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting of July 15, 2025, be approved.

Carried

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

5. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: A. Riopel
Seconded by: E. Emilson

Resolved that the Agenda for the Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting for November 12, 2025, as presented, be approved.

Carried

6. ESC Climate Action Letter Update

7. ESC Committee Composition Update

8. CDF Green Initiatives Fund Applications Review Q4

8.1 F.H Clergue Bike Rack Project - \$5,543

8.2 Helping Hands Circular Economy eCommerce Platform - \$5,389

At the ESC meeting on Wednesday November 12, 2025, two (2) projects received the following recommendations:

Mover: A. Riopel
Seconded: E. Emilson

Resolved that the Environmental Sustainability Committee supports the request for funding from the CDF Green Initiatives Program for the F.H Clergue Bike Rack Project and recommends that Council approve \$5,543 in project funding.

Mover: A. Riopel
Seconded: V. Prouse

Resolved that the Environmental Sustainability Committee supports the request for funding from the CDF Green Initiatives Program for the Helping Hands Circular Economy eCommerce Platform Project and recommends that Council approve \$5,389 in project funding.

9. Staff Update

10. Next Meeting

Tuesday January 6, 2025, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

11. Adjournment

Moved by: A. Riopel
Seconded by: T. Parmar

Resolved that this Committee now adjourn.

Carried

Chair

City of Sault Ste. Marie Environmental Sustainability Committee
November 20, 2025

RE: Follow-Up on November 5 Response to City of Sault Ste. Marie 2023 – 2024 Sustainability Report Outreach

Good day Mayor Shoemaker,

On behalf of the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC), I would like to thank you for your response dated November 5, 2025, to our letter of July 8, 2025. We greatly appreciate your continued engagement with the ESC and your recognition of our efforts toward advancing local environmental initiatives.

As noted in our previous correspondence, the ESC's goal is to work collaboratively with Council and City staff to ensure that environmental sustainability remains central to City decision-making, particularly as we enter the upcoming budget discussions. As we enter the 2026 deliberations, we respectfully revisit our request for the opportunity to meet with you in person, along with the CAO and members of the Senior Leadership Team, to discuss how environmental considerations can be more fully integrated into the City's budgetary and operational planning. We believe that now, more than ever, it is essential that sustainability remains a visible and guiding priority for our municipality.

Globally, and even nationally, environmental leadership is struggling. Yet at the local level, our community continues to grow, bringing more vehicles, greater development pressures, and increasing demands on infrastructure. These challenges present both a responsibility and an opportunity. Encouraging public transit use, supporting compact and efficient urban growth, and investing in green infrastructure are not only environmentally sound but fiscally prudent. Growing inward rather than outward helps protect natural assets, reduce infrastructure costs, and maintain long-term financial sustainability. Environmental responsibility is fiscal responsibility, and investments in active transportation, green infrastructure, and energy efficiency lower long-term costs and build a resilient and healthy city.

These efforts also align directly with both Canada's new Climate Competitiveness Strategy, which emphasize the importance of local action in positioning communities to thrive in a low-carbon economy. By advancing sustainability through strategic planning, infrastructure investment, and policy integration, the City strengthens its economic resilience, attracts new opportunities, and reinforces Sault Ste. Marie's reputation as a leader in innovation and environmental stewardship.

In 2023, the ESC identified a set of short and long-term priorities that continue to guide our work. These include embedding climate action as a core focus of the City's Strategic Plan, conducting annual sustainability audits to monitor investments that reduce emissions and save energy, and ensuring that climate impact statements are reviewed and included in Council reports. Longer-term objectives include advancing a Green Development Standard, developing a corporate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) policy, and creating a Sustainable Roads Strategy to support active transportation, electrification, and efficient land use planning. Together, these initiatives reflect our shared commitment to integrating sustainability across all aspects of City operations and growth.

The City's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan, approved in 2020, recommends a five-year refresh, making 2026 the time for review. Updating the plan will reaffirm the City's leadership on climate action and provide a clear roadmap for measurable progress, particularly as recent trends suggest we are falling behind our emission reduction efforts. We also wish to reinforce the importance of mandating a "climate impact" section on all Council reports, and ensuring the ESC is a key partner for providing feedback on City plans and projects, ensuring that major capital and policy decision reflects its environmental implications and supports the shared commitment to sustainability and fiscal responsibility.

We respectfully invite you, the CAO, and members of the Senior Leadership Team to meet with myself and the vice-chair before 2026 budget deliberations to discuss these priorities in greater detail. Together, we can ensure that sustainability remains a defining pillar of Sault Ste. Marie's growth, innovation and financial planning. Thank you for your continued support and leadership. We look forward to the opportunity to meet and to advancing this vital work together.

Sincerely,

Donna Hilsinger

Donna Hilsinger, Chair ESC



**SAULT
STE. MARIE**

Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting

Wednesday January 15, 2026; 12:00 – 1:30 PM

****NB: ESC meetings are fast paced. Please come prepared by reviewing the materials in advance.***

8. 2026 Committee Planning Discussion

- 2026 ESC Earth Day Event –T.Parmar
- Discussion on Global Climate Change Action Outlook

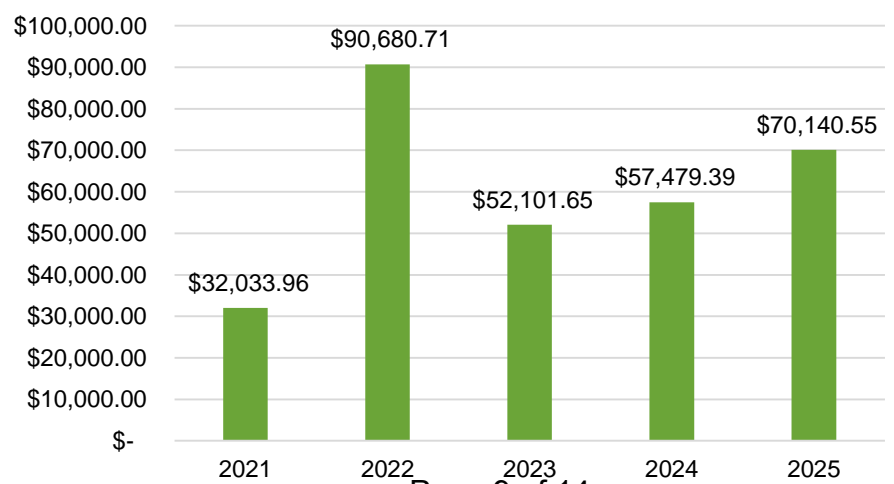


9. Staff Update

CDF 2021 – 2026 Summary

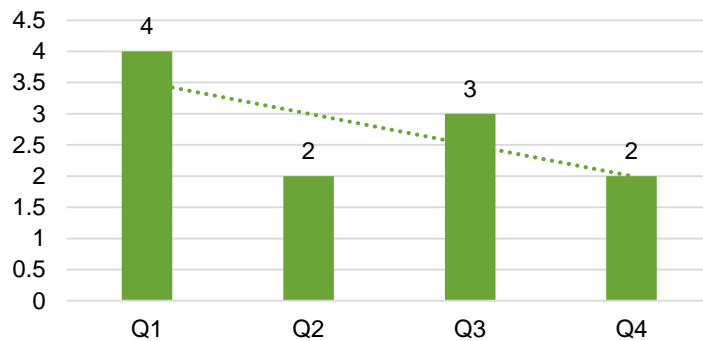
Year	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Funding Allocated
2021	2	2	\$ 32,033.96
2022	11	11	\$ 90,680.71
2023	9	8	\$ 52,101.65
2024	18	12	\$ 57,479.39
2025	11	9	\$ 70,140.55
Total	51	42	\$ 302,436.26

CDF GIF Funding Disbursement To Date



9. Staff Update

CDF 2025 Summary



Line No	Applicant	Project	Date Council Approved	\$ Approved
1	Clean North	Repair Café Project		\$4,455.00
2	ARCH Hospice	LED Lighting Project	15-Apr-25	\$5,984.31
3	Save Our Young Adults (SOYA)	Community Garden Project		\$13,492.00
4	SSM Museum	Environmentalism Database & Consortium Project		\$11,800.00
5	Tourism SSM	Floating Wetland Project		\$9,002.00
6	SSMRCA	Environmental Monitoring Project		\$11,225.24
7	ARCH Hospice	LED Lighting Phase 2 Project		\$3,250.00
8	FH Clergue	Bike Rack Project		\$5,543.00
9	Helping Hands	Circular Economy Project		\$5,389.00
Total Allocated to Date				\$70,140.55

9. Staff Update – 2026 Key Project Outlook

- FCM CEF Phase 2 (WIP)
- RFP drafting started for Community Climate Adaptation Plan (funding received last year)
- Corporate EV Charging Costing Study Project (WIP): PowerON Energy Solutions – an OPG company selected. Site visits underway week of January 12th; ETA on completion April 2026 – will inform future budget requests
- Transit Depot Solar Roof Project (WIP)
- John Rhodes GICB Project (LED Lighting, Roof Replacement, Accessibility Bleachers, Heat Recovery, Queen E Field B LED Conversion) (WIP)
- Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (WIP)
- Deep Energy Retrofit Accelerator RFI – reviewing bids (WIP)
- Ecological Corridor Project Update: meeting with partners for project implementation funding; co-delivering a presentation at the CIF meeting in March 2026 with Garden River First Nation (thank you, Stevie, for the connection)
- BNZ Project Update: Business Case complete. Working in partnership to provide training in SSM in partnership with the Sault Construction Association and DSSAB through NRCans Local Energy Efficiency Partnerships program – tying it in to BBC (see next slide) – project ends in 2027, goal is to advance GDS in SSM (WIP)
- 2025 Sustainability Report – include a review of all work done in 2025, as well as an update on community (2023) and corporate emissions (2024) will go to Council first and then be reviewed with ESC in March 2026 (WIP)
- John Rhodes Public EV Charger Project (WIP)
- Common Collection Effective January 1, 2026. For More details, visit Circular Materials website: <https://www.circularmaterials.ca/news/ontario-new-materials/>

9. Staff Update

Building Beyond Code Workshop – please share with your network

As part of Council's goal of net zero emissions by 2050, the City and Enbridge have partnered to deliver a **Building Beyond Code Workshop** on **February 27, 2026**, from 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM at the Delta Hotel in Sault Ste. Marie.

This in-person session is fully funded by Enbridge Gas, including lunch sponsorship, making it a **cost-free** opportunity to expand your knowledge on energy efficiency regulations. The workshop will be facilitated by [Gord Cooke](#), President, [Building Knowledge Canada](#).

This workshop is designed for municipal planners, city councilors, building inspectors, and building and energy sustainability managers who want to stay ahead of Ontario's evolving energy efficiency regulations and their impact on municipal planning and enforcement. Even if you do not have "Natural Gas" in your municipality, you're welcome to attend.

Why Attend?

- ✓ Gain a deeper understanding of energy efficiency regulations and their implications.
- ✓ Learn about building science principles behind energy efficiency measures.
- ✓ Explore case studies and real-world applications of new regulatory changes.
- ✓ Participate in interactive Q&A sessions with industry experts.

With Ontario's building codes evolving, this is a valuable opportunity to ensure municipalities are building for a more sustainable future—at no cost to you!

To register, please complete the registration form here:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/pu86mnn/lp/293fe20c-e6b6-4bbf-8024-d8e703bf25f1>

10. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 4:00 – 5:30 PM City's Annual Sustainability Report Review)
- Regular Meeting – Hybrid (In-person and virtual)



Thank You. Questions?