



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

Tuesday March 3, 2026

4:00 – 5:30 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>

---

**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**

Mover \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder \_\_\_\_\_

Resolved that the Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting of January 14, 2026 be approved.

**4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

**5. Adoption of Agenda**

Mover \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder \_\_\_\_\_

Resolved that the Agenda of the Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting March 3, 2026 as presented be approved.

**6. ESC Letter Discussion with Mayor Shoemaker and CAO Vair**

**7. Staff Update**

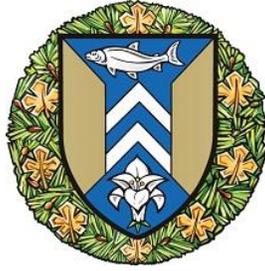
**8. Next Meeting – April 7, 2026, 4:00 – 5:30 PM – Regular Meeting – Hybrid (In-personal and virtual)**

**9. Adjournment**

Mover \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder \_\_\_\_\_

Resolved that this Committee now adjourn.



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

Wednesday January 14, 2026  
12:13 PM

Present: D. Hilsinger, A. Riopel, M. Britton, E. Emilson, T. Parmar,  
Absent: S. Luzzi, C. Gardi, N. Roubal, Prouse, T.  
Officials: E. Cormier

---

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 12:13 p.m

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by: A. Riopel  
Seconded by: M. Britton

Resolved that Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting of November 12, 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 January 14, 2026, as presented, be approved.

**Carried**

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

Moved by: A. Riopel

Seconded by: E. Emilson

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

Moved by: D. Hilsinger

Seconded by: A. Riopel

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

**7. ESC Letter Update**

**8. 2026 Committee Planning Discussion**

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

**9. Staff Update**

**10. Next Meeting**

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 4:00 – 5:30 PM

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by: M. Britton

Seconded by: A. Riopel

Resolved that this Committee now adjourn.

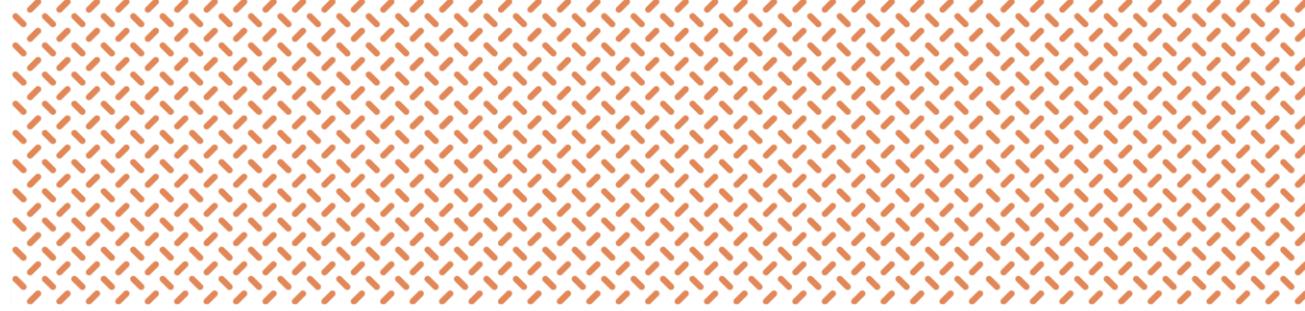
**Carried**

---

Chair



**SAULT  
STE. MARIE**



# **City of Sault Ste. Marie Climate Action Progress Update 2020 - Present**

**Presented By:**

City of Sault Ste. Marie Environmental Sustainability Committee

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

# Meeting Agenda

1. Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) Composition
2. City Climate Action Timeline (2020 – Present)
3. Review of ESC Correspondence
4. Summary of ESC Recommendations
5. Additional Insights from ESC
6. Discussion



# Environmental Sustainability Committee Composition

Corey Gardi, Councillor,  
City of Sault Ste. Marie

Donna Hilsinger, Chair

Mark Britton, Vice Chair,  
PUC, Electrical Demand  
Side Management

André Riopel, Active  
Transportation Advocate

Erik Emilson, Research  
Scientist, Forest Aquatic  
Ecology, Natural  
Resources Canada

Ngaire Roubal, RPF,  
Professor, Natural  
Environment, Sault  
College

Stevie Luzzi, RPF,  
Conservation Forester,  
Wahkohtowin  
Development

Tori Prouse Coccimiglio,  
A/Manager Emerging  
Technologies Office,  
Ministry of  
Transportation

Trishala Parmar,  
Environmental  
Sustainability  
Professional

# 2020 Council Commitment

- On December 14, 2020, Council **unanimously** approved the Sault Ste. Marie Community Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan 2020 – 2030 with a **net zero** by **2050** target and interim targets of **5%** community and **10%** corporate emissions reduction by 2030.
- Since the endorsement, the City has been working on increasing sustainability initiatives within its operations and the community
- This work is the result of **leadership** and active **partnerships** formed through a spirit of collaboration with departments and community partners
- The Sault Ste. Marie GHG Reduction Plan actions are categorized under the plan's seven pillars, which are:
  1. Buildings & Energy – Community
  2. Buildings & Energy – Corporate
  3. Transportation
  4. Waste
  5. Green Space
  6. Economic Development
  7. Municipal Leadership

# 2021 - 2022 Building the Foundation

## **Governance & Capacity**

- ✓ Green Initiatives Fund (\$50,000/year)
- ✓ Environmental Sustainability Committee established
- ✓ Permanent Sustainability Coordinator position created

## **Early Actions**

- ✓ Resolution stating that any funds remaining in the Green Fund at the end of the year are to be used on City lands for tree planting in the following year
- ✓ Light Duty EV Resolution for new vehicles
- ✓ 5 Energy Literacy Webinars with Garden River First Nation
- ✓ Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) Feasibility Study
- ✓ Active Transportation Master Plan
- ✓ Single-use plastic ban (Nov 15, 2022)

# 2023 Scaling Implementation

## Policy & Reporting

- ✓ Climate impact statement added to Council report template
- ✓ First Sustainability Report approved
- ✓ CEF Feasibility Study approved

## Infrastructure & Programs

- ✓ Multiple energy retrofits, recommissioning of GFL Ice Plant
- ✓ 450+ students participate in Yellow Fish Road Program
- ✓ Energy incentive workshops (Innovation Centre, IESO, Enbridge)

# 2024 - 2026 Acceleration

## EV & Charging

- ✓ ChargeIT Community Charging Infrastructure Plan (Council Approved)
- ✓ 4 City EVs purchased (1 Transit, 2 Building, and 1 PW)
- ✓ 5 fleet EV chargers installed
- ✓ 3 Electric Zambonis
- ✓ Battery Electric Bus Study

## Major Projects

- ✓ Action energy efficiency measure implementation noted as KPI in City's Facility Asset Management Plan
- ✓ Ecological Corridor Project
- ✓ Climate Adaptation Plan
- ✓ Public EV Charger Project

## Engagement Growth

- ✓ 700+ students with Yellow Fish Road in 2024, 3,000+ observations through City Nature Challenge and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sustainability Report published

# Major Projects and Key Numbers since 2020

## Energy & Buildings

- Transit Solar Project
- Energy Efficiency Retrofit Projects
- Deep Energy Retrofit (DER) Audit Project

## Financing & Programs (~\$2M+ in climate and energy funding secured)

- John Rhodes Roof Replacement, HVAC + Heat Recovery Project (WIP)
- FCM CEF Phase 2 program design (WIP)
- Retrofit Accelerator RFI for financing DERs (WIP)
- Building to Net Zero Project (WIP)
- Enbridge Hybrid Heat Pump Project (250 units installed in Sault Ste. Marie) (COMPLETE)

## Economic Development Alignment with industries exploring potential investment

- Renewable Energy Project Attraction, Green Hydrogen, Mineral Reprocessing, and Green Cement
- 2026 Green Innovation Roadmap

# Green Initiatives Fund Impact

## Urban Forest & Habitat Restoration

- ✓ 775+ trees planted (75 at FH Clergue; 300–500 at Northway; 700 in Little Forests at Eastview and White Pines)
- ✓ 105 red maple seedlings distributed
- ✓ 6,660 m<sup>2</sup> of invasive species managed, 147 x bags of Himalayan Balsam removed
- ✓ 6 x invasive species awareness signs installed
- ✓ 7 x fishing line recycling receptacles installed

## Food Security & Urban Agriculture

- ✓ 6 x hydroponic tower gardens installed at YMCA and École-Notre-Dame-du-Sault
- ✓ 70 x community garden beds restored with new soil
- ✓ 22 x garden beds to be replaced by and for SOYA

## Energy Efficiency & Emissions Reduction

- ✓ \$80,000 invested in City energy audits & retrofit studies
- ✓ 5 x LED retrofit projects completed (ARCH, SSMRCA, Rod and Gun Club, Museum, Greco Pool)
- ✓ 2 EV chargers at City Hall
- ✓ 9 x pieces of electric lawn maintenance equipment deployed in City Fire and Recreation Departments

## Waste Reduction & Environmental Protection

- ✓ 1,500 x reusable bags distributed
- ✓ 2 x Repair Cafés hosted
- ✓ 12 x stormwater pollution awareness catch basin murals
- ✓ 4 x thermal cameras added to SSMPPL Lending Program
- ✓ Floating wetland project launched
- ✓ 2 x shoreline cleanups

5 Years | \$302,565 Invested | 42 Projects Funded

# As expressed in the ESC Correspondence

- Despite good action progress, emissions are not trending downward, and the City is not on track with 2030 targets
- The City's 2023 – 2024 Sustainability Report (reported in 2025):
  - 2022 community emissions have increased 3% from the 2017 baseline
  - 2023 corporate emissions have risen 5% from the 2017 baseline
- Both are projected to rise 14% by the year 2037
- Fossil fuels, specifically gasoline, diesel, and natural gas, are the key drivers

# ESC Recommendations Summary

## Short-Term Priorities (2026 – 2027)

- Refresh Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (5-year update)
- Align municipal spending with emissions targets
- Conduct formal annual sustainability audit
- Require climate impact review in Council reports

## Long-Term Structural Alignment

- Continue to prioritize green development standards
- Create Corporate Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Policy to ensure cross-department accountability and consistent public disclosure
- Develop Sustainable Roads Strategy

*These actions will strengthen emission reduction efforts, position the City competitively with **Canada's Climate Competitiveness Strategy**, and further align economic growth with decarbonization*

# Additional Comments from ESC

## **Governance and Accountability for Net-Zero by 2050**

- Further integrate climate risks into capital planning and land-use decisions
- Use emissions data to guide infrastructure and fleet investment decisions  
*(what gets measured gets managed)*
- Invest in transit and active transportation to save money, reduce emissions, and build a healthier, more equitable community.

## **Green space is climate infrastructure**

- Economic development and sustainability must advance together
- Green spaces can be used for carbon sequestration, flood mitigation and stormwater management, biodiversity protection, climate education and engagement
- Consider ecological and cultural significance in land-use planning (e.g., 30 x 30 and Ecological Corridor Projects)

## **Environmental Health & Indigenous Partnerships**

- Further align sustainability commitments with Two-Row Wampum commitments and Indigenous environmental leadership

# Thank You

## **Environmental Sustainability Committee**

- Corey Gardi, Councillor, City of Sault Ste. Marie
- Donna Hilsinger, Chair
- Mark Britton, Vice Chair, PUC, Electrical Demand Side Management
- André Riopel, Active Transportation Advocate
- Erik Emilson, Research Scientist, Forest Aquatic Ecology, Natural Resources Canada
- Ngaire Roubal, RPF, Professor, Natural Environment, Sault College
- Stevie Luzzi, RPF, Conservation Forester, Wahkohtowin Development
- Tori Prouse Coccimiglio, A/Manager Emerging Technologies Office, Ministry of Transportation
- Trishala Parmar, Environmental Sustainability Professional



**SAULT  
STE. MARIE**

# **Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting**

Tuesday March 3, 2026; 4:00 – 5:30 PM

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



## 7. Staff Update

### 2026 ESC Earth Day Event

- Planned for Wednesday, April 22, 2026
- Keynote Speaker / Panel Event at Sault College
- Partners: PUC, City of SSM, Garden River First Nation, Indigenous Clean Energy Canada, and Sault College
- More information to come via email

# 9. Staff Update

- City EV Fleet – 4 vehicles as of end of February (1 at PW, 2 at City Hall and 1 at Transit)
- 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 12<sup>th</sup>; ETA on completion May 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 corporate emissions (2024) will go to Council first and then be reviewed with ESC in April (WIP)
- John Rhodes Public EV Charger Project (WIP)



## 10. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, April 5, 2026, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
- Regular Meeting – Hybrid (In-person and virtual)



**Thank You. Questions?**