



**Meeting of the  
Environmental Advisory Committee  
March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011, 6:00 p.m.**

**The following were in attendance:**

Council: Barbara Butters  
Yvon Doucet  
Bea Kenny

Staff: Chris Lee  
Janice Peyton

Public Members: Beth Palma

Absent: Curt Benson  
Jack Hellinga  
Chris Ventura  
Paul Ruzycki

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair Bea Kenny called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**2. Approval / Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Beth Palma  
Seconded by Yvon Doucet

That the minutes of January 12, 2011 be accepted as written.  
CARRIED.

**3. Bill 168 Training**

The next scheduled Bill 168 Training is on March 23, 6 p.m. at City Hall and on April 19, at 7 p.m. at the Fire Hall. Members were asked to advise Janice, should they wish to attend one of these training sessions.

**4. 2011 Budget Goals**

Chris Lee advised that there is presently \$6900. in the Environmental Initiatives budget for 2010 of which \$4852 has been earmarked for the toilet and tree planting rebates.

Barbara Butters and Yvon Doucet advised that the 2011 budget for Environmental Initiatives has been deferred until the March 7<sup>th</sup> budget meeting, as Bea Kenny was not in attendance at the last budget meeting.

The committee discussed 2011 budget goals and agreed to request \$6000. for the 2011 Environmental Initiatives budget.

The committee agreed to lobby for setting up a waste disposal site/recycling depot for the ships that transit through the Welland Canal at lock 8. Beth Palma offered to email Regional Councillor David Barrick and EAC member Paul Ruzycki on the issue. The suggestion was made to approach the Mayor to mention this at the Great Lakes Mayor's Conference.

Moved by Yvon Doucet  
Seconded by Beth Palma

That \$1000. of the Environmental Initiatives budget be used for anti-idling signs.  
CARRIED.

Yvon Doucet suggested putting "idle-free zone" signs on the Port Colborne Welcome signs.

The committee discussed LED lighting. Chris Lee advised that he has been approached by a company that would like to provide samples of LED coach lights, which will possibly be considered for the downtown area. Chris also advised that new light signals on Clarence Street will be LED. It was suggested that the City Hall cupola be lit at night from the inside of the building with LED lights. Chris Lee will provide a price for this at a future EAC meeting.

The committee discussed Earth Hour and Earth Day. Beth Palma commented that she would like the Mayor's Youth Group to be involved in promoting Earth Hour (March 26) and that Earth Hour should be promoted at the Council meetings. Beth offered to contact the schools regarding Earth Hour. Janice will search to see if there is an Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>) Flag. More Earth Day discussion will take place at the next meeting.

The committee agreed to look further into Local Food Action, Put Food in the Budget Initiatives, Smart Gardening workshops and Community Food Gardens. Chris Lee will supply a listing of Municipal lands that could possibly be used for community gardens.

It was the consensus of the committee to bring the memo regarding green initiatives to Council on March 14, 2011 to ask that Council support the memo and refer it to the Canal Days Advisory Committee. A copy of the memo is attached to these minutes.

**5. New Business**

Bea Kenny advised that she had received an invitation to participate as a judge for the Spring 2011 grant period of the Earth Day Canada Community Environment Fund that provides Ontario not-for-profits, charities and schools the opportunity to implement environmental projects in local communities. Bea advised that she would accept the invitation on behalf of the EAC committee.

**6. Next Meeting Date, Adjourn**

Moved by Yvon Doucet  
Seconded by Beth Palma

That with no further business to discuss the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 p.m.  
CARRIED.

## EAC memo to Council

During the January meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee, which was the first meeting of the "New Committee" for this term of Council, the committee discussed possible initiatives to be proposed over the next four years.

One of the topics discussed was ways to initiate a "Greener Image" for events sponsored, endorsed or initiated by the City of Port Colborne. One of the first events that could be targeted for this initiative is Canal Days. In the past, an area of the Canal Days venue has had a shortage of electrical power available to vendors, resulting in those vendors supplying their own electrical needs with noisy, polluting, portable generators in the block of West Street between Clarence and Charlotte Streets. This activity is the result of a lack of electrical infrastructure within this block of West Street. To supply cables and electricity to this location in order to eliminate Generator usage would be very costly, and a serious financial burden on the Canal Days budget.

The Environmental Advisory Committee wishes to request that Council consider initiating a policy/program for the City's Canal Days event which would alleviate these circumstances. It is understood by this Committee that vendors have preferred locations and pay dearly to retain those year after year. The Committee also appreciates how difficult it is for the Canal Days Committee to initiate venue changes, as has been attempted in previous years. With this in mind, and in trying to impact the Canal Days budget as little as possible, the Environmental Advisory Committee, (EAC.) wishes to recommend the following:

To lessen the impact of noisy, polluting portable generators, on the image of the City's "Signature Event", the Canal Days Committee be directed to discount the cost of vendor locations, where the City can supply clean, quiet, electrical power, and inversely increase the cost of vendor locations where portable generators are required/used.

The EAC is hopeful that this monetary incentive method will lessen or possibly eliminate the impact of portable generators on the venue. This policy would continue to give the individual vendors their choice of location, however, if the discounts or inversely the penalties for using or not using portable generators are sufficient, the end result should hopefully re-locate the current, heavy electrical users to an area of the venue not requiring the use of their noisy, polluting, portable generators.

It is thought that if this initiative proves successful, and the area of West Street between Clarence and Charlotte be promoted to Vendors / Community Service Groups, etc., that do not require electricity for their setup, a "Greener Image" for the event could be realized.