

INTRODUCTION

The Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC) is an advisory body of Saskatoon residents, consisting of nine members of the general public, one City Councillor and one member of the Saskatoon Health Region. These individuals meet regularly to discuss environmental issues relevant to the City of Saskatoon and to provide information and recommendations to Saskatoon City Council. SEAC was formed in 1973 by City Council, and has been actively pursuing its mandate since that time, with the expertise of a dedicated, diverse, and knowledgeable roster of members.

PURPOSE

Through the Administration and Finance Committee the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee provides City Council with advice on environmental implications of City undertakings. SEAC also identifies environmental issues of potential relevance to the City of Saskatoon.

AIMS and DUTIES

City Council has established that SEAC will:

- ◆ provide to Council advice on environmental implications of City undertakings and identify environmental issues of potential relevance to the City.

SEAC has established that they will:

- ◆ be aware of the resources available to the City of Saskatoon for dealing with environmental problems.
- ◆ prepare and publish an annual report on the activities of the Committee over the past year.
- ◆ encourage liaisons between the City of Saskatoon and environmental agencies serving higher levels of government.



COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee is made up of 11 members, all of whom are appointed and/or nominated by City Council. One member is a City Councillor representing the City. Another member is appointed as a representative of the Saskatoon Health Region, Public Health Services. The remaining nine members are members of the general public.

Members are appointed for two-year terms, which are renewable up to six years. In the event that a member fails to complete his/her term, a replacement may be named to complete that term. New appointments are made by City Council upon resignation of a member and on expiration of the term of public appointments.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS

Members of SEAC should possess:

- ◆ A sound general knowledge of the Saskatoon area and its existing and potential environmental issues; and
- ◆ Expertise in disciplines such as ecology, biology, chemistry, physics, geography, economics, demography, sociology, medicine, aesthetics, toxicology, engineering and conservation.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are held monthly.

Day Second Thursday

Time 11:30 a.m.

(except July, August and December)

All meetings are open to the public. Members of the public wishing to attend a meeting are able to review the agenda prior to the meeting, at any branch of the public library beginning on the Friday prior to the meeting date or on the City's web site at www.saskatoon.ca, select City Clerk's Office under Departments, Boards and Committees, and Agendas.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW - 2007

Appointments and Reappointments for 2007;

Mr. Lawrence Pinter was re-appointed Chair for 2007

Mr. Darcy Meyers was appointed Vice-Chair for 2007

Re-appointed committee members were Drs. Judit Smits and Tom Wolf, Ms. Marie-Ann Bowden, Ms. Barbara Hanbidge, Ms. Erika Ritchie, Ms. Patricia Hanbidge, Mr. Dwayne Djkwich and Ms. Dani Xu was appointed.

Mr. Mark Warbanski resigned from SEAC after moving out of Saskatoon city limits.

Administrative support came from Mr. Murray Totland, General Manager, Utility Services Department and Ms. Sheri Praski, Environmental Services Branch Manager and from Councillor Tiffany Paulsen.

Focus of SEAC for 2007:

Because of the growing complexity of environmental issues that are being dealt with by the City, during the October 2006 SEAC meeting, members felt that it would be valuable to attend a City Council meeting to highlight the Committee's activities, and to remind Council that the Committee looks forward to dealing with referrals involving environmental topics, since SEAC consists of a membership well equipped to do so. This was postponed until January 2007, to avoid overlapping with the municipal elections held in late October 2006.

Focus priorities

- 1) Saskatoon Wetland Policy
- 2) Energy and Transportation
- 2a) SEAC Poster and Essay Contest
- 3) Partner with Saskatchewan Environmental Society on a Pesticide Reduction Education Program
- 4) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Building Standards
- 5) Dark Sky Compliant Lighting Policy
- 6) Other - Annual Report, Inquiries and Referrals from Councillors, Referrals from Council or Committees, Updates from Administration, Participation by SEAC members in related events, additional Task Groups.

1) Saskatoon Wetland Policy

By way of background information, the Water Conservation Task Group was established in January 2005. Four members of SEAC volunteered to spearhead this initiative and their focus was the potential need for a Saskatoon Wetlands Policy. Together with valuable input from a group of law students from the University of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Environmental Association of Law Student (SEALS) / ProBono group, they referred the paper on a Wetland Policy proposal to the General Manager, Community Services Department for comment. The final report was submitted to the Planning and Operations Committee and later to Saskatoon City Council. On December 18th 2006 City Council resolved that a multi stakeholder committee be struck to oversee the development of a new formal Wetlands Policy in the City of Saskatoon Development Plan Bylaw No 7799, with funding for this work being authorized and a progress report being presented to City Council in June 2006.

In late 2006, a draft Request for Proposals for the Wetlands Policy Study was drawn up by members of the City's Planning Department. The RFP has gone through revisions based on the feedback from the steering committee. In communications from Laura Hartney, Manager, Future Growth, City Planning Branch, this initiative is a capital project and it has approved funding of \$75,000 from the planning levy, which would not be lost when the City moved into the next fiscal year.

SEAC is looking forward to an update on the Wetlands Policy development from City of Saskatoon Administration, after which the RFP goes out for public tender so it can be incorporated into the city's development plans.

2) Energy and Transportation

Darcy Meyers, Lawrence Pinter, Dani Xu and Patricia Hanbidge were appointed to the Energy & Transportation Task Group to develop a report with recommendations regarding the Committee's 2007 Focus, and other energy issues (see page 12).

2a) SEAC Poster and Essay Contest

The intention of the contest was to raise awareness, through art and literature, of how the residents of Saskatoon can change their energy and transportation practices to reduce the effects on the local and global environment. Contestants could express themselves through poems, stories, or essays of a maximum length of 1000 words, or two-dimensional drawings or paintings to a maximum size of 24 inches x 36 inches.

The 2007 Art and Literary Contest with the theme “Energy and Transportation” was open to pupils in grades 6 to 8. The literary contest winners were Justin Wood - “Energy and Transportation, Shelley Solomka - “My Name is Earth”, and Candace Almightyvoice – “Emma the Alien”, and the art contest winners were Monica Streburg -“Why Drive?”, Zane Maze -“Walk Not Waste” and Kasia Neil – “Global Warming Math”.

The framed, winning posters and essays had engraved captions installed and were donated to the sponsoring stores in the city.

To expand the impact and benefit of the Poster & Essay contest in 2008, in late 2007, SEAC, through the Environmental Services Branch, sent out a Request for Proposals to undertake organization and delivery of the Poster Contest.

3) Pesticide Task Group

This subcommittee has partnered with the Saskatchewan Environmental Society and Administration to establish budgetary requirements for a community-based marketing program for Pesticide Education. This group had reduced activities during 2007, but will be re-activated once it is needed.

4) LEED Building Standards

Marie-Ann Bowden, Patricia Hanbidge, Barb Hanbidge and Anna Ringstrom are involved in this task group.

5) Dark Sky Compliant Lighting Policy

Barbara Hanbidge, has prepared a report (see page 13), regarding this policy’s progress.

6) Other Areas of Consideration / Review:

Annual Report, Inquiries and Referrals from Councillors, Referrals from Council or Committees, Updates from Administration, Participation by SEAC members in related events and additional Task Groups.

Summary of SEAC Focus Topics for 2007:

Note: Reports and Recommendations submitted to City Council, plus additional events in which SEAC members participated are presented only in the sections following the monthly synopsis.

January 2007

Guest presentation by Mr. Richard Huziak, Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee, on behalf of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, discussing the impact of light pollution on our communities, and on light conservation. Impacts on wild migratory birds and bats are also profound. He pointed out other Canadian cities that have implemented programs to deal with light pollution.

Environmental Services Branch report presented by Environmental Programs Manager, Kelly Emke covered 1) Saskatoon's Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan, which was supported by a public forum by Road Map 2020 on reducing emissions.; 2) Saskatoon Waste & Recycling Plan – inviting public participation on strategies and actions to be included in the plan; 3) Compact Fluorescent Light Giveaway.

February 2007

Ms. Erika Ritchie resigned from SEAC after 5 years of valuable input, following her 2001 Master's thesis in Engineering which became SEAC's State of the Environment Report, as well as her work with the Pesticide Reduction and Energy and Transportation subcommittees.

SEAC sponsored \$1000 for the Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) towards their continued efforts on the Pesticide Reduction Program.

March 2007

Chair Lawrence Pinter was sponsored and authorized by SEAC to attend the Spring '07 Waste Minimization Forum of the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council in Moose Jaw, March 22nd- 23rd.

Dr. Tom Wolf addressed City Council on March 12, 2007, regarding the interests, priorities and expertise of SEAC, and encouraged referrals from the City to the Committee on relevant issues.

Marie-Ann Bowden and Dani Xu were appointed to represent the Committee on the Wetlands Policy Multi-stakeholder Committee established by the Community Services Department.

Patricia Hanbidge and Dani Xu joined Lawrence Pinter and Darcy Meyers in the Energy & Transportation Task group of SEAC, with Light Pollution specifically being the priority focus for 2007.

April 2007

Report from Sheri Praski, Manager, Environmental Services Branch included the following, some of which have been communicated as Press Releases or Public Service Announcements;

- continuation of the household leaves & grass collection program
- success of the household hazardous waste collection
- 5 open houses to obtain public input on waste & recycling to guide the City's Plan for the next 20 years.
- Energy and Green House Gases Master Plan with the City working with Road Map 2020 towards lowering emissions and energy use
- South-east Swale and Water Management System with input from Ducks Unlimited and Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation for establishing water management strategies that will provide functioning wetlands and waterfowl habitat.
- City of Saskatoon in partnership with Sask Power sponsored a fluorescent light bulb give-away at Home Depot on March 24th.
- because of educational efforts largely from the SES working with schools, the anti-idling policy being considered by Council, has resulted in reduced idling up to 50% in some areas.

June 2007

Mr. Brennan Wiens, Environmental Operations Manager, Utility Services Department presented on the Waste & Recycling Plan, circulated pamphlets, and discussion followed regarding comparisons with other Canadian cities and the costs of not undertaking this issue seriously.

Winners of the Literary and Poster contest were announced, prizes given out, and it was noted five of the six winners were from Unity, Saskatchewan.

SEAC forwarded a recommendation to Administration and Finance Committee that Tom Wolf, who assumed the role of interim Chair after Lawrence Pinter resigned, be appointed to the new Board of Directors of Road Map 2020 for 1 year, effective June 12, 2007. This Board will also have one representative from each of SES, Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA), and City of Saskatoon.

September 2007

SEAC received the results from the SES Household Pesticide Usage survey which was carried out in Caswell Hill in autumn of 2006 and in Silverwood Heights in spring 2007. The majority of those surveyed (77.8% vs 12.8%) said they would consider not using pesticides for the growing season if information and support were provided regarding creation and maintenance of a pesticide-free yard and garden. 67% of those surveyed somewhat and strongly agreed they would support a City bylaw reducing the cosmetic use of pesticides. 81% felt that pesticides damage the environment, while 88% felt pesticides can pollute the water supply.

SEAC sent a letter to City Council supporting recommendations on Dark-Sky Preservation submitted to City Council by Mr. Richard Huziak, Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee, and requested a further review of lighting plans for Stonebridge which do not include these recommendations. We also noted that this lighting philosophy and recommendations do not apply to those installed by SaskPower.

Ms. Ellen Quigley addressed SEAC on behalf of “We Are Many Festival”(WAM), a large arts and environmental festival and symposium to be held in Saskatoon in August 2008. The group wants all those who sign up to make the personal commitment to replace all their household light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, and to donate their savings on energy costs from this action, to regions that lack basic resources.

SEAC recognized an overlapping interest and felt that the WAM organizers may be interested in becoming involved with our “Energy and Transportation” theme promoted through the Essay & Poster contest.

October 2007

Lawrence Pinter announced the completion of his 6-year term with SEAC, ending his position on the committee with thoughtful and appreciative words and observations about the accomplishments, contributions and expertise within the group, and encouraged the Committee to continue stressing i) sustainability and ii) realistic means of reducing our environmental footprint without relinquishing living standards, to enhance the likelihood of success.

Judit Smits drafted an RFP regarding the Committee’s Essay & Poster contest for submission to the Environmental Services Branch for processing, following the approval of \$1,300 for this contract. Results and follow-up to the 2007 contest are presented earlier in this report.

The Environmental Programs Manager Ken Johnson reported City Council’s unanimous support of the Waste & Recycling Plan, with the development of an implementation strategy being the next step.

SEAC was pleased to learn that at its meeting held on September 17, 2007 City Council adopted flat lens street lighting fixtures as the standard for all future residential street lighting installations. The Committee supported the release of \$100,000 to incorporate LEED Standards in the Mendel Art Gallery renovation and expansion project.

Sustainable development in the context of the growth of the City is a major focus of the Committee’s under its 2008 Goals and Objectives.

December 2007

Greenhouse Gas Management Plan was unanimously adopted by City Council at the December 3rd meeting.

Referrals from Council

The Comprehensive Bicycle Plan was considered by City Council at its meeting held on October 22, 2007. City Council resolved that the report be received as information and forwarded to the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee for information, which was followed through by Tom Wolf detailed below.

Regarding Opposition to the Made in Canada Clean Air Act Environment “Plan”, the Assistant City Clerk submitted a copy of a letter dated November 9, 2006 from Lynne Yelich, Member of Parliament (Blackstrap) forwarding a letter dated October 25, 2006 from Richard Huziak to the Minister of Environment regarding environmental matters, which was referred to SEAC Committee for further handling. This prompted Mr. Huziak’s presentation to SEAC during the January 2007 meeting.

Referrals from Committees

Reports / Recommendations submitted to City Council

- ◆ SEAC 2006 Annual Report - June 2007
- ◆ Mattress Recycling – referred to Administration to address under Saskatoon Waste and Recycling Plan, however there has been minimal progress in 2007.
- ◆ Tom Wolf addressed City Council on March 12, 2007, regarding the interests, priorities and expertise of SEAC, and encouraged referrals to the Committee from City Council on relevant issues.
- ◆ Lawrence Pinter spoke to City Council in support of the Comprehensive Waste and Recycling Plan on November 5, 2007.
- ◆ Tom Wolf spoke to City Council on December 3rd in support of the Green House Gas Management Plan. On December 10th he spoke to the Capital Budget Committee in support of implementing the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan.

Summary of Projects, which received support from SEAC in 2007:

- a) Pesticide Reduction Program, Saskatchewan Environmental Society – SEAC provided funding for this program and there was participation by Committee members.
- b) Road Map 2020 – SEAC continued to both support Road Map, and has a member appointed to the Board of Road Map 2020 for a 1 year term
- c) Participation in the Advisory Group for the new Saskatoon Waste and Recycling Plan
- d) SEAC Poster & Essay Contest – SEAC members organized the contest, solicited sponsorship funding and provided initial funding to the project.

Additional events in which SEAC members participated:

Lawrence Pinter - Waste Minimization Forum of the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council in Moose Jaw

Tom Wolf - Natural Step Training Session linked with Road Map 2020, September 26th in Saskatoon

Tom Wolf - Road Map 2020 Annual Forum on February 21 at TCU Place

Updates and Presentations from City Administration:

Throughout the year, an important component of each Committee meeting was the update from the City Administration representative in attendance. Ms. Sheri Praski, Manager, Environmental Services Branch, Utility Services Department and Ms. Kelly Emke / Ken Johnson, Manager, Environmental Programs, Utility Services Department made summary presentations throughout the year. The presentations updated SEAC with information on initiatives being undertaken by this Branch of the Utility Services Department. Details of all reports may be found in the SEAC meeting minutes on the City of Saskatoon website.

Following are from 2007:

February 1, 2007

SEAC, State of the Environment Report

Energy and Transportation Task Group Report

For consideration of the committee:

The task group met and discussed how to move forward with the State of the Environment Report and recommendations that may come from the report. The task group determined that development of specific recommendations or policies based solely on the report at this time is not practical. Instead the task group decided to create a general wish list of initiatives regarding Energy and Transportation that could be put forward for consideration. These initiatives range from those relatively easy to implement to those requiring significant development to implement. Some of these initiatives may or may not already be underway by the City.

The task group would like to put these initiatives to the committee for feedback and suggestions. Once the committee can agree upon a list of initiatives, the committee can put those recommended initiatives forward to the City for their consideration.

SEAC indicated that it could provide input or guidance in development of any recommendations that the City may consider.

Initial list of initiatives for the committee to consider:

1. Dark Sky Policy
2. Anti-idle Policy
3. Low-energy light incentives
4. Special consideration for energy efficient vehicles/ Green Parking
5. More extensive bike path development
6. Geothermal systems for schools, university and other appropriate land uses
7. Wind turbines, as a project, or where they may be appropriate
8. Harness energy from the weir
9. Solar arrays, as a project, incentives for home usage, or other appropriate uses
10. Hybrid/Natural gas - fleet vehicles for the City
11. Incentives to developers who incorporate energy efficiency in new developments
12. Ranking of buildings for energy efficiency & quality of materials to be made available to prospective purchasers of properties

Sincerely,

Darcy Meyers, Energy and Transportation Task Group

Dark Sky Compliant Lighting Policy

In January 2007 Mr. Richard Huziak from the Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee made a presentation to SEAC. This presentation included information on why light that shines where it is not needed or wanted is a type of pollution, how light pollution reduction can occur and the benefits of responsible lighting practices. The matter of “Dark Sky” compliant lighting (flat lens fixtures) was again raised at the April 12, 2007 SEAC meeting and also at meetings of the City of Saskatoon Budget Committee in April. Council resolved, in part: “that the issue of dark-sky compliant lighting in new neighbourhoods be referred to the Administration for a report to the appropriate standing committee.”

The A/General Manager, Utility Services Department indicated at this time that the Department would prepare a report on flat lens light fixtures installed in Hampton Village and City Council would then have the opportunity to instruct the Department regarding adoption of the flat lens fixture as the standard street light fixture. A subsequent verbal report to SEAC on June 14, 2007, by Councillor Tiffany Paulsen, indicated that Mr. H. Hildebrant, Manager, Saskatoon Light and Power, would prepare a report for submission to the Administration and Finance Committee. SEAC expressed interest in seeing this report and this item was placed on the agenda of the September SEAC meeting.

The report produced by the Utility Services Department received the support of the Administration and Finance Committee and SEAC. Saskatoon City Council adopted the recommendations in the report at its meeting held on September 17, 2007.

At the November 2007 SEAC meeting the subject of whether Dark Sky Lighting should be explored for all of Saskatoon was raised in a discussion regarding SEAC Objectives for 2008.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Hanbidge

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee wishes to express gratitude to all those who have helped us in 2007. First and foremost, the expertise, advice and excellent secretarial services provided by Marlene Hall, Assistant City Clerk was greatly appreciated. Ms. Hall's cheerful, competent and professional attitude was integral to the success of this Committee during the year.

SEAC would also like to commend the Saskatoon Environmental Services Branch for the work they are doing for the citizens of Saskatoon. Many of the questions and referrals that could or would have been sent to the volunteers who serve on SEAC, have been handled completely or in part by members of this Branch. This has allowed SEAC to focus on other issues and aspects of environmental relevance to the City of Saskatoon. This collaborative working relationship has resulted in positive environmental decisions that will provide long-term benefits for the people in Saskatoon and in the rest of the province.

In 2007 the following individuals provided reports, information, and other forms of assistance:

Councillor Tiffany Paulsen	Representative of Saskatoon City Council who participated in Committee Meetings.
General Manager, Utility Services Department	Representative of the City Administration who attended Committee Meetings and provided updates regarding the Department's activities throughout the year.
Ms. Sheri Praski – Utility Services Environmental Services Branch Manager	Representative of the City Administration who attended Committee Meetings and provided updates regarding the Department's activities throughout the year.
Ms. Kelly Emke & Mr. Ken Johnson– Utility Services Environmental Programs Manager	Representative of the City Administration who attended Committee Meetings and provided updates regarding the Department's activities.

Mr. Richard Huziak, Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee

Representing The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada presented issues and solutions regarding light pollution January 16, 2007.

Ms. Allyson Brady and Mr. Ross Nicholson

Representatives from the Saskatchewan Environmental Society provided an update on the Pesticide Reduction Education Program.

MEMBERSHIP of SEAC for 2007

Mr. Lawrence Pinter, Chair

Mr. Pinter is an environmental and geotechnical engineer with over 25 years of experience in consulting and construction. He is also a certified safety auditor and provides services in safety programs and training. His expertise includes identifying impacts from contaminants, carrying out site remediation, site assessments and indoor air quality analysis.

Mr. Darcy Meyers, Vice-chair

Mr. Meyers is a Product Development Chemist at Fytokem Products Inc. with an interest in environmental issues in our community.

Dr. Judit Smits

Dr. Smits is a professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathology, with a cross appointment at the Toxicology Centre, University of Saskatchewan. Her research involves environmental toxicology, wildlife and domestic animal health & toxicology.

Ms. Marie-Ann Bowden

Ms. Bowden is a Professor of Environmental Law at the College of Law, University of Saskatchewan.

Ms. Barbara Hanbidge

Ms. Hanbidge is a biologist and education specialist with Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Dr. Tom Wolf

Dr. Wolf is a research scientist at Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada specializing in application technology and environmental fate of pesticides.

Mr. Dwayne Djkowich

Mr. Djkowich is the Supervisor of Safe Communities, with Public Health Services Saskatoon Health Region.

Ms. Patricia Anne Hanbidge

Ms. Hanbidge is a Horticulturist with special interests in environmental issues. She also imports and distributes biological controls with Green Schemes and Scapes.

Ms. Dani Xu

Ms. Xu is a Ph.D candidate in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Saskatchewan. She has broad research interests in the interdisciplinary fields of environmental chemistry as well pesticide science.

Councillor T. Paulsen

Councillor Paulsen represents Ward 9 and is City Council's representative on the Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter of Support to Budget Committee dated November 16, 2002 as well as an update report on the status of the Comprehensive Bicycle Network Plan.
2. Report dated November 16, 2007 – LEED Standards for all new Civic Buildings, was referred by Administration and Finance Committee to Administration for a report.
3. Letter dated September 14, 2007 in support of Dark Sky Compliant Lighting in new neighbourhoods.