# Name of Committee: Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee (ESCAC)

**Meeting Date**: **January 10, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**

A meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Community Advisory Committee convened on January 10, 2024from 6:30 p.m. to 8:03 p.m. via Zoom Video Conferencing, with Trustee Manna Wong and Community Co-Chair Anne Keary presiding.

## Attendance via Zoom:

Manna Wong (Trustee, Ward 20), Anne Keary (Community Co-Chair), Sarah Buchanan (Toronto Environmental Alliance), Matias de Dovitiis (Trustee, Ward 4), Mieke Foster (Community Member), Michael Green (Seniors for Climate Action Now), Sunday Harrison (Green Thumbs Growing Kids), Hilary Inwood (OISE), Dan Maclean (Trustee, Ward 2), Linda Naccarato (Community Member), Bob Spencer (Community Member), Sarah Urquhart (OISE).

Also present were: Richard Christie (TDSB), Kelly Crosthwaite (TDSB), Kristen Evers (TDSB), Pam Miller (TDSB), David Hawker-Budlovsky (TDSB), Nancy Gillis (TDSB), Jenn Vetter (TDSB), Mary Kokinakis (TDSB), Marion Shanks (TDSB), Erin Wood (TDSB).

## Regrets: None received.

| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS** |
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| Call to Order / Quorum | * Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.
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| Land Acknowledgment | * The meeting began with a Land Acknowledgement
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| Introductions | * Co-Chairs Anne Keary and Manna Wong and Participants.
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| Approval of November 7, 2023 minutes | * Minutes approved, without comments.
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| [2023 Annual Climate Action Report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wZMosq2D27KlDD6y7-EHgpBw6hvBPinm/view?usp=drive_link)  | * Richard Christie, Senior Manager, Sustainability, provided an [overview](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JotZX3qysUpe2wzawg6zNV9z8uusP3U_/view?usp=drive_link) of 53 actions in the Climate Action Report, 2023, which was received by the Board of Trustees on Dec 6, 2023.
* Attention was drawn to three main areas in this year’s report:

○ Education as an effective mitigation technique; ○ Putting our house/buildings in order (TDSB’s carbon footprint was examined: solar PV installation rollouts, continuous GHG emission reductions and lowering of utility costs); ○ Preparing for hotter weather and more intense rainfalls). * [Recent achievements](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tSMzih_jwuxvIwmM_2dAR5ay1y53APy0/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106929030159265939759&rtpof=true&sd=true) were shared. Amongst these: approval for the first mass timber school and a pilot in Learning Networks (LN) 3 & 4 that saw 900,000 kWh and $142K in savings in 6 months.
* Alarming climate crisis data was presented alongside the call for urgency for action from TDSB and beyond. TDSB’s energy goals and targets were shared and include plans to: expand LN 3 & 4 pilot to Learning Centre (LC) 1; expand electric vehicle (EV) programs; accelerate cost/energy savings through Enbridge’s Pay for Performance (P4P) Program (targeting eight schools), develop LED lighting standards for future projects; reduce costs and GhG emissions via deep energy retrofits; roll out hybrid rooftop air handling units as well as more battery operated lawn and garden equipment; improve tree planting efficacy and the introduction of a new waste management position.
* At its November 22, 2023, meeting, the Planning and Priorities Committee recommended:

“That the Director include in the 2024 annual climate action report, a plan for reducing the Board’s building-related energy consumption by 20 percent, including timelines and resources”* ESCAC members were encouraged to think ahead to the next Climate Action Report and consider what should be included in future reports.
* Participants were given the opportunity to ask questions about the Climate Action Annual Report, 2023 report.
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| [Food Gardens Presentation](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bYexIi779GgpqzVbMwBt7XMzwCXesUGZ/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106929030159265939759&rtpof=true&sd=true) | * Sunday Harrison, Founder & Executive Director, Green Thumbs Growing Kids, shared programming opportunities available to TDSB schools and how students practice positive action for climate change.
* Programs offered by Green Thumbs Growing Kids have some flexibility in terms of the recommended ages outlined, beyond curriculum requirements and as interest warrants.
* The significance and importance of tree nursery projects at TDSB schools as well as the benefits of school gardens were shared. Advocacy and champions are continuously needed for steps towards incorporation into school policy.
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| Member Updates / Announcements | * TDSB staff will work with City of Toronto to discuss ways to strengthen communication about TransformTO.
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| **Adjournment** | * Meeting ended at 8:03 p.m.
* Next meeting, February 6, 2024
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