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

**Meeting Date**: **April 2, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**

A meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Community Advisory Committee convened on April 2, 2024 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 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), Mieke Foster (Community Member), Michael Green (Seniors for Climate Action Now), Linda Naccarato (Community Member), Sarah Urquhart (OISE), Sunday Harrison (Green Thumbs Growing Kids) Mahnaz- Mirkhond-Chegini (TDSB), Andrea Stephens (Parent), Minaz Azari (Parent), Hyatt Awisse (Royal Roads University).

Also present: Richard Christie (TDSB), Kristen Evers (TDSB), Pam Miller (TDSB), David Hawker-Budlovsky (TDSB), Nancy Gillis (TDSB), Mary Kokinakis (TDSB), Maurice Buonastella (TDSB), Jenn Vetter (TDSB).

## Regrets: Hilary Inwood, Bob Spencer

| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Call to Order / Quorum | * Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.
 |  |
| Land Acknowledgment | * The meeting began with a Land Acknowledgement
 |  |
| Introductions | * Co-Chairs Anne Keary and Manna Wong and Participants.
 |  |
| Approval of February 6, 2024 minutes | * Minutes approved, without comments.
 |  |
| 2023 Climate Action Plan Updates  | Pam Miller, TDSB Staff, provided updates on several Action Items from the 2023 Climate Action Report, sharing event/program highlights (past/future events) as well as participation records for past events. * **Update on Action 40 -** [**LINK**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LWgz9zANDO0IFEhr7Zw_EZQJwrTQH8Cs/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106929030159265939759&rtpof=true&sd=true) **-** (Support students to take climate action through the City of Toronto Youth Climate Action Grant Program); in this update, it was shared that there were 18 approved grant applications and six conditional.
* **Update on Action 41 -** [**LINK**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ZqvA_-G4Pr0NYcc199MY38eenjKAZ43b/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106929030159265939759&rtpof=true&sd=true) **-** (TDSB Youth Leadership Conference); Details of the secondary and middle school events were shared.
* **Update on Action 42 -** [**LINK**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1BVm8fwFUoRy7eIRya_byJ0qQclGFpg65/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106929030159265939759&rtpof=true&sd=true) **-** (Continue to deliver EcoSchools Kickoff workshops for teachers);
* **Update on Action 43 -** [**LINK**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pd_PokPKZnfdyBMsy5UefWzxupfeGoU_/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106929030159265939759&rtpof=true&sd=true) **-** (Continue to offer professional learning opportunities in environmental and sustainability education for TDSB educators in collaboration with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto OISE/UT).

For both Action 42 and 43, it was clear there are multiple entry points for teachers to get involved at the level suitable to them. Some time was spent discussing the emotional consideration that is given in every involvement opportunity and the structures in place to address emotions around the environment. * **Update on Action 44 -** [**LINK**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pYBFXxCQP_eM5so2VOwFdGbq_UE5RVy7/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106929030159265939759&rtpof=true&sd=true) **-** (Support urban-centre based food literacy climate action for youth).
* **Update on Action 45 -** [**LINK**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19JBDv7EZzhBOc7PgtpDP0tLEWuFhWK4g/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106929030159265939759&rtpof=true&sd=true) **-** (Connect schools to newly planted trees on their grounds). There was interest in the school selection process and the demographics info for participating schools. Some general discussion took place around creating awareness/marketing for the Youth Climate Action grants ; teacher capacity and more support for eco initiatives.

Kristen Evers, TDSB Staff, provided an update on [**Action 25** - **LINK**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15FirvrrQDx2tOmeYo2BXxjk-beeO68N8/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106929030159265939759&rtpof=true&sd=true) - (Feasibility Study: Installing EV charging stations for staff use during the day and public use after hours). While we are in the early stages of planning for the Feasibility Study, preliminary plan info was shared as well as the funding model and some questions answered around complexities/challenges and concerns. Overall, there was excitement expressed for the work that’s ahead, albeit a very long road before benefits will appear.  |  |
| Energy Conservation Demand Management (ECDM) 5 Year Plan | Richard Christie provided an [**update on Action 1** - **LINK**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1d9alL5E8zt4EPYXNW3zJE93GhjAj7vHJ/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106929030159265939759&rtpof=true&sd=true) - (Reduce LC1 Energy Consumption by 10%). Richard shared the direction from the Board of Trustees to reduce the Board’s building related energy consumption by 20%. Through a data driven approach, preliminary results and savings have been extremely encouraging. He presented month over month energy savings information. Building Automation Systems were credited as a major contributing factor to energy savings as well as the introduction of better communication with caretakers. Challenges ahead such as shaking up the status quo and new ways of working/ behavioral change identifying where to spend resources were shared. Richard also provided an update on the Energy Conservation Demand Management (ECDM) 5 Year Plan that will need to be submitted to the provincial government. [Up to date energy data consumption info](https://tdsbweb.tdsb.on.ca/fsweb/Energy) that is available to the TDSB website by school was very well received by the group. Excitement was expressed for the trickling down of information down to the classroom level. Interest expressed in the electricity consumption vs solar panel link. The issue of weather adjusting in the data was addressed.  |  |
| Upcoming CAC Review  | Kristen Evers shared the new review process requirements for Community Advisory Committees. [**LINK**](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1lAfuKFnXx4zswf7RFwN1FKXMp9AmgbK1/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=106929030159265939759&rtpof=true&sd=true) |  |
| Member Updates/Announcements | Sunday Harrison shared information about a new joint OISE/ECCC public awareness climate education campaign with great resources for teachers: <https://www.eeon.org/earth-and-climate-education-month>. Ultimate goal is curriculum reform with climate integrated into curriculum at age-appropriate levels. |  |
| **Adjournment** | * Meeting ended at 8:02 p.m.
* Next meeting: May 7, 2024
 |  |