



**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MANDATE & OBJECTIVES**
(adopted 2010-SEP-20)

Preamble

As the community continues to grow and change, it is most critical that decisions concerning environmental issues reflect the values, aspirations and priorities of the community while working to maintain the quality and beauty of the natural environment for future generations to enjoy.

The World Commission on Environment and Development (The Bruntland Commission) defined sustainability as “Development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. In providing a broader community perspective to council on long range environmental policy and other mandated sustainability matters, the Committee will follow the Bruntland definition of sustainability, as stated in the OCP, and the use the following as guidance:

“Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable- to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The concept of sustainable development does imply limits—not absolute limits but limitations imposed by the present state of technology and social organization on environmental resources and by the ability of the biosphere to absorb the effects of human activity.”*

* [source: *The World Commission on Environment and Development [the Bruntland Commission]. Our Common Future. 1987. p. 8]*

Mandate

The Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability works to ensure a healthy environment now and in the future by advising Council on environmental sustainability issues in Nanaimo.

The Committee acts as an advisory body to Council and will advise on the initiation or development of programs that create or enhance sustainable practices within our community. This will include examining the impacts of existing policies and practices regarding land use and development on our natural environment.

The Committee will provide input on policy that will be part of the Sustainability Action Plan. To this end, the Committee will collaborate with staff and advisory bodies that deal with social, land use and economic matters for the City.

Except as specifically referred by Council, the Committee will not review site-specific development proposals.

Objectives

The objectives of the Committee are:

- To make recommendations to Council on matters within the Committee mandate or as referred by City Council that reflect and articulate the community's concerns, in all their diversity; to bring to Council's attention the need for specific policies to deal with matters of importance to the community's environmental sustainability;
- to identify and prioritize key environmental sustainability policy issues for Council's attention;
- to make recommendations to Council in relation to the appropriateness of existing policies, bylaws, procedures and practices to meet environmental sustainability objectives;
- to participate in efforts to meet the City's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, as defined in the Official Community Plan;
- to provide advice to Council on actions which can be taken to improve the state of the City's environmental well-being and livability; and
- To advise on community-related sustainability issues at Council's request.

Meetings

In order to achieve these objectives, the Committee would meet :

- Monthly or at the call of the Chair to review and make recommendations to Council on issues within the Committee's mandate;
- In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings, members may be requested to participate with Staff and Council on specific task forces or project sub-committees.

Membership

The Committee has the mandate to advise and make recommendations to Council in setting priorities amid competing objectives respecting environmental and community sustainability. In order for the Committee to achieve this goal, its membership should reflect the diversity of opinion within the community on the issue of environmental sustainability.

This Committee membership attempts to achieve a balanced cross-section of our community and will be comprised of:

- one member of Council;
- two representatives from environmental NGOs;
- one representative from the business sector;
- one representative of local schools;
- one representative from Vancouver Island University;
- one representative from the Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN); and
- four members, appointed from the community-at-large; including at least two with expertise and interest in energy conservation, water conservation or waste reduction.

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In addition to the regular membership of the committee, 'resource persons' from key agencies, including the Regional District of Nanaimo, Provincial Ministry of Environment (MOE), Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), related to the committee mandate may be called on an as-needed basis to attend meetings from time to time.

See also:

- Terms of Reference for Advisory Committees
- Council Procedures Bylaw

Revised August, 2010



ADVISORY COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE

(adopted 2010-JAN-25)

The following Terms of Reference apply to all Advisory Committees of the City of Nanaimo unless otherwise noted.

Appointment and Term

The member(s) of Council will be appointed annually by motion of Council.

Other members will be appointed for a three-year term commencing April 1st in the year following a general local government election (*does not apply to PNAC*). At-large members will be appointed by Council. Council will ratify appointments of members recommended by their specific associations.

Members of the Committee will serve without remuneration.

Chair

The Committee will elect the Chair annually at the first meeting following April 1st from amongst its members.

Meeting Procedures

All points of procedure not specifically provided for in these Terms of Reference shall be decided and determined in accordance with the current Council Procedure Bylaw.

Except where the provisions of the *Community Charter* apply, all Committee meetings shall be open to the public. Where the Committee wishes to close a meeting to the public, it may do so by adopting a resolution in accordance with the *Community Charter*.

The order of business is to be as set out in an agenda package to be provided to Committee members in advance of the meeting date. All decisions of the Committee will be reached by consensus or a majority vote of the members present.

Minutes of the meeting will be adopted by the Committee at its next regular meeting. After adoption, minutes will be circulated to Council for their information. Originals of the minutes will be signed by the Chair of the Committee and forwarded to the Legislative Services Department for safe keeping.

Reporting to Council

The Committee may report to Council on any issue within its mandate or other issues as requested by Council.

The Committee Chair will present recommendations of the Committee to Council for their consideration.

Budget

The annual budget of the responsible department will include funds for the operation of the Committee.

Staff Support

Staff support will be determined by the City Manager or his/her designate. Typical support functions include the following:

- Organizing and preparing the agenda, in conjunction with the Committee Chair;
- Distributing the agenda packages to Committee members;
- Taking and preparing draft minutes;
- Managing the files of the Committee, as necessary;
- Maintaining a list of outstanding issues for Committee action;
- In conjunction with the Chair, drafting Committee reports to Council;
- Provide professional advice on issues discussed by the Committee;
- Other duties as authorized by the City Manager or his/her designate

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (ACES)

Chair: Rotating

Staff Liaison: Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner – (250) 755 4483 Ext: 4286, rob.lawrance@nanaimo.ca

Councillor Diane Brennan (Council Rep)
Mr. James Redford (At-Large)
Ms. Meg (Kathleen) Savory (At-Large)
Mr. Michael Schellinck (At-Large)
Ms. Joan Wagner (At-Large)
Mr. Charles Thirkill (Environment Community Rep)
Ms. Anne Kerr (Environment Community Rep)
Mr. Wally Wells (Business Sector Rep)
Ms. Shelley Serebrin (Education Sector Rep)
Vacant (Vancouver Island University Rep)
Vacant (Snuneymuxw First Nations Rep)