



## MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes**  
**Ontario Room, Civic Centre**  
**February 18, 2016**

### **ATTENDANCE**

<u>Members</u> Diane Ross, Chair Karl Lyew, Immediate Past Chair Mark Angelini Kevin Boon Jocelyn Cheung Allan Lee Chuan Li Fanny Luk Adam Poon Carrie Sally Ashok Bangia Amol Rao	<u>Regrets</u> Phil Ling, Vice Chair Vikas Gautam Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Regional Councillor Joe Li
<u>Council</u> None	
<u>Guest</u> Ron Groves, Manager, Education and Outreach, Plug N' Drive	
<u>Staff</u> Jennifer Wong, Sustainability Services Coordinator Laura Gold, Committee Coordinator	

The Environmental Advisory Committee convened at 7:05 pm with Karl Lyew presiding as Chair. Diane Ross assumed the role of the Chair at approximately 7:45 pm.

#### **1. Presentation on Plug N'Drive**

Ron Groves, Manager, Education and Outreach, Plug N' Drive provided a presentation on the electric car. A video created for the Auto Show by Plug N' Drive was displayed to the Committee. The video was created as an innovative way to educate the public on the electric car.

The Committee asked the following questions regarding the electric car:

***Would it over power our electric system if a large number of people started driving electric cars?***

No, because most people would be charging their electric cars overnight when there is a surplus of electricity.

***How do we get people to drive less?***

People can be encouraged to drive less by:

- Building more walkable communities
- Building rapid transit
- Promoting and providing incentives to carpool
- Building cycling networks

***How can government help encourage people to buy electric cars?***

Some ways government can help encourage residents to buy electronic cars include:

- Requiring in the *Building Code* that new residential and commercial developments have a charging station
- Install smart chargers on government infrastructure and set the price based on the time of the day
- Offer soft perks to electric car drivers (e.g. allowing them to drive in the HOV lanes, and providing them with preferential parking at a reduced price)
- Educating the public on the benefits of driving an electronic vehicle
- Leading by example – using electronic cars to deliver government services

***How can the Committee help reduce Markham's carbon footprint?***

The Committee can educate people on driving more efficiently, as currently the most popular cars in Ontario are pick-up trucks and sport utility trucks, which require a lot of fuel. Legislation will help municipalities reduce their carbon footprint, as car companies will need to build electric cars to reach new fuel efficiency requirements. Some car companies are starting to build electronic sport utility vehicles and pick-up trucks, but they are still very expensive.

Other incentives to purchase an electric car include: a generous provincial grant offered to residents that purchase an electronic car; the low operating cost of an electronic car; and that there will soon be an electric that can drive up to 300km without having to charge its battery.

***What is the impact of a cold climate on an electric vehicle?***

The vehicle may lose 25% of its range on a winter day. On the other hand, electronic cars can be pre-heated in the winter from an offsite location.

***Have you compared the cost of purchasing an operating an electric car with the cost of purchasing and operating a used car?***

This type of cost analysis had not been conducted at this time.

***Is there a plan to get more electric charging stations in Ontario?***

The Province of Ontario is providing 16M dollars to fund electric car infrastructure in Ontario. The newer charging stations can charge a car in 25 minutes. There are currently about 400 charging stations for electronic cars in the Greater Toronto Area, but most are level two stations, which are much slower charging stations that typically are free in cost. Most people that own an electronic car charge their cars at home.

***Are more people purchasing electronic cars?***

The amount of people purchasing electronic cars has been going up steadily over the years. A company is also working on building electronic school buses, and there is a taxicab company using only electronic cars that recently opened in Montreal.

***How will the charging stations be monitored?***

Installing more level three charging stations and charging a small fee will help ensure that people are not abusing the stations. Charging an hourly rate that changes based on the time of day will also discourage people from abusing the stations.

***Do insurance companies provide a discount to people that have an electric car?***

Most insurance companies offer a 5% discount for having an electronic car.

The Committee requested that a copy of the presentation be circulated to the Committee.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

The Earth Hour discussion was postponed, as Councillor Campbell was unable to attend the meeting.

The Committee agreed to have a booth at the Earth Hour event. Mark, Jocelyn, and Chuan agreed to man the booth. The Committee should coordinate their plans for the event with Jennifer Wong.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

The Committee briefly reviewed the action items from the previous meeting.

Moved by Karl Lyew  
Seconded by Chuan Li

That the Minutes from the January 21, 2016, Environmental Advisory Committee, meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

**4. Earth Day**

Carrie Sally reviewed an email from Markville Mall on the upcoming Earth Day event. The email included the following:

- Will be provided with a common area (the exact area is to be confirmed)
- Requested the objective of the Mayor's speech to be given at the event

- Number of permitted exhibitors is to be confirmed, but likely less than 10 (will include Waste Management from the City)
- Mall will not likely be participating in the event, but will confirm in March

Corporate Communications should be provided with the timelines with respect to when the promotional materials for the event will be required.

**5. Green Print**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**6. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The Committee will email Jennifer Wong a list of Committee Members that will attend the provincial MEAC meeting on May 14, 2016.

**7. Workshop on Textile Recycling**

An environmental symposium entitled "Tip-of-the-Iceberg: Textile Diversion and EPR Symposium" (TOTIES) is being organized by VisionQuest Environmental and will be held in Markham at the Hilton Hotel on May 4th, 2016. This event will also provide the City of Markham the opportunity to show case their new SMART Textile Diversion Strategy that will be rolled out later this year.

The Committee discussed having a member of the committee attend a workshop being held on May 4, 2016, on textile recycling. There is a registration cost associated with attending the workshop which will be discussed further at the March Committee meeting.

**8. LinkedIn Page**

Chuan Li was asked to email the Committee the link to its LinkedIn page with the page stats. It can then decide if it wants to update the page or delete the page.

**9. New Business**

There was no new business.

**10. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on March 17, 2016.

**11. Adjournment**

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:11 pm.