City of Hamilton

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVISED

Meeting #: 003
Date: April 28, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Room 264, 2nd Floor, City Hall (hybrid) (RM)
71 Main Street West

Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Project Manager - Climate Change Initiatives (905) 546-2424 ext. 6885

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

   (Added Items, if applicable, will be noted with *)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

   5.1 February 24, 2026 — 3

6. DELEGATIONS

   *6.1 Lee Fairbanks, respecting a plan to accelerate Urban Canopy Coverage (in-person) — *7*

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

   7.1 Office of Climate Change Updates

   7.2 Climate Change Advisory Committee Working Group Updates

      7.2.a Community Engagement and Climate Justice Working Group — 36

      7.2.b Buildings Working Group

7.2.c Technical and Governance Working Group

7.2.d Transportation Working Group

7.2.e Nature-Based Solutions Working Group

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

9. MOTIONS

9.1 Exemption of Tree Removal Requirements for Non-Profit Affordable Housing Providers 41

9.2 Funding Request from the Community Engagement & Climate Justice Working Group to the Climate Change Advisory Committee for Showing Up to the Crisis Workshop 43

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

11. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

12. ADJOURNMENT

Hamilton

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES CCAC 26-02

6:00 p.m.

February 24, 2026

Room 264

1st Floor, City Hall

Present: G. Kalapos (Co-Chair), I. Borsuk (Co-Chair) (virtually), G. Casimirri (virtually), S. Heenan (virtually), L. Iannantuono, Z. Kuszczak (virtually), F. Lenarduzzi (virtually), T. Maclaurin (virtually), S. Rempel (virtually) and M. Scanlon (virtually).

Absent with Regrets: Councillors C. Cassar and C. Kroetsch – Personal; Councillor A. Wilson – City Business
J. Harti

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair G. Kalapos called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

2.1 Land Acknowledgement

Co-Chair G. Kalapos read the Land Acknowledgement.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(Heenan/Borsuk)
That the agenda for the February 24, 2026, Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 December 09, 2025

(Iannantuono/Rempel)
That the Minutes of the December 09, 2025, Climate Change Advisory Committee, be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED

6. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1. Annual Update to General Issues Committee: Co-Chairs Presentation

Co-Chair Kalapos gave an overview of the draft presentation of the Annual Update to the General Issues Committee, scheduled for March 25, 2026.

7.2. Climate Change Advisory Committee's 2026 Meeting Schedule and Themes

Co-Chair Kalapos gave an overview of the draft 2026 Climate Change Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule and themes.

7.3. Office of Climate Change Updates

7.3(a) Call for Volunteers Climate Change Reserve Adjudicators

Co-Chair Kalapos requested two volunteers to assist the Climate Change Steering Committee in reviewing 2026 Climate Change Reserve applications. Members Kuszczak and Scanlon volunteered.

7.3(b) Better Homes Hamilton Update

Cathrin Winkelmann, Senior Project Manager, Office of Climate Change Initiatives gave an update on her Better Homes Hamilton presentation to the General Issues Committee.

7.3 (c) Carbon Budget and Accounting Framework

Trevor Imhoff, Senior Project Manager, Office of Climate Change Initiatives gave an update on the progress of the Carbon Budget and Accounting Framework which will be submitted to the General Issues Committee.

7.4. Climate Change Advisory Committee Working Group Updates

7.4(a) Community Engagement and Climate Justice Working Group

Member Heenan informed the Committee of updates on the upcoming April 15, 2026 eco-anxiety workshop, which will be focused on the climate crisis and active hope and will feature Swelen Andari from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

Co-Chair Kalapos relinquished the Chair to Co-Chair Borsuk to provide the following update.

7.4(b) Buildings Working Group

Co-Chair Kalapos provided an update on upcoming Working Group meetings and plans.

Co-Chair Kalapos reassumed the Chair.

7.4(c) Technical and Governance Working Group

Member Iannantuono gave an update on opportunities for updating Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy, which included a pathway to decarbonization; what has changed (such as new tools like more heat mapping that are now available that weren't before), with the aid of a presentation.

Member Iannantuono introduced the following Notice of Motion:

That members from the Technical and Governance Working Group of the Climate Change Advisory Committee provide a written and/or verbal delegation to the April 15, 2026 General Issues Committee, or a subsequent General Issues Committee when the Carbon Budget and Accounting Framework is brought forward.

Pursuant to Section 5.4(7) of the City of Hamilton's Procedural By-law 21-021 the Staff Liaison advised the Chair at 7:05 p.m. that quorum was lost. Pursuant to Sections 5.4(8) and (9), the Chair decided to allow those in attendance to discuss items of interest, with no decisions being approved.

7.3(d) Nature-Based Solutions Working Group

There was no update.

7.3(e) Transportation Working Group

Co-Chair Borsuk informed the Committee that a Working Group meeting date will be circulated, and asked members to send him topic ideas.

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no Items for Consideration.

9. MOTIONS

There were no Motions.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no Notices of Motion.

11. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Items of General Information / Other Business.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Section 5.4(7) of the City of Hamilton's Procedural By-law 21-021 at 7:05 p.m. the Committee Liaison advised those in attendance that quorum was lost, therefore, the meeting would stand adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beatrice Ekoko
Staff Liaison
Climate Change Advisory Committee

G. Kalapos
Co-Chair,
Climate Change Advisory Committee

The City has a 25-year $250 Million URBAN FOREST PLAN with a goal of reaching 40% canopy by 2050

The Plan's canopy target is not mathematically achievable under its current methodology

The Numbers:

The City has 5.2 million trees

This creates an 18% canopy

Urban Forest Reports, 2024, 2026

The City plans to add 500,000 trees in 25 years. This is 10% more

The math doesn't work:

5.2 million = 18 %

5.7 million = 40% ?

A 10% increase in trees cannot produce a 122% increase in canopy

One Million Trees in the City presented this information to City Council Senior Staff

One Million Trees in the City has also now presented A SCALABLE SOLUTION to plant 5 million trees by 2050

The Implementation Plan and Full Technical Analysis are now in the hands of the City Manager awaiting a decision

The City urgently needs the advice of the CCAC

You have the expertise we need

Please review our plan and advise the City

Technical Analysis

1. Core Data and Assumptions

1.1 City Geometry and Canopy Baseline

- City land area: **111,831 ha**
- Current canopy: **23,708 ha** (≈21.2%)
- Target canopy (40%): **44,732 ha**
- **Canopy gap:** 21,024 ha
- 5,000,000 trees → 23,708 ha canopy
  → **0.004742 ha/tree** average canopy

1.2 Survival Definition

Survival = trees alive after **5–7 years**, i.e., past the establishment mortality window and likely to mature.

1.3 Planting Types and Survival Rates (mid-case)

- Street trees: **25%** (Option A only)
- Free Trees: **65%**
- Traditional forest (spaced): **55%**
- Miyawaki – parks: **60%**
- Miyawaki – remediated industrial land: **80%**

1.4 Per-Tree Canopy Multipliers

Relative to 0.004742 ha/tree:

- Free Trees: ×1.5 → **0.007113 ha**
- Traditional forest: ×2.0 → **0.009484 ha**
- Miyawaki (parks): ×0.5 → **0.002371 ha**
- Miyawaki (remediated): ×0.6 → **0.002845 ha**

- Street trees (Option A only): ×0.8 → **0.003794 ha**

2. Option B (Five-Year Surge): Planting → Survivors → Canopy

2.1 Survivors

Each category plants **250,000** trees (25% of 1,000,000):

Planting Type	Survival Rate	Survivors
Free Trees	65%	**162,500**
Traditional Forest	55%	**137,500**
Miyawaki – Parks	60%	**150,000**
Miyawaki – Remediated	80%	**200,000**

Total survivors: 650,000 trees

2.2 Canopy Area Added

Type	Survivors	Canopy per Tree (ha)	Canopy Added (ha)
Free Trees	162,500	0.007113	**1,155.9**
Traditional Forest	137,500	0.009484	**1,304.1**
Miyawaki – Parks	150,000	0.002371	**355.7**
Miyawaki – Remediated	200,000	0.002845	**569.0**

Total canopy added: 3,384.6 ha
→ ≈3.03% of city area

2.3 Gap Closure

3,384.6 ha ÷ 21,024 ha = **16.1% of the canopy gap closed**

2.4 Annualized Values (during surge)

- Survivors/year: **130,000**
- Canopy added/year: **676.9 ha**
  → **≈0.606% of city area/year**

3. Timeframes to Reach 40% Canopy

3.1 Option C — Sustained Surge (200k trees/year indefinitely)

- Annual canopy gain: **676.9 ha/year**
- Years required:
  21,024 ha ÷ 676.9 ≈ **31.05 years**

Result:
≈31 years to reach 40% canopy.

3.2 Option B → Return to Baseline (20k/year)

After the 5-year surge:

- Remaining gap: 21,024 – 3,384.6 = **17,639.4 ha**
- Baseline canopy gain: **≈75.75 ha/year**

Years required after surge:
17,639.4 ÷ 75.75 ≈ **233 years**

Total from program start = **≈238 years**

Result:
A single surge accelerates progress but still leaves **centuries** of work if followed by the current baseline program.

4. Option A — Current City Plan (20,000 trees/year)

4.1 Annual Survivors

- Street: 1,500
- Free Trees: 3,250

- Traditional: 4,950
  Total: 9,700 survivors/year

4.2 Annual Canopy Added

- Street: **5.69 ha/yr**
- Free: **23.12 ha/yr**
- Traditional: **46.95 ha/yr**
  Total: 75.75 ha/year

4.3 25-Year Projection

- Survivors: **242,500**
- Canopy added: **1,893.8 ha**
- City area %: **≈1.69%**

4.4 Time to 40% at Baseline Pace

21,024 ha ÷ 75.75 ha/year ≈ **277–278 years**

5. Summary of Key Outputs

Metric	Value
Trees planted in surge	**1,000,000**
Established survivors	**650,000**
Canopy added (surge)	**3,385 ha**
% of city area added	**≈3.03%**
% of canopy gap closed	**≈16.1%**
Time to 40% (sustained surge)	**≈31 years**
Time to 40% (current plan only)	**≈277–278 years**

Urban Forest Canopy Expansion in Hamilton: A Quantitative Assessment of Planting Strategies, Mortality, Lifespan, and Long-Term Sustainability

Projecting Canopy and Biodiversity Outcomes for Hamilton, Ontario: Comparison of current City practice and a large-scale planting alternative

Prepared by Lee Fairbanks
One Million Trees in the City
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December, 2025

Abstract

Hamilton, Ontario currently has an estimated 5,000,000 trees and an urban forest canopy of approximately 21%. City Council has set a 40% canopy target and approved a planting rate of 20,000 trees per year, yet no timeline for achieving this target has ever been provided.

This study evaluates the mathematical feasibility of reaching 40% canopy under the City's existing program and compares it with an alternative strategy designed to maximize canopy growth, biodiversity, and long-term forest sustainability, **while staying with the current City budget.**

This report evaluates two planting scenarios:

1. Option A — Current City Program (20,000/yr)
2. Option B — Sustained High-Volume Program (200,000/yr)

The analysis incorporates literature-based 5–7-year establishment survival rates, spacing-adjusted canopy multipliers, long-term lifespan projections by planting type, and ecosystem impacts such as self-seeding capacity.

Results show that Hamilton's current plan (Option A) of 20,000 trees per year is **mathematically incapable of achieving 40% canopy** — even over several centuries — because annual mortality rapidly exceeds annual planting, and low-density traditional street planting lacks regenerative capacity.

In contrast, a 200,000 trees/year program (Option B) as modelled would achieve the 40% canopy target in approximately 31 years.

By postponing expensive Street Tree planting and allocating this money to a Sustained High-Volume program this can be achieved within existing budgets.

Introduction and Objectives

Hamilton's urban forestry goals include expanding the citywide canopy (Urban Forest Canopy Study) and improving local biodiversity (Biodiversity Action Plan). The current municipal target is 20,000 trees per year, and achieves neither of these.

Canopy growth occurs only after trees survive their critical 5–7 year establishment window. This analysis therefore evaluates planting outcomes using realistic survival assumptions.

Option A — Current City Plan

- 20,000 trees/year
- Includes 6,000 Street Trees per year
- Includes 5,000 Free Trees per year
- Includes 9,000 Community Trees per year

Option B — Sustained High-Volume Program

- 200,000 trees/year until 40% canopy is achieved
- Utilizes "Active Nature Area" concept in public parks and accessible open spaces - includes "Miyawaki Forest" and shade tree areas along with open space
- Focuses on remediation of industrial areas within the "CODE RED" ward areas (Wards 2, 3, 4, 5) that the study designates as a **Special Environmental Zone**

Definitions

Miyawaki Forest

A Miyawaki forest is a small, dense, biodiverse urban forest created using methods designed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, which involves planting many native trees and shrubs closely together on prepared soil to rapidly mimic a mature, self-sustaining native forest, establishing complex ecosystems in small spaces (even tennis-court sized) within decades, not centuries. More than 40 million trees worldwide have been planted using this design by Akira's team alone.

Active Nature Area

An Active Nature Area features a combination of different park design strategies including Miyawaki Forests, Shaded Tree areas, grassed and paved pathways, pollinator gardens, thickets and meadows. It has five main purposes: A Connection to Nature; Climate Change Remediation, Urban Canopy Expansion and Increased Biodiversity; Improved Health Outcomes; To Encourage Usage; and to Reduce Mowing and Maintenance.

Street Trees

Street Trees are large caliper trees planted within 5 metres of a roadway either on city-owned land on on city allowances on private property.

Free Trees

Free Trees are small caliper trees that are given away by the City to private residential landowners. This program is limited to one tree per year per address.

Community Trees

Community Trees refers to trees that are neither Street Trees nor Free Trees and are usually planted by volunteer groups working under City supervision. These can be small, medium or large caliper trees.

Special Environmental Zone - CODE RED

This is an area at the north end of the urban core in Wards 2, 3, 4 and 5 which has been and continues to be subject to industrial pollution from the city's largest polluters, including the steel plants. This area is roughly defined by the CN Rail tracks north of Barton Street and Burlington Bay, from Wellington Street in the west to Woodward Avenue and the Red Hill Creek Parkway in the east.

This Analysis Includes:

1. Surviving established trees (post 5–7 years) for each scenario.
2. Resulting canopy area (ha) using spacing-adjusted multipliers.
3. Canopy percentage increase relative to Hamilton's land base.
4. Time to reach 40% canopy under each scenario.
5. Biodiversity and regenerative capacity differences among planting types.
6. Key policy implications for reaching the City's target.

Data, Geometry, and Core Assumptions

City Geometry and Canopy Baseline

- Total land area: 1,118.31 km² (111,831 ha)
- Current canopy: 23,708 ha (~21.2%)
- Target canopy: 44,732 ha (40%)
- Canopy gap to close: 21,024 ha

Tree-to-Canopy Conversion

- ~5,000,000 trees produce 23,708 ha canopy
- Average: 210.9 trees/ha
- Average canopy per mature tree: 0.004742 ha (~47.4 m²)

Spacing-based canopy multipliers (per mature tree):

Planting Type	Multiplier
Free Trees	×1.5
Community Trees	×2.0
Miyawaki (City land)	×0.5
Miyawaki (remediated)	×0.6
Street Trees	×0.8

Survival Definition

Survival is defined as reaching and remaining alive after the 5–7 year establishment period, the highest-mortality window.

Planting Types and Survival Inputs (Mid-Case)

Planting Type	5–7 Year Survival	Rationale
Street Trees	25%	Restricted root volumes, high stress from traffic exhaust, road salt, heat exposure from adjacent impermeable surfaces. Very poor structural soil support
Free Trees	65%	Homeowner care by motivated owners
Community Forest	55%	Good soils; widely spaced
Miyawaki (City land)	60%	Biodiversity-first density
Miyawaki (remediated)	80%	Engineered soils boost survival

Option A: Current City Planting Program

Annual Planting Mix (20,000 trees) and Survival Rates

- 6,000 Street Trees (25% survival)
- 5,000 Free Trees (65% survival)
- 9,000 Community Trees (70% survival in park soils)

Budget Breakdown ($3.3M)*

- 6,000 Street Trees × $320 = $1,920,000
- 5,000 Free Trees × $10 = $50,000
- 9,000 Community Trees × $150 = $1,350,000
- **Total = $3,320,000**

**Budget is estimated based on available information*.*

Street Trees consume 58% of the total budget but produce negative canopy growth.

Break-Even Mortality Across Planting Types

Planting Type	Annual Trees Planted	Annual Survivors after 7 Years	Annual Mortality of Existing Trees	Net Gain or (-Loss)
Street Trees	6,000	1,500	6,720	**(-5220)**
Community	9,000	6,300	812	**5,488**
Free Trees	5,000	3,250	46	**3,204**
Total	20,000	11,050	7,578	**3,472**

Total net canopy expansion per year 7: +3,472 trees.

If the City continues with Option A Hamilton would require ~1,440 years to reach 40% canopy.

Option B: Sustained High-Volume Program (200,000/yr)

Annual Planting Mix (200,000 trees) and Survival Rates

- 15,000 Free Trees (65% survival)
- 92,500 Miyawaki in parks (60% survival)
- 92,500 Miyawaki on remediated industrial land (80% survival)

Budget Breakdown ($3.3M/year)*

Free Trees

- 15,000 trees X $10 = $150,000

**Budget is estimated based on available information*.*

Miyawaki Area Cost and Tree Totals

- Cost: $50/$m^2$
- Area plantable per stream: 31,500 m^2
- At 3 trees/m^2 → 94,500 trees per stream
- Total Miyawaki: 189,000 trees
- $1,575,000 — Miyawaki (parks)
- $1,575,000 — Miyawaki (remediated)
- **Total = $3,300,000**

At this scale, Hamilton reaches 40% canopy in ~31 years and is within the current City budget

Discussion

Biodiversity vs. Canopy Efficiency

Miyawaki forests produce:

- high biodiversity
- dense multi-layered structure
- Smaller individual crowns than open plantings

Community Planting and Free Trees produce:

- more canopy per tree
- far less biodiversity.

Remediation as a High-Leverage Action

Survival improves dramatically on remediated land (60% → 80%).
This creates:

- higher long-term survival
- larger total canopy
- faster development of soil ecosystems

Scale and Survivorship

Two foundational lessons:

1. Scale matters most.
   The only path to rapid canopy expansion is sustained high-volume planting.
2. Survival determines everything.
   Remediation and establishment care are force multipliers.

Sustainability: Self-Seeding and Long-Term Forest Dynamics

Why Self-Seeding Matters

Self-seeding enables:

- exponential forest growth
- natural succession
- long-term canopy expansion without perpetual planting

The Street Tree Problem

Hamilton's Existing Street Tree Population:

- 168,000 Street Trees

Street Trees are:

- costly
- low-survival
- short-lived
- non-regenerating

Key Result: Street Tree Decline

- Street Trees live ~25 years
- Current annual mortality of existing trees: ~6,720
- Annual new street trees at 7-year survival: ~1,500
- Net loss: ~5,220 Street Trees/year

Conclusion:

Street Trees cannot contribute meaningfully to canopy growth. City reports show 19,000 Street Trees are already dead and require replacement.

Which Plantings Regenerate?

Planting Type	Self-Seeding Potential
Street Trees	None
Free Trees	Minimal
Traditional Forest	Limited
Miyawaki (parks)	**Strong**
Miyawaki (remediated)	**Strongest**

Only Miyawaki systems produce positive ecological reproduction.

Limitations

- No allowance has been included for unpredictable influences such as pests, disease, climate change effects, etc. These may affect outcomes.
- Survival rates are mid-case assumptions, not guarantees.
- Canopy-per-tree multipliers simplify complex biological variation.
- Remediation survival assumes appropriate soil engineering.

Policy Implications and Recommendations

1. Create a new internal hierarchy within City Hall combining the departments of Climate Change Urban Greening, Parks, Forestry, Horticulture and Biodiversity with new leadership and a mandate to follow Best Practices as outlined in this Report and recommended by the Vineland Research & Innovation Centre (of which the City is a member).

2. Give Forestry priority control over all green spaces within the city, including open spaces in parks, and a clear mandate to create a 40% canopy within 31 years (or sooner).

   This is in keeping with the findings and recommendations of the Urban Forest Canopy Study.

3. Adopt a sustained 200,000/year annual tree planting program.

4. Partner with industry and invest in soil remediation and planting on industrial lands in the north end Special Environmental Zone.

5. Plant Miyawaki forests where biodiversity is a priority.

6. Expand Free-Tree programs for cost-effective survivorship. This would include allowing multiple trees per address and increasing the total number available each year.

   This would require a sustained marketing campaign to connect tree value to personal and family health benefits and city pride.

7. Postpone the Street Tree program for five years and task the Horticulture Department (which currently grows 250,000 flowers per year) to grow enough trees to meet the City's ongoing replacement needs. This would save the City approximately $1.2 million per year versus the cost of purchasing large caliper trees.

8. Follow the guidelines of the Vineland Research & Innovation Centre regarding site preparation and tree placement guidelines.

9. Treat establishment care as essential, not optional. The City currently conducts no site preparation or soil remediation.

Conclusions

1. Hamilton's current 20,000/year planting plan cannot achieve the City's 40% canopy mandate due to break-even mortality and the low survival/lifespan of Street Trees.

2. A Sustained High-Volume Program can achieve 40% canopy within a single generation. Miyawaki systems, especially on remediated industrial land, offer the strongest biodiversity benefits, the highest survivorship, and the only pathway to a self-sustaining urban forest capable of long-term growth.

3. The City's current management structure has contributed to, and continues to contribute to a history of failure to expand the urban canopy. Forestry is restricted from pursuing successful options by a hierarchy that places this department at the bottom of a Public Works chain that is as follows:

    - Public Works
    - Environmental Services
    - Landscape Design
    - Parks & Cemeteries
    - Forestry & Horticulture

    This has created a conflict of priorities which has resulted in 1,300 acres of under-utilized open space and park land best suited for expansion of canopy - as identified by the 10-year Urban Forest Canopy Study (UFS) - remaining inaccessible to Forestry.

    The UFS clearly identified the need to correct this conflict but that requires action from higher authorities, and this has not been enacted by those in the hierarchy above, whose priorities are not canopy.

4. A successful expansion of canopy to achieve the goal of 40% requires intervention from the highest level of City management - The City Manager and The Mayor - to replace a dysfunctional hierarchy. (See Policy Implications and Recommendations #1)

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Community Engagement & Climate Justice Working Group-Climate Change Advisory Committee CCAC

Meeting Notes – April 2, 2026
Location – Zoom
Attendees – Su Heenan, Natalie Morgan, Jordyn Boyer, Angie Abi Daoud, Nicole Raitakari, Shelley Rempel
Regrets – Tran Nguyen

Purpose: Plan "Showing Up to the Crisis: A Workshop for Healthcare Providers on Climate Distress, Healing, and Action" event featuring – Swelen Andari, & Dr. Margaret McKinnon

Event date: June 5, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM @ Indwell Perkins Centre

Overview of Key Discussion Points:

- Planning - Showing Up to the Crisis: A Workshop for Healthcare Providers on Climate Distress, Healing, and Action

Discussion:

- Su – the date of the workshop will need to be moved to June 4 or 5 to allow for more time outreach/promotion and program development to include Indigenous perspectives and possibly the inclusion of an Indigenous elder to provide an opening thanksgiving address.
- Natalie – will check to see if the Perkins Centre is available on June 4 & 5th
- Nicole will contact 541 Eatery the caterer and notify them of the date change.
- Su – will look in to how to let people who have registered for the April 15th date that this has changed.
- All – posters and promotional material will need to be revised to show the new date and send out again on our networks, social media and mainstream media

Next meeting:
Thursday, April 16 @ 3:00PM

Community Engagement & Climate Justice Working Group-Climate Change Advisory Committee CCAC

Meeting Notes – March 26, 2026
Location – Zoom
Attendees – Su Heenan, Natalie Morgan, Tran Nguyen, Angie Abi Daoud, Shelley Rempel
Regrets –Nicole Raitakari, Jordyn Boyer

Purpose: Plan "Showing Up to the Crisis: A Workshop for Healthcare Providers on Climate Distress, Healing, and Action" event featuring – Swelen Andari, & Dr. Margaret McKinnon

Event date: April 15, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM @ Indwell Perkins Centre

Overview of Key Discussion Points:

- Planning - Showing Up to the Crisis: A Workshop for Healthcare Providers on Climate Distress, Healing, and Action

Discussion:

- Natalie – provided and update on the need for event insurance. The workshop would likely not need to acquire event insurance as one of the sponsors of the event is Hamilton Is Home and they will be the insurer.
- Su – the registration numbers a low. We will all make a concerted effort to send the workshop information to our contacts particularly those who have connections in health care and social services.
- Su – continues to meet with the workshop presenters to design the event.

Next meeting:
Thursday, April 2 @ 2:30PM

Community Engagement & Climate Justice Working Group-Climate Change Advisory Committee CCAC

Meeting Notes – March 19, 2026
Location – Zoom
Attendees – Su Heenan, Natalie Morgan, Nicole Raitakari, Angie Abi Daoud, Jordyn Boyer, Shelley Rempel
Regrets – Tran Nguyen

Purpose: Plan "Showing Up to the Crisis: A Workshop for Healthcare Providers on Climate Distress, Healing, and Action" event featuring – Swelen Andari, & Dr. Margaret McKinnon

Event date: April 15, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM @ Indwell Perkins Centre

Overview of Key Discussion Points:

- Planning - Showing Up to the Crisis: A Workshop for Healthcare Providers on Climate Distress, Healing, and Action

Discussion:

- Budget update will be sent to Beatrice with the honorarium amounts and names included – Su & Shelley
- It was determined that the workshop would likely not need to acquire event insurance as one of the sponsors of the event is Hamilton Is Home.
- We will have to purchase coffee, teas, dairy, non-dairy, sweetener, sugar and other beverages for the workshop – responsibility to be determined
- Eventbrite link is now available and on the poster for distribution.
- The event will not be recorded as there is not enough time to clear it through the city of Hamilton policies.
- Su – the workshop format is still underdevelopment with an aim to possibly include sharing circle and world café formats.
- Su is meeting with the speakers to ensure the planning is completed.
- All members will share the workshop poster with their networks.
- Support will be available at the workshop for people who are triggered.
- Angie will coordinate volunteers for the workshop.

Next meeting:
Thursday, March 26 @ 2:00PM

Community Engagement & Climate Justice Working Group-Climate Change Advisory Committee CCAC

Meeting Notes – March 12, 2026
Location – Zoom
Attendees – Su Heenan, Natalie Morgan, Nicole Raitakari, Angie Abi Daoud, Jordyn Boyer, Shelley Rempel
Regrets – Tran Nguyen

Purpose: Plan "Showing Up to the Crisis: A Workshop for Healthcare Providers on Climate Distress, Healing, and Action" event featuring – Swelen Andari, & Dr. Margaret McKinnon

Event date: April 15, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM @ Indwell Perkins Centre

Overview of Key Discussion Points:
- Planning - Showing Up to the Crisis: A Workshop for Healthcare Providers on Climate Distress, Healing, and Action

Discussion:
- Su provided an update of the event agenda changes. The World Café design may be modified to be inclusive of Indigenous talking circle processes.
- Su – the event is not yet posted on the McMaster Family Medicine Website but hopes they will include it soon.
- Su – Eventbrite requires an account for deposits. The Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care may be able to provide an account, but they charge a 5% fee for holding the money. It is hoped a free account may be found instead.
- Shelley – will revise the budget to account for any changes.
- Nicole – 541 Café only has one vegetarian option. Part of the registration could ask about any dietary requirement, restriction, and allergies.
- Natalie – will draft the questions for the Eventbrite posting. These will include diet requirements and the need for financial assistance.
- Natalie – the Perkin's Centre has coffeemakers, plates, cups, cutlery.
- Nicole noted that Green Venture has cloth napkins and that we will need to buy coffee, tea, dairy, sugar, and sweetener.
- Su – is looking for people who have lived experience of climate distress to share their experience at the workshop. It was decided the budget would be amended to include $45 for two speakers [$90]. The speakers would be asked to talk for about 10 minutes each.
- Shelley – will edit the budget and contact Beatrice about how this working group can access the funding provide for the workshop by the OCCI.
- Su – reminded the working group that we should be looking for volunteers to help set up and clean up and support the workshop on April 15.
- Su - will to Trevor about city of Hamilton support for recording the speakers at the workshop for future use in educational settings.
- Angie – will check to see if Green Venture can provide a Zoom Link for the next meeting

Next meeting:
Thursday, March 19 @ 2:00PM

Community Engagement & Climate Justice Working Group-Climate Change Advisory Committee CCAC

Meeting Notes – March 5, 2026
Location – Zoom
Attendees – Su Heenan, Natalie Morgan, Nicole Raitakari, Angie Abi Daoud, Tran Nguyen, Shelley Rempel
Regrets – Jordyn Boyer

Purpose: Plan "Showing Up to the Crisis: A Workshop for Healthcare Providers on Climate Distress, Healing, and Action" event featuring – Swelen Andari, & Dr. Margaret McKinnon

Event date: April 15, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM @ Indwell Perkins Centre

Overview of Key Discussion Points:
- Introductions
- Overview/review of the Community Engagement & Climate Justice Working Group
- Planning - Showing Up to the Crisis: A Workshop for Healthcare Providers on Climate Distress, Healing, and Action

Discussion:
- Shelley - the Office of Climate Change Initiatives would contribute $1650 to the budget.
- Shelley – circulated a revised budget.
- Nicole – 541 Café can provide the food for the event for and estimated $1,039.50 [does not include beverages]. 541 need 72 hours' notice. Nicole will let 541 know that they are needed for the April 15.
- Su – the "World Café" model will not require fewer facilitators – likely 6-7.
- Natalie will check on the availability of dishes, silver wear, coffee percolators, tea urns.
- It was decided that the 3 land-based therapists and the art therapists would be given each $100 honorariums plus transportation/milage.
- Su – important that the "save the date" announcement and the registration document start to circulate as soon as possible. We will organize this launch ASAP even if some information is not yet available. We will all try to share this widely with our networks.
- Tran - help edit the messages for social media.
- Shelley – research circulating the event announcement through the mainstream media.
- Shelley – table to keep track of where we send the event announcements – to be posted on the google.doc
- Nicole will circulate a Green Venture event tracking document.

Next meeting:
Thursday, March 12 @ 2:00PM

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Climate Change Advisory Committee: April 28, 2026

MOVED BY F. Lenarduzzi……..

SECONDED BY ……

Exemption of Tree Removal Requirements for Non-Profit Affordable Housing Providers

WHEREAS, through a Planning Act application requires a 1:1 replacement of trees on private property which need be demonstrated through a Landscape Plan or Tree Planting Plan as per the City's Tree Protection Guidelines.

WHEREAS, all public tree removals are subject to a Public Tree Removal Permit and Loss of Canopy Fees for Removal of Public Tress. These are Council approved User Fees and based in accordance with industry standard methodology including the Reproduction Method of the Formula Method (TFM), as per the Guide for Plant Appraisal.

WHEREAS, a potential conflict arises when sustainable affordable housing necessitates the removal of city owned or publicly owned trees to make room for housing; and

WHEREAS, the costs to remove trees for non-profit organizations can represent a significant cost barrier to providing affordable housing;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Climate Change Advisory Committee requests that Council direct staff to conduct a review of the City's Tree Protection Guidelines for private tree removal and the Public Tree Removal Permit with a report back to Planning Committee by November 30th, 2026, with recommendations on minimizing the burden to sustainable housing

providers with respect to the fees associated with public and private tree removals to sustainable affordable housing non-profit organizations.

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Climate Change Advisory Committee: April 28, 2026

MOVED BY S. Heenan……..

SECONDED BY J. Boyer……

Funding Request from the Community Engagement & Climate Justice Working Group to the Climate Change Advisory Committee for Showing Up to the Crisis Workshop

WHEREAS, through Report CM23025 at the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee in September 2023 Council directed Climate Change staff to report back to the General Issues Committee on the creation of a community liaison group and that the 2024 approved budget currently assigned to the Climate Change Advisory Committee be transferred to this Division to support the working group;

WHEREAS, through Report PED26016 General Issues Committee approved the recommendation to allow the Climate Change Advisory Committee to meet and operate according to their established Terms of References as a Volunteer Advisory Committee until their last meeting in September 2026;

WHEREAS, through the 2026 Budget, Council approved the annual allocation of $9,000 to the Climate Change Advisory Committee Dept ID #300309 to support the function and activities of the Climate Change Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, the Climate Justice and Engagement Working Group has been working over the past 6 months to organize an important climate and mental health event titled “Showing Up to the Crisis” with updates provided to the Climate Change Advisory Committee regularly;

WHEREAS, the “Showing Up to the Crisis” was included in the Climate Change Advisory Committee’s 2026 work plan and presented to the General Issues Committee on March 27, 2026;

WHEREAS, the total costs to run the “Showing Up to the Crisis” event is estimated at $3,578 that costs associated with venue booking, facilitators and honorariums, catering, and transportation costs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Climate Change Advisory Committee approve the one-time funding request, with an upset limit of $1,650 from the Climate Change Advisory Committee Dept ID 300309 to support the “Showing Up to the Crisis” event currently scheduled for June 5, 2026.

Showing Up to the Crisis Event Budget: Estimates

Category	**Projected Expense**
Venue - Perkins Centre *(tables, chairs, plates, cups, utensils, coffee makers, tea carafes, dishwasher included. Pay by cash or credit.)*	$153
Speaker Honorariums	$1,550
Facilitators	$200
Food - 541 Eatery Catering	$1,500
Speaker Transportation Costs [milage/transit]	$100
Transportation [participant bus tickets]	$75
Total	$3,578

Event Funding: Estimates

Source	**Amount**
Registration fee [$30 x 75 if event is sold out]	$2,250
Request to Climate Change Advisory Committee funding contribution	$1,650
Total	$3,900