



**MINUTES**  
**OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**OXFORD LANE LIBRARY, HAVIGHURST ROOM**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024 AT 9:30 AM**

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**Approval of Agenda**

Members of the Environmental Commission present: Jon Ralinovsky, City Council Representative; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Jim Vinch

Members of the Climate Action Steering Committee present: Sandi Woy Hazelton, David Prytherch, City Council Member; Jason Bracken, City Council Member; Ann Kaufman Webster, Planning Representative; Peggy Branstrator, Environmental Commission Representative; Olivia Herron, Miami University Representative

Staff Present: Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator

Member of Public Present: Areej Mirza, Campus Climate Action Corp Member

A quorum of both committees were present. Mr. Ralinovsky chaired the meeting.

Motion to approve the agenda: Mr. Ralinovsky 2nd: Mr. Prytherch Vote: Unanimous approval

**Approval of Minutes**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

1. Overview of 2023 Local Government Operations GHG Inventory

Ms. Murphy shared a presentation of Oxford's local government operations (LGO) gross emissions. Slides from the presentation are attached. She discussed:

- The goals and guidelines to achieve zero emissions by 2045
- Emissions by sector

- Sites of facilities that were the highest gross emitters
- Current emissions reductions
- Key actions that reduced emissions

## 2. Recommendations for 2026

The commissions participated in a collaborative workshop for identifying and prioritizing actions for 2026. The top 3 recommendations for 2026 include:

1. Installing solar at the Water and/or Wastewater Treatment Plants
2. Installing an additional methane flare at the closed landfill
3. Explore revising the parking fee structure to support multimodal / alternative transportation

Motion to formally recommend the top 3 actions for Council's consideration: Mr. Ralinovsky

Second: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous approval

### Workshop detailed outcomes:

The commissions ideated actions and prioritized ideas for each of the following sectors: Energy, Transportation and Fleet, Resilience, Water and Wastewater, Solid Waste, Carbon Sequestrations/ Ecosystems.

The commission identified a #1 priority per sector and an overall top 3 among all sectors.

### *Energy*

Commit to achieving energy demands with locally generated renewable energy / onsite solar (Sector #1, related to overall #1)

Work on energy efficiency at the police station  
Install solar of waste water plant  
In 2025 analyze solar center capacity of city owned lands (GIS analysis)  
Solarize city buildings and properties  
Join SOPEC  
Install solar at city hall, Library, WWT plant, Seniors center, Police station.  
Regional aggregation agreements

### *Transportation and Fleet*

Parking Changes, i.e. limit the number of permits per resident (Sector #1, overall #3)

Expand city transportation bus/more vans

Electrify fleet

Change parking requirements in zoning code

Work toward no storage of private vehicles on public properties

Improve bike/pedestrian access

Parking fees into carbon offsets

### *Resilience*

Create stormwater Utility and eval best way to in stormwater fee (Sector #1)

Increase use of rain gardens on city property to reduce run-off from rain events

Develop and enforce policies to require maintenance of retention/ detention basins to make sure they continue to function effectively

Encourage use of rain gardens on private property to reduce flooding  
Launch stormwater action plan

### *Solid Waste*

More Flares + Improve methane flare at the landfill (Sector #1 and overall #2)  
Hazardous waste disposal/ pickup  
Ordinance for apartment/ multi-unit recycling  
Adopt ordinance requiring apartment or multi-family recycling

#### *Water and Wastewater*

Solarize WW and WT facilities (Sector and overall #1)  
Green infrastructure with long term goal of stormwater/ rain tax  
Study of Increased energy load from water softening  
Study energy use at wastewater plant  
Better use of methane at WTP

#### *Carbon Sequestration / Ecosystems*

Native plantings instead of turf on city properties (sector #1)  
Launch a robust street tree planting plan

#### Discussions included:

The commission clarified what lens (emissions reduction, general sustainability, cultural) to prioritize actions. Staff recommended prioritizing actions based on their potential to reduce emissions and make progress towards the 2030 emission reduction targets.

The commission discussed the future of Oxford's electric aggregation program and the big picture goal to have the program supplied by locally generated renewable energy. Staff shared that SOPEC shares the same long term goal and Oxford will reconsider joining in Q1 2025.

Ms. Heron shared an idea modeled after OSU's parking legislation in order to create parking permits to reduce the amount of cars in each house to 2. Mr Bracken discussed the potential political pushback of the idea and the unlikelihood of the proposal being implemented. However, by increasing costs of parking there is a potential avenue where these funds can be redirected to supporting alternative modes of transportation.

Mr. Ralinovsky asked if there were plans for more EV purchases in order to reduce vehicle fleet emissions. Ms. Murphy shared that the Engineering Division recently purchased an EV and that purchasing EVs is generally the city's preference. However, EVs are not included in the state purchasing contract. So, Oxford has run into supply chain issues that have prevented EV purchases in the past.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: Mrs. Kaufman Webster  
2nd: Mr. Bracken  
Vote: Unanimous approval

The workshop adjourned at 11:15am.