

REGULAR MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 – 4:30 p.m.

Township of South-West Oxford

Council Chambers

Present: Mayor David Mayberry; Councillor Valerie Durston, George Klosler (community representative), Works Superintendent Adam Prouse; David Schell (community representative); and Cathy Reeves (community representative)

Regrets: Chair Jim Pickard, Bill Riley (community member, interested in Committee)

Staff: CAO/Deputy Clerk Julie Middleton

Guests: None

Call to Order

Mayor Mayberry called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Motion to Accept the Agenda

Resolution No. 1 Moved by Adam Prouse
Seconded by David Schell

RESOLVED that the agenda for the meeting of the February 4th, 2026 Environment and Energy Innovation Committee be approved, as amended (organics collection challenges).

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by George Klosler
Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the minutes of the December 3rd, 2025 meeting Environment and Energy Innovation Committee meeting be reviewed and approved.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

The Engage and Inform Committee was asked to prepare information sheets for each halls outlining what items can be recycled, what should be placed in organics, and what belongs in garbage. Including helpful tips for participating in the organics collection program was also recommended. The Township will re-share information previously provided by the County about the program.

Round Table Discussion

Mayor Mayberry referenced a recent article regarding Ontario Power Generation's request to the Energy Board to increase electricity pricing from \$111 per megawatt hour to \$207 per megawatt hour, representing a 97% increase. It was noted that approximately 60% of the increase relates to Pickering power, 25% to Darlington, and the remaining 15% to other forms of energy generation, with much of the cost associated with nuclear energy. Members discussed that electricity rebates are currently being added to provincial debt. It was suggested that the Ontario Power Generation website may contain additional information and that there may be an opportunity for public comment. The Committee considered whether this information should be shared through the Township newsletter. Members also noted that if electricity costs increase, the Township will need to continue focusing on efficiencies and ensuring that current operations are as energy-efficient as possible. It was further noted that the Township has already implemented many energy-saving measures – it was questioned what current costs might be if those changes had not been made.

A facility-related matter at Mount Elgin was also discussed for future consideration. Steam from the dishwasher is accumulating on the ceiling and causing damage - other facilities typically have a hood installed over the dishwasher. The potential installation of a fan or ventilation system was raised as an option. It was noted that installing a hood, chimney, and exterior venting could cost approximately \$20,000, unless the system could be vented through the side of the kitchen. George Klosler will bring this matter forward to the hall board.

Cathy noted that several Council members are retiring and raised the importance of continuing committee involvement and advancing ongoing projects. Members were encouraged to consider any housekeeping matters or initiatives that should be addressed before the end of the current Council term. Long-term planning for heating systems at the Mount Elgin and Salford Community Halls was identified as an area of priority.

The cleanout of Foldens Drain was also mentioned, with concern expressed that more trees than necessary may have been removed during the work.

