

Oakville Energy Task Force Meeting #5

Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2019

Opening

The regular scheduled meeting of the Oakville Energy Task Force (Meeting #5), in support of the Oakville Community Energy Plan (CEP), was called to order at 9:08am on September 13, 2019 by Michelle McCollum, Co-Chair. The meeting was held in the Oakville and Trafalgar Rooms, Oakville Town Hall.

Present

Oakville Energy Task Force

In person:

- Abhilash Achar – (proxy for Mike Branch), Geotab
- Karen Brock – OakvilleGreen
- Roya Khaleeli – Minto
- Cindy Toth – (proxy for Lisa Kohler), Halton Environmental Network
- Peter Longo – Councillor, Town of Oakville
- John Matthiesen – Hatch
- Michelle McCollum – Sheridan College
- Chris Norris – Siemens
- Herb Sinnock – Sheridan College
- Harry Shea – Public-at-large
- Maia Puccetti – Halton District School Board
- Phil Santana – Mattamy Homes
- Pauline Watson – Public-at-large

Remote:

- Fraser Damoff – Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)
- Brian Lennie – Enbridge Gas
- Tony Vastano – (proxy for Marnie Cluckie), Halton Region
- Nick Klip – Enbridge Gas
- Sue Mills – Enbridge Gas

Regrets:

- Patrick Britton – Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
- Scott Mudie – Oakville Hydro
- John Rohlf – Ford Motor Company
- Steve Allum – (proxy for Ryan Merrick), Halton Catholic District School Board

Project Working Team

In person:

- Dave Clark, Project Officer-Energy Management, Sheridan College
- Deniz Ergun, Research Policy Analyst, Sustainability and Government Relations, Town of Oakville
- Karen Farbridge, President, Karen Farbridge & Associates
- Peter Garforth, Principal, Garforth International llc

Remote:

- Bruce Bremer, President, Bremer Energy Consulting

1) Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Welcomed Oakville Energy Task Force and members of the public and thanked all for attending.

2) Agenda Review

- Approved: Agenda unanimously approved as distributed.
- Approved: Minutes unanimously approved as distributed.
- Actions items from the last meeting reviewed. All past actions have been completed.

3) OETF Business

Oakville Emissions Goal

Proposal to remove “by 2050” from previously approved goal statement: Enable a transition to carbon neutrality ~~by 2050~~ by reducing GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2041 by 2016.

Discussion:

- General agreement that the removal helps clarify the goal.
- Language around carbon neutrality should be strengthened to, “enable transition to a goal of carbon neutrality...”
- Remove 2016 baseline and add a footnote.
- Significance of 2041 as the town’s planning horizon.

Approval:

- Revised Oakville Emissions Goal: Enable a transition to the goal of carbon neutrality by reducing GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2041*, * baseline of 2016 levels
- Revised Emissions Goal approved unanimously.

Oakville Energy Goal

- Based on previous discussions, background provided on the merit of having an goal

specifically for energy. Previously Task Force split between negative “reduce” framing and positive “improve” framing of goal.

- Proposed revised Oakville Energy Goal: Improve energy performance by reducing community-wide energy consumption at least 40% by 2041 from 2016 levels

Discussion:

- Reducing energy consumption sounds like we are asking Oakville residents to reduce their energy use. This could be interpreted that we are asking them to do 40% less.
- The scope of the goal is not for an individual, but rather the entire community. All activity that occurs within the town boundaries from all sectors as absolute.
- The goal is meant to address the wasted energy that we pay for but cannot use so that we create less waste and, ultimately, use less energy. See Sankey Diagram for an illustration of wasted energy from source to end-use.
- Alternative language might better explain the community-wide scope of this goal. Rather than “consumption” which can have personal, end-use connotations. Instead words like “efficiency” or “intensity” or “productivity” might be clearer.
- Goal should translate to all sectors and be relevant to in the context that Oakville is a rapidly growing community.
- Communications and packaging of the activities and objectives of this goal will be critical in ensuring that underline the scope and broad, all-sector nature of it.
- All three alternate word options pose a risk that they have multiple meanings but are still better than consumption.
- An energy goal helps ensure that we achieve the emissions goal in a cost effective manner.
- Since efficiency is also a positive statement, “: Improve energy performance by” Is superfluous

Approval:

- 12/17 individuals present (not including public) vote for “efficiency” as the best term to include in the goal.
- Revised Oakville Energy Goal: Increase energy efficiency by at least 40% by 2041*, *Baseline of 2016.
- Approved: Revised Oakville Energy Goal approved by 16 of 18 Task Force attendees.

Oakville Economic Goal

- Proposed Oakville Economic Goal: Save the community no less than \$7.4 billion in cumulative energy costs by 2041*
- *Given the uncertainty of future energy costs, this goal should be reviewed every 5 years and adjusted, if necessary, to reflect actual costs and more current forecasts
- This value is based on the low risk for price savings.

Discussion:

- The baseline is \$620 Million for 2016, triples by 2050.
- Community energy costs are based on anticipated growth of community by neighbourhood and based on best available outlook pricing, with a low and high risk outlook.
- \$7.4 is based on cumulative savings.
- The economic savings can be considered a by-product of the Energy Goal, rather than a goal itself. However carving it out as a standalone goal tells the community that it remains

at the forefront of any recommended path forward.

- While the Plan will result in local job creation is very difficult to quantify what those numbers might be. That needs to come at a later stage, when we are in implementation.
- Having this as a goal helps speak to those who value costs and economics more than environmental responsibility.
- Here community captures any activity within the municipal border, including carbon pricing that is built into the outlooks.
- It is also difficult to quantify how much of the economic savings or money spent will be reinvested in Oakville. We know it will be an outcome of this activity, but don't have the data at this high level to include that as part of the goal.
- Ensure that this wording is water tight because it will be easy for others/critics to pick it apart. One negative outlook is that we are taking a Oakville-centric approach that benefits us but could hinder
- Difficult at this stage to determine so add to a footnote "Return \$7B in cumulative energy costs by 2041 to the community"

Action:

- Action: Project Working Team to take feedback and propose revised goal statement at next Task Force Meeting.

Oakville CEP Reliability Goals:

- Proposed Oakville Reliability Goal: Service level quality in 2041 will at least meet 2016 levels*, *Benchmarked against OEB operational effectiveness performance measures for Oakville Hydro for 2016 (i.e. average number of horse power

Discussion:

- Utilities is responsible to OEB metric, not community metric. Energy systems will be different than they are today. Hard to have the community have a different operating target than the IESO, but we would need a regulator for community side.
- Goal is centered on reliability of electricity, not all the energy captured in the plan.
- This might be less of a goal and more-so an = important communication message. Solar and wind seen as intermittent so we want to convey the message that we will change the way we use energy, but nothing will change with respect to reliability, comfort and performance.
- Reliability does come up a lot with clients and home owner and hesitation over new energy sources.
- Risk on Oakville with reliability is low, unless oil prices skyrocket, or there are distribution issues.

Recommendation:

- Keep this as a principal.
- Replace or add the word "resiliency"

Implementation Principals

- Review of guiding Environmental, Energy, Economic and Reliability principals.

OETF Role:

- Strengthening the plan by continuing the role of the Task Force beyond completion of the CEP development. How do we ensure that action is taken and that the goals are not forgotten?

Discussion:

- Annual report card could be helpful in embedding accountability into the plan.
- Greatest risk to the plan is that once approved by council, approved by community, etc., then everyone steps aside. There needs to be a group that takes charge of governance. No one entity around the table here could take the reins on this.
- Question from residents association is always what about implementation, what is going to be done?
- Vision of a Biotech Centre next to new hospital, we could concentrate early efforts there.
- Budget is always a concern, not a new problem. It will help to draw the connection with investment in efficiency which leads to cost savings.
- Council is behind this initiative and Councillor Longo will continue on as the representative through the next iteration of the Task Force.
- Need to talk practically about the projects that should be prioritized based on returns.
- Ensure there is an implementation strategy for moving forward.
- The scope of this Plan is bigger than just the Town of Oakville to lead alone, it has an important role in some aspects but implementation requires collaboration from members across the table.
- The scale of the CEP will make the budget a challenge. We need to complement that by finding creative of levers you can pull as an asset owner, to lower overall commercial operating expense. CEP is great foundation, but we need to be creative on how we can play in this space.
- Need to think of use or test cases to see if this holds water. Take a few of our use cases and think them through to see how they hold up to this test.

Action:

- Task Force and PWT to connect over what next steps could be for implementation.

4) Analytical:

- Review of final recommendations and efficiency measures needed to transform Oakville and achieve Oakville's energy vision.

Discussion:

- How much will it cost and who will pay? Can put together a realistic budget at this point of the planning process.
- Ontario Building Code is most efficient in North America so that is a good place to start. By saying we will be 1% better, we are saying we have to meet the code.

Implementation Framework:

- Progress forward requires collaboration from stakeholders around the table.
- There are immediate projects and next steps that can come out of this process as our priority.
- A governance framework needs to be established around this to ensure sustained action.

- Recommended list of priorities for Council to endorse as part of the OETF Implementation Framework

Discussion:

- Going to Council on January 27, 2020
- It would present a strong case and be very appealing to Council to have members of the Task Force step up and make commitments at that Council meeting to work/lead parts of the implementation.
- Partnerships among Task Force members should be leveraged for funding.
- Budget cuts from other levels of government can be a barrier to adding environmental/energy saving features to a building because it often requires more capital.
- Explore Oakville's opportunity to develop a Green Act, like the Green Standard done in City of Toronto.
- Understand the constraints and see how they match up against the Plan. How do they align, where is the plan vulnerable. Develop case studies to test effectiveness of Plan.
- Sheridan College is a good case study that exists and is easy to put forward in a narrative.

5) Engagement Update:

- Met with 8 Councillors and Mayor Rob Burton over the summer.
- Engaged the public at 5 community events,
- Presented or met with 5 Target Networks including the Oakville Community Leaders Roundtable and Oakville Chamber of Commerce,
- Oakville Town Council declared a Climate Emergency on June 24, 2019.
- Survey results highlight that demonstrating leadership is an important priority for the community.
- Survey results reinforces OETF vision statement

6) Communication

- Community Communique to be sent once goals are finalized.
- Community Success Story: Minto highlighted three projects with one demonstrating how an integrative design approach and 1-year of collaboration has resulted in higher insulation values for multi-unit residential buildings in Oakville. This was partly driven by the Toronto Green Standard.
- Infographic and animation draft presented.
- Community Success Story: Mattamy Homes highlighted three aspects of sustainability in their business including building 20,000 Energy Star homes since 2006, 2,000 of which were built in Oakville and geo-thermal net-zero pilot project in Markham.

7) Next Meeting:

- Approved: The next OETF meeting will be on November 6, 2019 at Town Hall.

8) Adjournment:

- Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm by John Matthiesen, Co-chair for the Oakville Energy Task Force (OETF). The next OETF meeting will be on November 6, 2019 in the same room at Town Hall.