Mayor's Task Force on Clean Technology

CLEANTECH INNOVATION TIMELINE

DEFINITIONS

GREEN TECH

Green tech, also known as green technology, refers to technologies and innovations developed with the primary aim of minimizing environmental impact or promoting sustainability. These technologies encompass a wide range of fields, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, waste management, and water conservation.

Examples of green tech include:

* Solar panels and solar photovoltaic systems for generating electricity from sunlight.
*Wind turbines that harness wind energy to produce electricity.
* Electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrid vehicles that reduce dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate air pollution.
* Energy-efficient appliances and building materials designed to minimize energy consumption in homes and commercial buildings.
* Water-saving technologies such as low-flow faucets, greywater recycling systems, and drip irrigation for agriculture.

GREEN TECHNOLOGY

Green technology, synonymous with environmental technology or clean technology, refers to the development and application of innovative solutions that mitigate environmental degradation and promote sustainable living practices.

Examples of green technology include:

* Biofuels derived from renewable biomass sources like algae, corn, or sugarcane as alternatives to fossil fuels.
* Advanced recycling technologies for processing and repurposing waste materials into new products or energy sources.
* Green building techniques and materials, such as eco-friendly insulation, passive solar design, and sustainable construction practices.
* Carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies that capture carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes and store them underground to prevent their release into the atmosphere.
* Smart grid systems that optimize energy distribution and consumption, integrating renewable energy sources and improving overall grid efficiency.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Nature-based solutions (NBS) involve utilizing the inherent qualities of natural ecosystems to address environmental challenges and promote sustainability.

Examples of nature-based solutions include:

* Reforestation and afforestation projects to restore degraded forests and sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
* Green infrastructure initiatives such as constructed wetlands, vegetated swales, and permeable pavements to manage stormwater runoff and reduce urban flooding.
* Coastal restoration efforts like mangrove reforestation and oyster reef restoration to protect shorelines from erosion and storm damage while providing habitat for marine species.
* Sustainable agriculture practices such as agroforestry, cover cropping, and rotational grazing that enhance soil health, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration.
* Urban green spaces and biodiversity corridors that improve air quality, regulate temperatures and provide habitat for wildlife while enhancing community well-being.

SECTORS

- Agriculture & Food — Plant-based foods, regenerative agriculture, biofertilizers, soil carbon measurement
- Energy & Power — Innovative renewables, long-duration energy storage, grid flexibility, green hydrogen
- Materials & Chemicals — Biochemicals, advanced materials, carbon to fuels
- Transport & Logistics — Electric vehicles, sustainable aviation fuels, clean shipping
- Resources & Environment — Carbon capture and utilisation, water efficiency, automated waste sorting, circular construction
- Enabling Technologies — Geospatial, quantum computing, artificial intelligence applied to cleantech

COMMENTARY 2

There is an inconsistency and ambiguity (unintended, one is sure) in the proposed membership of the Task Force:

While the CEDAC constituent position is clear, the following are unclear in their intention:

Please define: "source material experts" - does that refer to scientific literature, global agency publications, knowledge of public policy (legislative and regulatory affairs), etc.?

It would help clarify the expectations set for the Task Force.

Does that mean all members of the three (3) named Committees?

"This would also allow the committee to commence their proceedings in advance of filling the remaining seats from the advisory committees and the public."

If the entire Task Force has not been appointed, named, or selected, and that,

"The original discussion group members from the Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee are recommended to be brought forward as the four CEDAC members for continuity of planning and effective implementation. This would also allow the committee to commence their proceedings in advance of filling the remaining seats from the advisory committees and the public." then

The four members of CEDAC named members have been granted explicit and implicit agenda setting without the benefit of advice and counsel from other Advisory Committee Members in setting a workable and actionable direction/plan for the Task Force

It would be advisable for the entire Task Force to be constituted so that it can act as a whole

"The membership is proposed to be comprised of various sources including members from internal advisory committees, council members, as well as community members. Utilizing source material experts including members from the Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee, Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee, and the Environmental Advisory Committee will provide strategic and pivotal knowledge to lead the task force in their initiatives."

SOURCE: Terms of Reference for the Mayor's Task Force on Clean Technology - Report No: CS-2024-04

Sections taken from the TOR are highlighted in red.

"Direct Staff to solicit community applications and advisory committee appointees for the Mayor's Task Force on Clean Technology, as set out in the membership section of the Terms of Reference."

Committees do not have authority to direct or task Staff

A broad community call for membership is often preferred, it should, however, be prefaced with a very clear definition of "clean tech" or "clean technology."

It is too easy for the public to interpret "clean tech" from a personal perspective.

See: SOURCE: https://www.cleantechforeurope.com/explainers/what-is-cleantech

CLEANTECH refers to new technology and related business models offering competitive returns for investors and customers while providing solutions to global challenges.

The concept of cleantech embraces a diverse range of products, services, and processes across industry verticals that are inherently designed to:

- Provide superior performance at lower costs
- Greatly reduce or eliminate negative ecological impact
- Improve the productive and responsible use of natural resources

INTRODUCTION

The establishment of the Mayor's Task Force on Clean Technology has been prioritized by the current Mayor, Municipal Councillors, and the Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee as a means of identifying priority short term and longer-term objectives and implementation strategies aimed at advancing clean technologies and options for residents and businesses in North Grenville as well as attracting clean tech job opportunities and fostering a clean tech industry.

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- and implementation strategies aimed at advancing clean technologies and options for
- residents and businesses in North Grenville as well as attracting clean tech job opportunities
- and fostering a clean tech industry.

Discrete Problems

The Committee shall have regard to the shared priorities of the Community Strategic Plan, Committee Handbook, and Procedural By-Law.

MANDATE

The Task Force will examine the current state of clean technologies in the Municipality of North Grenville and make recommendations for strategies and opportunities to expand access to clean technologies for residents and businesses. The recommendations will include actions that may be taken by the Municipality to investigate and/or increase clean technologies, green technologies, create potential clean tech job opportunities, and foster a thriving clean tech industry. Recommendations will take into account the needs of residents and a range of businesses to apply for grant opportunities as well as leverage existing assets to investigate clean technological approaches and practices.

Task Force will

- examine the current state of clean technologies in the Municipality of North Grenville
- make recommendations for strategies and opportunities to expand access to clean technologies for residents and businesses.
- recommendations will include actions that may be taken by the Municipality to investigate and/or increase clean technologies, green technologies,
- create potential clean tech job opportunities,
- foster a thriving clean tech industry.

Recommendations will take into account the needs of

- residents
- and a range of businesses

to apply for grant opportunities

- as well as leverage existing assets
- to investigate clean technological approaches and practices.

What does this mean ?

MEMBERSHIP

The Task Force shall be comprised of the following;

- The Mayor (Chair)
- One Municipal Council Member
- Five to eight community members with a range of knowledge, skills and experience relevant to the work of the task force

The community membership will be comprised of three (4) members from the Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee, one (1) representative from the Environmental Action Advisory Committee, one (1) representative from the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee, and up to two (2) additional community members with knowledge, skills, and experience to assist the task force.

Calculation (8)

- four (4) members from the Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee
- one (1) representative from the Environmental Action Advisory Committee
- one (1) representative from the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
- and up to two (2) additional community members with knowledge, skills, and experience to assist the task force.

The Task force will invite additional content experts to attend and present at specific meetings in order to meet its mandate.

The Task Force will receive technical and administrative support from Municipal staff.

Responsibilities of Members:

- Collaborate on agenda items and priority areas of work for the Task Force.
- Regularly attend and actively participate in meetings.
- Prepare for meetings and review and/or contribute to reports, as indicated.

The Municipality of North Grenville is committed to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in every aspect of its work, including appointments to advisory committees. An increase in diversity can assist in promoting equal opportunities and memberships with a diversity of lived experiences. A more diverse membership will contribute to the work of each advisory committee. Each advisory committee shall endeavour to have balanced representation from various equity- and inclusion-seeking groups including, but not limited to, people with disabilities, francophones, Indigenous people, newcomers, older adults, racialized community members, rural residents, 2SLGBTQIA+, those facing socioeconomic disadvantage, women, minority faith-based and spiritual group members, and youth.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Meetings

The Task Force will meet at a minimum ten (10) times per year, and twenty (20) times over the course of its mandate, averaging one meeting per month less summer and winter breaks. Additional meetings may be held at the call of the Chair and as indicated to ensure that the work of the Task Force is completed within the established timelines.

Agenda packages will be sent out the week prior to the meetings and published on the

Municipality's website. Draft minutes will be distributed by email to each Committee member within one (1) week following the meeting.

Quorum

Quorum of the Committee shall be a majority of the appointed.

Votes by the Committee will be held at regular or special meetings. Decision making of the group shall be by majority vote.

Timelines

The Task Force will complete its current mandate and author an interim report and final report.

The interim report will be completed by January 31, 2025.

The Task Force will author its final report by March 31, 2026 with a presentation to Council to follow.

Budget

The Committee will prepare an annual work plan including any budget requests ahead of the budget cycle. The Economic Development Officer shall bring forward budget requests of the Committee as part of the Municipal budget process.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Identify potential partners and partnership strategies with the private, non-profit and government sectors to assist in developing or implementing clean technological initiatives
- Identify strategies to promote the conversion to clean technologies for residents and businesses in the municipality
- Identify opportunities for grant funding for clean technological initiatives within the Municipality
- Research and recommend initiates on Clean Technology for the Municipality
- Identify current and projected needs for clean and green technologies within the Municipality
- Identify existing clean technological initiatives within the Municipality.
- Identify enablers and inhibitors in the current municipal by-laws, policies, and procedures related to increasing clean technological initiatives
- Research effective models and best practices for clean technologies found in other municipalities

Broadly scoped without clear parameters. The very first objective should be: identify and map current tech/technologies by sector in use in North Grenville.

For example: diesel fuel, natural gas, fossil fuels - in agriculture.

COMMENTARY 1

The Mayor's Task Force on Clean Technology could have a very positive impact on the economic development of our community, the health and well-being of the Municipality as a whole, and future generations.

The Task Force should be seen as an opportunity to help the Municipality set a course for the present, and assure a viable and productive future for generations while helping to remediate our collective errors of the past. It is possible to reverse the course and effects of a carbon-based present to a carbon-neutral future.

The creation of the Task Force should be given a very clear mandate and the scope to not only make recommendations but to chart a feasible work plan.

Presented with xmind