

AGENDA

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIOUX LOOKOUT

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE Council Chambers, Municipal Office Thursday, January 8, 2026 5:00 P.M.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

A. **Attendance**

Committee Members	Mr. George Hoggarth (Chair) Ms. Anne Saltel (Vice Chair) Cllr. Reece Van Breda Ms. Joanne Falk Cllr. Joyce Timpson (Virtually) Mr. Hari Sankar Ms. Alanna Pizziol-Carroll (Virtually) Ms. Desta Buswa
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Staff	Mr. Jody Brinkman, Development Services Manager Ms. Komal Shah, Development Services Administrative Assistant
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Regrets	Mr. Tyler Bernier
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Absent

Guest

B. Chair to Call the Meeting to order.

C. Motion to excuse from the meeting.

THAT the above mentioned members be excused from the meeting.

Moved by:
Seconded by:

2. AGENDA

a) Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Hoggarth requested that committee members discuss materials that can be recycled within the circular economy.

<https://www.circularmaterials.ca/>

b) Confirmation of Agenda

THAT the Agenda for the Environment Committee Meeting of January 8, 2026 be approved, as amended/ presented.

Moved by:
Seconded by:

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THAT the Minutes of the December 4, 2025 Environment Committee Meeting be adopted as presented/amended.

Moved by:
Seconded by:

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 ACTION ITEMS

01-2024-01 – Committee to research if municipality has a Climate Action Plan and if so committee should review and discuss, if not committee to submit a

recommendation to council to develop and implement a municipal Climate Action Plan - All Members

09-2025-02 – Reserve a 40\$ deposit for each community garden beds in April 2026 – Ms. Falk

11-2025-03 – Write an article on Hazardous waste education to promote safe storage and landfill reduction – Mr. Sankar

11-2025-04 – Educate the public about hazardous waste before the fall collection event– All Members

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 Annual Work Plan and Budget Request

Curbside Swap

- ❖ **Goals:** Continue promoting Curbside Swap
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Cllr. J. Timpson
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Municipal Website
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Weekly (Saturday and Sundays) April through October
- ❖ **Tasks:** Ads, signs, encourage the non-profit housing associations and others to use Curbside Swap. Better promote Curbside Swap Facebook page.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Explore Composting Options

- ❖ **Goals:** To explore options for composting. To promote composting.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Municipal World magazine
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing

- ❖ **Tasks:** Solicit community input on composting options through methods such as surveys.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Communication and Education

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with residents and educate regarding sustainable environmental practices.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media (Facebook), Ads
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Through a variety of media, educate the community regarding sustainable environmental practices of any nature.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Community Garden

- ❖ **Goals:** To establish and maintain community gardens that promote and encourage locally grown produce, food security, the reduction of carbon footprints, composting and educational opportunities.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Ms. J. Falk
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Volunteers needed to help with setting up the gardens. Municipal staff needed to help with maintenance as required.
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** April through October
- ❖ **Tasks:** Maintaining the gardens, advertising, gardening classes.
- ❖ **Updates:** Sioux Gravel delivered soil to the community garden on October 29th.

Municipal Projects Review

- ❖ **Goals:** To review municipal projects that may have an environmental impact and report on their environmental effect
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee

- ❖ **Resources Needs:** List of Capital Projects
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Review environmental impacts of capital projects
- ❖ **Updates:**

Environmental Recognition

- ❖ **Goals:** Recognize groups or individuals for their environmentally sustainable activities/initiatives
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Ms. A. Saltel
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Recognizing groups or individuals on Social Media and distributing certificates. Seek nominations from public
- ❖ **Updates:**

Climate Action Plan

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with and educate residents about effective strategies to adapt to the effects of climate change including the impact of the environment on people's health, Natural Ecosystems and Eco Friendly Transportation will be incorporated into the Climate Action Plan
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Policies
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Present information through a variety of media and act in an advisory capacity to the Municipality
- ❖ **Updates:**

Promotion of Locally Sourced Food and Self-Sustainability

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with and educate residents about access to sustainably sourced food
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Workspaces
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Present information and education through a variety of media and act in an advisory capacity to the Municipality. Promoting different gardening options (examples: raised gardens and containers). Provide support to local gardeners by providing a platform for knowledge exchange. Promote sustainably sourced food. Through education and promotion at the farmer's markets, increase awareness about sustainably sourced foods. Advertise and encourage people to share their produce (Gleaning).
- ❖ **Updates:**

Waste Reduction/Diversion

- ❖ **Goals:** To reduce and divert waste
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Task:** Introduce policies, practices, and by-laws to eliminate single use plastics. Advertise Waste Reduction Week. Promote reduction of litter around town. Encourage the enforcement of the existing littering By-law. Educate people on hazardous waste and how to dispose of it. Reduce recycling mixed in with household and commercial garbage, which is being brought to the landfill. Advocate for the chipping of brush as a way to divert it from the landfill site.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Municipal Litter Strategy

- ❖ **Goals:** To create a Community wide Litter Strategy
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, various local Stakeholders
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing

- ❖ **Task:** Consult with local agencies and businesses to develop an ongoing litter reduction program. Promote community pride by keeping our streets and green spaces free of litter.

- ❖ **Updates:**

7.4 Committee Budget Discussion

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment Committee is scheduled for 5:00 p.m on Thursday, February 5th 2026 at Council Chambers at the Municipal Office.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at _____.

MINUTES

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIOUX LOOKOUT

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL OFFICE Thursday, December 4, 2025 5:00 P.M.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A. Attendance

Committee Members

Mr. George Hoggarth, Chair
Ms. Anne Saltel, Vice Chair
Cllr. Joyce Timpson
Ms. Joanne Falk
Cllr. Reece Van Breda
Ms. Alanna Pizziol-Carroll
Mr. Hari Sankar
Ms. Desta Buswa

Staff

Mr. Jody Brinkman, Development Services Manager
Ms. Komal Shah, Development Services Administrative Assistant

Excused

Mr. Tyler Bernier

Absent

Guest

B. Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

C. MEMBERS EXCUSED

Motion to excuse members: Mr. Tyler Bernier

Moved by: Ms. Saltel

Seconded by: Ms. Falk

CARRIED

2. AGENDA

a) Additions to Agenda

b) Confirmation of Agenda

THAT the Agenda for the Environment Committee Meeting of December 4, 2025 be approved, as presented.

Moved by: Ms. Falk

Seconded by: Ms. Saltel

CARRIED

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Motion to Adopt Minutes.

THAT the Minutes of the November 6, 2025 Committee Meeting be adopted, as amended.

Moved by: Ms. Pizziol-Caroll

Seconded by: Mr. Sankar

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 ACTION ITEMS

01-2024-01 – Committee to research if municipality has a Climate Action Plan and if so committee should review and discuss, if not committee to submit a recommendation to council to develop and implement a municipal Climate Action Plan - All Members

09-2025-02 – Reserve a 40\$ deposit for each community garden beds in April 2026” – Ms. Falk

❖ This action item will be discussed again in the spring of 2026.

11-2025-03 – Check the remaining 2025 budget balance – Ms. Shah

❖ Ms. Shah reported on the remaining balance of the Committee’s \$2,500 budget. Expenditures to date include \$603.59 for 5 hazardous-waste signs, \$1,017 for soil for the community garden, \$253.52 for 1 Adopt-a-Block sign, and \$90.34 for 4 garbage pickers. The remaining budget balance is \$535.55.

❖ Completed

11-2025-04 – Write an article on Hazardous waste education to promote safe storage and landfill reduction – Mr. Sankar

❖ Mr. Sankar mentioned that he will prepare a draft of the hazardous-waste article by next week and will send it to the committee members.

11-2025-05 – Educate the public about hazardous waste before the fall collection event– All Members

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 Annual Work Plan and Budget Request

❖ Mr. Sankar reminded the committee about the flyer on Hazardous waste education for the public. He suggested that printing the flyer for distribution in mailboxes and newspapers would be a good way to utilize the budget. Mr. Sankar will check with Canada Post to see how many people have opted out of receiving flyers, to determine whether sending the flyer would be worthwhile.

❖ The committee members decided to order five garbage pickers from Canadian Tire to evaluate their effectiveness. Ms. Shah will place the order.

Curbside Swap

❖ **Goals:** Continue promoting Curbside Swap

- ❖ **Lead Person:** Cllr. J. Timpson
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Municipal Website
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Weekly (Saturday and Sundays) April through October
- ❖ **Tasks:** Ads, signs, encourage the non-profit housing associations and others to use Curbside Swap. Better promote Curbside Swap Facebook page.
- ❖ **Updates:** Cllr. Timpson mentioned that no further anonymous posts should be allowed on the Curbside Swap page.

Explore Composting Options

- ❖ **Goals:** To explore options for composting. To promote composting.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Municipal World magazine
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Research and promote municipal composting options. Promote backyard composting. To act in an advisory capacity to the municipality to ensure infrastructure and initiatives supporting eco-friendly transportation are being considered.
- ❖ **Updates:** Mr. Hoggarth informed the committee that Mr. Peter Kirby had sent an email regarding sustainable composting in the Kenora region. He noted that 250 composting bins have been ordered for Kenora and that they will be available at a cost of \$10 per bin. Ms. Saltel added that they may receive a grant or subsidy to support the purchase of the bins.

Communication and Education

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with residents and educate regarding sustainable environmental practices.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee

- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media (Facebook), Ads
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing

- ❖ **Tasks:** Through a variety of media, including the Environment Committee Facebook page, educate the community regarding sustainable environmental practices of any nature.

- ❖ **Updates:** Ms. Buswa encouraged committee members to reach out to local schools to promote and support engagement in environmental initiatives. Mr. Hoggarth added that Ms. Buswa will contact the school board and administration regarding the Environmental Committee's work plan. Ms. Shah will share the 2025 work plan with Ms. Buswa.

Community Garden

- ❖ **Goals:** To establish and maintain community gardens that promote and encourage locally grown produce, food security, the reduction of carbon footprints, composting and educational opportunities.

- ❖ **Lead Person:** Ms. J. Falk

- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Municipal staff needed to help with maintenance as required.

- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** April through October

- ❖ **Tasks:** Maintaining the gardens, advertising, gardening classes.

- ❖ **Updates:** None

Municipal Projects Review

- ❖ **Goals:** To review municipal projects that may have an environmental impact and report on their environmental effect

- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee

- ❖ **Resources Needs:** List of Capital Projects

- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing

- ❖ **Tasks:** Review environmental impacts of capital projects
- ❖ **Updates:** Mr. Brinkman reported that the biomass project has started behind the Public Works garage. The project, which began this week, provides heating for both the Fire Hall and the Public Works garage. The wood chips are being sourced from Lac Seul. The existing heating systems will continue to operate as a backup.
- ❖ Mr. Brinkman shared that the Town has applied for funding to support energy modeling and monitoring for four municipal buildings: the Town Office, the Arena Fitness Centre, the Airport Terminal, and the Library. He provided a brief explanation of how the system works. The software can detect equipment issues before they lead to a breakdown, allowing staff to repair equipment proactively. This approach is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 50%, improve indoor comfort, lower utility costs, and reduce long-term maintenance needs.
- ❖ Cllr. Timpson suggested that, from a long-term perspective, the Town should consider purchasing only hybrid vehicles for the municipal fleet. Ms. Shah will follow up with the Fleet Manager to see if this can be incorporated into their planning. Ms. Shah has already sent an email to the Fleet Manager regarding this matter.
- ❖ Mr. Erik Hoey Fleet manager responded below:

“Hello Komal,

I do not plan on purchasing any fully electric or hybrid vehicles in the near future unless it becomes government mandated.

On paper or when in the boardroom these type of vehicles look to be a great solution. Although in reality they seem to be merely a marketing gimmick as opposed to being based in actual fact (“greenwashing”). These vehicles generally do not recoup the additional cost of purchase for 15-20 years and also generally require specific technicians, longer repair times, as well as more expensive parts to facilitate those repairs (therefore higher insurance costs). For example, a battery pack replacement can easily cost 20-30 thousand dollars, which is more than the adjusted “book value” of the vehicle itself. Combined with the fact that all batteries are already highly stressed in extreme temperature environments as well as the recent lack of even non-specialized automotive technician availability for basic repairs on traditional vehicles.

Our winter climate **does not** lend itself to electric/hybrid vehicles. Evidence of this can be seen in the early 2000’s when they first started to push hybrid’s. This push only lasted a few short years before they disappeared almost completely. We only had two hybrid GM vehicle owners in all of Sioux Lookout and only one of those vehicles survived the long haul and was still in use when I left the company. Most manufacturers are starting to shy away from the new “electric push” due to the high cost and low demand. We would also have to consider the steadily increasing cost of electricity when weighing the long term pros and cons of a fleet change over. There are many more critical points to consider other than a small fuel cost saving or the slight reduction in operating emissions that the brochure/commercial promises.

As far as environmental impact goes, I have modified our preventative maintenance schedules to allow us to extend our Municipal vehicle service life from 3-5 years to 10 years. This will reduce the total carbon footprint and per vehicle cost by a much greater amount than switching to hybrid and/or electric vehicles would. When you factor in the actual manufacture of the individual vehicle components (from across the globe) as well as transportation emissions regarding the final build and delivery, what comes out of our tailpipes is a minuscule component of the total carbon footprint.

Perhaps 5-10 years from now when the 10 year capital plan is due for renewal we can reassess the situation and we can act accordingly (if the technology continues to advance).

Thank You and Have a Great Weekend”

- ❖ Cllr. Timpson asked Mr. Brinkman for an update on the LED streetlight project and its progress. Mr. Brinkman reported that the project is saving the Town over \$100,000 per year. He also noted that Sioux Hydro has experienced a significant loss in revenue as a result of the reduced energy consumption from the LED streetlights.

Environmental Recognition

- ❖ **Goals:** Recognize groups or individuals for their environmentally sustainable activities/initiatives
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Ms. A. Saltel
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Recognizing groups or individuals on Social Media and distributing certificates.
- ❖ **Updates:** None

Climate Action Plan

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with and educate residents about effective strategies to adapt to the effects of climate change including the impact of the environment on people's health, Natural Ecosystems and Eco Friendly Transportation will be incorporated into the Climate Action Plan
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Policies

- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Present information through a variety of media and act in an advisory capacity to the Municipality.
- ❖ **Updates:** None

Promotion of Locally Sourced Food and Self-Sustainability

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with and educate residents about access to sustainably sourced food
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Workspaces
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Present information and education through a variety of media and act in an advisory capacity to the Municipality. Promoting different gardening options (examples: raised gardens and containers). Provide support to local gardeners by providing a platform for knowledge exchange. Promote sustainably sourced food. Through education and promotion at the farmer's markets, increase awareness about sustainably sourced foods. Advertise and encourage people to share their produce through activities such as gleaning. To approach other Northern Communities for ideas related to locally sourced food.
- ❖ **Updates:** Mr. Tyler Bernier has opened the business, and committee members noted that it has been quite busy.

Waste Reduction/Diversion

- ❖ **Goals:** To reduce and divert waste
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing

- ❖ **Task:** Introduce policies, practices, and by-laws to eliminate single use plastics. Advertise Waste Reduction Week. Promote reduction of litter around town. Encourage the enforcement of the existing littering By-law. Educate people on hazardous waste and how to dispose of it. Reduce recycling mixed in with household and commercial garbage, which is being brought to the landfill. Advocate for the chipping of brush as a way to divert it from the landfill site.
- ❖ **Updates:** Ms. Saltel reported that she contacted Municipal staff regarding the recycling program. She noted that the Municipality has been responsible for the recycling program for many years, but as of January 1st it will transition to the Provincial system. She expressed disappointment that the Municipality had not communicated or promoted this change more effectively. The Municipality has since posted information on its social media page, including a link with further details.

Municipal Litter Strategy

- ❖ **Goals:** To create a Community wide Litter Strategy
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, various local Stakeholders
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Task:** Consult with local agencies and businesses to develop an ongoing litter reduction program. Promote community pride by keeping our streets and green spaces free of litter.
- ❖ **Updates:** None

7.4 COMMITTEE BUDGET

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 8th 2025, at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers at the Municipal Office.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.