



Minutes

Coordination Committee

Monday, June 9, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Microsoft Teams

Present:

Beatrice Ekoko, City of Hamilton
Charles Hostovsky, McMaster University
Chyler Sewell, Green Venture
Denis Corr, Corr Environmental
Fran Scott, McMaster University
Gas Gebara, AMD
Geoffrey Knapper, HEIA
George McKibbon, McKibbon Wakefield
Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton
Julie Wedzinga, Stelco
Liesel Knight-Messenger, Green Venture
Manal Chaudhry, City of Hamilton
Matthew Parsons, ECCC
Natalie Stacey, MECP
Nathan VanBelois, BASES
Pascale Marchand, Ward 4 Office
Phoebe Tung, Health Canada
Sally Radisic, City of Hamilton
Sara Yonson, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority
Shelley Rogers, City of Hamilton
Stephen Burt, MECP
Susan Chapman, STAND for Stoney Creek
Tim Hung, MECP
Trevor Imhoff, City of Hamilton
Zobia Jawed, Chair

Presenter: Ruth Sanderson, City of Hamilton

Presenter: Valérie Tremblay, Green Communities Canada

1. Land Acknowledgement

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers ([source](#)).

2. Approval of May 2025 meeting minutes

Minutes approved by majority of attendees

Presentations:

3. Update on Project to Monitor Local Impact of Air Pollution on Mental and Neurological Health Outcomes in Hamilton, Hamilton Public Health Services (15 minutes)

Q: Which demographic groups are most at risk for pollution-induced neurological effects? Are there socioeconomic or racial disparities?

- Some groups are emerging as more at risk for air pollution, which the project is trying to further determine as well. The literature has some evidence of some demographics at higher risk of health impacts from air pollution

Q: What are the key methodological challenges in linking air pollution to cognitive or psychiatric outcomes?

- Some work still needs to be done to establish causation between air pollution and dementia
- Another challenge is bringing different streams of research and knowledge together to determine local impacts

Notes from members that Stoney Creek community and Parkview community may be interested in engaging with this project

4. Electric School Buses in Canada, Green Communities Canada (20 minutes)

Q: What innovative funding models — such as public-private partnerships, leasing programs, or utility-led investments — can be implemented in Ontario to overcome the high upfront costs of school bus electrification while ensuring long-term cost savings and equitable access across school districts?

- Island fleet electric will rent ESBs to operators, as well as take on the applications for funding for the operators as well
- Most funding models include subsidies from the provincial government, such as in QC and BC

Q: Did the report consider the cost of additional charging infrastructure required for ESBs as this will increase the cost gap?

- Yes, further information on the costs of charging infrastructure is included in the first CESBA report, including information on the per student expenditure

Q: Are the health impacts of diesel buses on students shown to decision makers?

- Yes, however the focus is on showing the economic benefits as this is what decision makers in ON respond best to at this time

Q: Has CESBA noticed any tangential benefits to the electrification process, e.g. more technicians, improvements in technology, additional infrastructure etc. from uptake of the Zero Emission Transit Fund?

- All ESBs in ON and PEI were obtained through federal funding.
- Technicians for electric vehicles have been supported more by the provincial government

Q: Has there been success in contacting operators?

- Contacting operators has been difficult in ON where school bus operations are contracted out and not run by a board.
- There are occupational health benefits for school bus drivers from driving ESBs.

Q: Are there any concerns regarding ESB fires?

- CESBA is preparing to publish an article on ESB fires that can provide more information on this topic

Q: The life expectancy of ESBs and electric buses is expected to be shorter. Are there any insights from CESBA?

- For ESBs, the legal life of 12 years is the same as the legal life of diesel buses. Since this is a new technology, it is hard to determine whether ESBs may perform longer than 12 years.
- In QC, the provincial government has extended the legal life of diesel buses by two years for the transition to ESBs

Q: Does CESBA have insight into the capacity for ESBs? E.g. there was a company prepared to purchase electric buses, but then the company making electric buses went bankrupt.

- CESBA is looking into this question. For example, did the government of QC move forward with ESB legislation because Lion Electric was present and manufacturing in Canada, or did Lion Electric establish itself because the government of QC had funding for ESBs?
- Are manufacturers waiting for operators to have more demand for EVs, or are operators making the switch when manufacturers offer enough capacity and infrastructure?

Q: Has crowdfunding been considered for ESBs?

- There are many ways that people can advocate for ESBs, including petitions, letters, and advocacy to school districts

Q: What is the longevity and range of ESBs?

- Usually ESB range is around 200 km, which is suitable for urban and suburban routes
- ESBs use fossil fuel heating in the winter months. Range in the winter months without fossil fuel heating decreases by 40%, with fossil fuel heating it decreases by 15%.

Discussion Items:

5. Clean Air Hamilton Summer Break – Reconvening in September, Manal Chaudhry (5 minutes)

- Clean Air Hamilton will break for the summer and reconvene in September. The Education Sub-committee will continue to meet over the break.

6. Community Experiences: an opportunity for anyone to share local air quality experiences, All (10 minutes)

- Residents in the Stoney Creek neighbourhood continue to experience odours from the GFL Stoney Creek facility that impact their lives. The MECP is working with GFL and with residents on this issue.

7. Roundtable Updates: an opportunity for everyone to share with CAH participants events or updates that relate to CAH and that you are engaged in, All (10 minutes)

- Green Venture will host an Air Quality 101 webinar on June 18th from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Attendees can register at: https://www.greenventure.ca/air_quality_webinar

Next meeting
September 8th, 2025

3:00-5:00pm

Microsoft Teams