



Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) 2026 Workplan



1. Policy Development and Implementation

a. Provide advice on:

- Environmentally significant projects and proposals.
- Projects subject to a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO).
- Durham Community Energy Plan implementation and low-carbon pathway implementation and renewable energy.
- Climate action monitoring, reporting, and reduction.
- Provincial and Regional Climate Change guidance materials.
- Environmental Assessment (EA) Studies.
- Public and/or Stakeholder Advisory Committees.
- Environmental Bill of Rights postings.
- Climate adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency initiatives.

2. Community Outreach and Stewardship

a. High Priority

- Continue to promote and implement the Durham Environmental Achievement Awards program.
- Participate in Durham Climate Forum in partnership with the Environment and Climate Division.
- Invasive and native species management and education.
- Explore opportunities for enhancing volunteerism with the Committee program.
- Participate in, and organize community environmental and stewardship events, including but not limited to:
 - Tree planting targets and initiatives, and canopy protection and stewardship.
 - Opportunities for community clean-up/waste reduction.
 - Identify timelines for Spring of 2026.

b. Medium Priority

- Pollinator seedling distribution project.
- Continue to foster a working relationship with the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, Durham Active Transportation Committee, and the Energy from Waste-Waste Management Advisory Committee.

- Participate in Climate Change outreach activities/events hosted by DECAC.
- Update the Region of Durham Natural Features Map.
- Provide a forum for community environmental groups to improve responses to climate, biodiversity, and habitat protection.

3. Committee Education and Development

a. The Committee will expand its knowledge in some of the following issues:

- Energy (e.g. sources, alternatives, producers, retrofits, efficiency, etc.).
- Recreational uses in the natural environment.
- Provincial Planning documents.
- Water quality (e.g. Duffin Creek water treatment plant).
- Human health and the environment.
- Green infrastructure and low impact development.
- Road salt.
- Species at risk.
- Waste disposal, reduction, and management progress.
- Lifecycle assessment of products and packaging (e.g. plastics).
- Microplastics.
- Forest, grassland, and wetland health.
- Active transportation.
- Climate change.
- Pesticides, fertilizers, and alternatives.
- Invasive and native species.
- Biodiversity.
- Urban sustainability.
- Air quality.
- Food security.
- Community gardens.
- Aggregate pit rehabilitation.
- Peat moss and topsoil removal and restoration.
- Biological and physical decomposition (e.g. incineration, gasification, carbonization, anaerobic digestion, waste, etc.).
- Noise and light pollution.
- Citizen science.
- Ground and surface water preservation and protection.
- Education around Just Transition initiatives.

- Indigenous reconciliation and partnership.
- Climate justice and inequality.
- Ecosystem regeneration.

4. Issues of Interest

- a. The Committee will continue to monitor the following issues as prioritized by current events:
 - Conservation Authority initiatives and activities, such as Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update and McLaughlin Bay Restoration Strategy.
 - Provincial planning initiatives.
 - Oak Ridges Moraine.
 - Greenbelt.
 - Water – groundwater, surface water, watersheds.
 - Climate change impacts, e.g. flooding.
 - Transportation developments.
 - Waterfront protection and development.
 - Nuclear Energy Management.
 - Potential future airport lands.
 - Rouge National Urban Park.
 - Urban forest/naturalization strategies.
 - Trails.
 - Energy from Waste Facility.
 - Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs).
 - Durham Community Energy Plan – Implementation Governance Task Force.
 - Large-scale fill operations.
 - Waste management and diversion.
 - Environmental or climate incentives.
 - Environmental impacts of agricultural and bioproducts producers.
 - Air quality initiatives and metrics.
 - Biodiversity.
 - Climate adaptation.
 - Greening of school grounds, and industrial and municipal properties.
 - Methane generation from livestock.

5. Meeting Schedule

DECAC has scheduled 9 regular meetings in 2026. In general, meetings will take place on the third Thursday of each month. Resources (Community Growth Division and Legislative Services) will be provided to accommodate the schedule and workload.

The 2025 meeting schedule is as follows:

- January 15, 2026
- February 19, 2026
- March 24, 2026 (Tuesday)
- April 16, 2026
- May 21, 2026
- June 18, 2026
- September 17, 2026
- October 15, 2026
- November 19, 2026