

# Environmental Task Force Agenda

9:00 a.m. - Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Council Chambers

[Zoom Link](#)

## 1. Call to Order

## 2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

We begin this gathering by acknowledging and celebrating these traditional lands as a gathering place of the first peoples and their ancestors who are entrusted to care for Mother Earth since time immemorial. We do so respecting both the land and the Indigenous People who continue to walk with us through this world. Today, the Township of North Frontenac is committed to working with Indigenous Peoples and all residents to pursue a united path of reconciliation.

## 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

## 4. Environmental Task Force Notes

- |    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| a) | Notes of the Environmental Task Force Meeting dated October 28, 2025 for consideration. | 3 - 6 |
|    | <a href="#">Environmental Task Force - 28 Oct 2025 - Minutes - Pdf</a>                  |       |

## 5. Business Arising

- |    |  |       |
|----|--|-------|
| a) | Quarterly Newsletter   | 7 - 8 |
|    | <a href="#">Fall 2025 - Newsletter - ETF</a>   |       |
|    | <a href="#">Winter 2025 - Newsletter - ETF</a>   |       |
| b) | 2026 Work Plan   | 9     |
|    | <a href="#">Work Plan Approved Council November 22, 2024</a>                             |       |
| c) | Meeting Dates for 2026   |       |
| d) | Work Plan Update   |       |
|    | 1. Battery Storage Opportunities - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt          |       |
|    | 2. Net Metering - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt                           |       |
|    | 3. Invasive Species - Roy Huetl, Fred Fowler and Mike Ward                               |       |
|    | 4. Septic Inspection Programs - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra, Roy Huetl and Fred Fowler       |       |
|    | 5. Short-term Rentals - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra, Ange Defosse and John Inglis            |       |
| e) | Public Works Manager - Net Metering - Update on Engineering Analysis of the Roof Systems |       |

## 6. New Business

## 7. Adjournment

a) Meeting adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. until December 23, 2025.



# Environmental Task Force Minutes

9:00 AM - Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Council Chambers

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**Present:** Councillor Roy Huetl (Chair); Deputy Mayor John Inglis; Councillor Fred Fowler; Paul Asselin; Bruce Moore; Marlene Spruyt; Mike Ward; and Katie Surra

**Also Present:** Tara Mieske, Clerk/Planning Manager, Dipl.M.A. Dipl.M.M., and Darwyn Sproule, Public Works Manager, P. Eng.

## 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

## 2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

We begin this gathering by acknowledging and celebrating these traditional lands as a gathering place of the first peoples and their ancestors who are entrusted to care for Mother Earth since time immemorial. We do so respecting both the land and the Indigenous People who continue to walk with us through this world. Today, the Township of North Frontenac is committed to working with Indigenous Peoples and all residents to pursue a united path of reconciliation.

## 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None noted.

## 4. Environmental Task Force Notes

- a) ***Notes of the Environmental Task Force Meeting dated September 30, 2025, as approved via email and being considered by Council at the October 31, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council.***

No comments.

## 5. Business Arising

- a) ***Quarterly Newsletter***

Deferred.

## 6. New Business

- a) ***2026 Work Plan***

Deferred.

**b) *Work Plan Update***

**1. Battery Storage Opportunities - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt**

The Task Force discussed the public comments received through email and at the Special Council Meeting on October 24, 2025 regarding the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Asselin advised concerns were raised regarding noise and the potential implications on Mississagagon Lake properties. These concerns are based on the downslope from the proposed location to the lake; no natural barrier because the forest has been removed due to the high-voltage hydro corridor; and that noise spreads across water. When noise is studied the threshold is 40 dBa measured to the closest residence. It was noted the properties on Mississagagon Lake are not the closest but due to the above noted factors may be impacted more than the neighbouring properties that are buffered by natural forested barriers. They noted this could be a risk and may need to be mitigated. It was suggested the acceptable noise levels be reduced and include measurements along the shore of Mississagagon Lake. It was the consensus of the Task Force the thresholds could be established at this time and addressed during the design of the project.

There were also concerns with fires caused by BESS and forest fires that could impact BESS. The new technology reduces the risk of fire and thermal runaway. There is also a fire safety plan to address any potential risks which includes training. The property is part of an active waste site which is considered industrial and is already monitored due to the use of the property.

There are financial benefits for the Township including lease payments, Community Benefit Agreement dollars and taxation but it is not the only benefit. It was also noted the overall environmental benefit of a BESS project has been lost. It reduces the need for energy production because it stores energy when demand is low and stores it for when demand is high.

The permitting stage includes studies to determine if environmental or noise issues are unresolvable or what mitigation measures are needed. The Task Force concluded that many issues, like discharge, fire risks, and noise, can be addressed later during the detailed design stage.

The Chair advised he would bring the noise concerns raised to Council on Friday and recommend a reduced noise threshold be considered as well as it being measured to the closest properties and the properties on Mississagagon Lake.

Note: Work Plan Updates of the remaining items were deferred.

**c) *Resignation of Ange Defosse, Task Force Member***

Councillor Huetl advised the Task Force of Ange Defosse resignation due to personal commitments. He noted Ms. Defosse is willing to assist with the preparation of the quarterly newsletters or policies if required.

**Note: Marlene Spruyt left the meeting at this time.**

**d) Meeting Dates for 2026**

Deferred.

**e) Sub-Committee Protocol**

- Members of the Task Force within the room and on-line.
- No one can sit in for members who are absent – approved by Council – can't act on their behalf – can not participate – except at leave of Chair
- Sub-committee – subject matter experts – not a member of the committee or sub-committee – members from outside input needed – becoming part of the sub-committee report comes back from the sub-committee – too much influence from NFLAA – John Campbell and Marilyn Boston – discuss – draft report from them – Task Force change it – before presenting to Council – no input from the sub-committee
- Outside members are dictating what is being put in the document – 3 on committee makes decisions
- Working group gather information – expertise to advise task force – action plan – as much information from outside – 3 on sub-committee decide what comes to task force – not from 5 just the 3.
- NFLAA has completed the research – must be modified based on other info – non-lakefront info
- experience across the province
- steps document will become an input to a modified document sent to the Task Force – wider discussion that needs to occur

## **7. Adjournment**

**a) Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.**

## **8. Recommendations**

**Be It Resolved That** Council receives for information the notes of the Environmental Task Force dated October 28, 2025;

**And That** Council accepts the resignation of Ange Defosse from the Task Force and thanks her for her contributions.

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Councillor Roy Huetl, Chair

# Call to Action

## FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - FALL 2025



### KNOW YOUR RECYCLING LISTS

Did you know that adding non-recyclable items to your recycling (known as 'wish cycling') can send the whole load of recycling to landfill? Make sure to review what's accepted by checking the township's waste and recycling pages.

### THE THIRD R - REFUSE!

Refusing plastics and non-recyclable items is a free option that reduces waste. Try saying no thanks to plastic straws, plastic toys that come with a meal, plastic cutlery, or things like extra napkins and condiments if you don't need these items. Another option is to change up the way you buy items to avoid packaging waste. Rather than purchasing items in styrofoam, prioritize those that are boxed or offered in butcher paper or simpler packaging. Trying a refill program or choosing compostable packaging is another great way to vote with your dollar for change!

### KEEP IT OUT OF LANDFILL



Did you know you can recycle these items? Learn more at the township's waste + recycling page by clicking on different programs:

- lightbulbs
- many types of batteries
- aerosols (hairspray, spray paint, etc.)
- electronics
- tires

### THE REUSE CENTRE IS NOW CLOSED FOR THE SEASON

The Re-Use Centre, located at the 506 waste site, is now closed for the winter season. This centre rehomes items that would otherwise be part of the landfill and is completely free to use. Mark your calendar for the May reopening to bring any items you're decluttering during your spring clean!



**Choose reusable + decrease single use packaging**



**Save money on food storage containers by reusing sauce jars or other packages destined for the dump.**



**Rinse recycling out/free from food waste to avoid contaminating recycling processes**



**Buy produce package free and reuse a bread bag at home to keep it fresh for longer.**



**Let companies know when you would like to see different packaging - it's free!**



**Choose local + in person to decrease the impact of shipping + packaging**



# Call to Action

## FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - WINTER 2025

### WHAT'S A MICROPLASTIC?

Microplastics are small pieces of plastic waste that are the result of larger plastics breaking down. Unfortunately, only about 9% of plastics are truly recycled, leaving many to breakdown in landfills and the environment. Microplastic waste is an increasing concern as they are now in our water system, air, food, soil and bodies.

### SOURCES OF MICROPLASTICS

- Synthetic clothing fibres like nylon and polyester - when buying new, choose natural fibre materials like cotton, hemp, wool, linen, etc.
- Washing machine water from plastic fibres of clothing, blankets and plastic dryer sheets. Choose dryer balls, natural fibres, and dispose of lint in the garbage.
- Plastic food wraps - choosing simpler foods with limited packaging, avoiding microwaving food in plastic, and choosing items like beeswax wraps or storing leftovers in glassware or an upcycled jar keeps plastics away from foods.
- Plastic landscape fabrics - try using cardboard or newspaper instead.
- Most toilet paper has plastic content - choose bamboo or recycled paper instead.

### MORE WAYS TO AVOID THEM

- Plastic tea bags + single use cups - when hot water touches that plastic, it is released into your drink. Try loose leaf tea and reusing a metal to go cup or water bottle.
- When buying something, consider how long it may be used for and if the long term plastic waste is worth it - maybe DIY celebration decor, a wood option, a compostable craft, or borrowing something instead of buying new may be lower impact.
- When eliminating single use plastics, consider a refill program or DIY option. Many household cleaners and personal care products can be bought package free or made simply.
- Let your favourite companies know you're looking for a plastic free option

**It can be overwhelming to remove plastics all at once. Trying to make changes one at a time, imperfectly, is a better route than trying to do too much at once and failing. Go slow and work with a friend to make it fun as you learn together.**



**Try making your own hot drink in a reusable cup**



**Glitters are ready-made microplastics. This holiday, choose glitter-free decor**



**Try a reusable bunting or banner instead of plastic ribbons + balloons**



**This holiday, choose reusable wrapping or wrap that don't contain plastics (foils, plastic ribbon + glitters)**



**If you're out for a nature walk, consider picking up plastics, especially those near waterways**



**Try the real thing - compostable seasonal decor rather than plastic versions of nature**

## **Work Plan 2025**

### **1. Local resiliency to climate change through mitigation and adaptation**

- Battery storage opportunities - IESO is working with companies to locate battery storage facilities on the existing grid
- Net metering - Install more solar panels on Township facilities to decrease carbon dioxide production, support, renewable energy. There is an upfront capital investment but long term savings anticipated

### **2. Environmental stewardship, protection and regeneration**

- Invasive species – Township to advocate/liaison with Federal and Provincial governments and other agencies. This is specifically on Eurasian Milfoil for the Mazinaw Property Owners Association. However, this impacts other lakes, other residents and there are several different invasive species
- Septic inspection programs – potential policy and education
- Carrying capacity of lakes
- Short-term rentals - potential policy, lake protection, environmental impact

### **3. Community engagement**

- To be determined.