

## Agenda Nov 25 meeting- 7pm-8:45pm

Present: Marianne, Aiya, Erin  
Regrets: Dave, Heather

1. New Members: Marianne voiced that there are many interested mothers with young kids, so we brainstormed ideas to get them to come to meetings (calling in, potlucks, weekend meetings, etc.) Marianne will survey the group and get back to us.
2. Eco Gala: Aiya and Erin discussed how great a night it was this year, and both commented on how powerful keynote speaker was. It was noted that we didn't get to sit together because we ordered tickets separately so we made a note to order together next year.
3. Pumpkin Walk/Donation to farms: Marianne had a pumpkin parade at her house with around 70 Halloween pumpkins. She then made connections with farmers to pick them up for feed. Marianne also met with other groups doing the pumpkin walks to try and connect them to local farmers. She plans to continue to improve these connections and perhaps expand the program to work with community associations as drop off points. To support her, as a group we will start planning in August of next year.
4. Fundraising/FB promotions/Giving Tuesday/promoting Plan International gifts of Bees and Trees: Aiya and Erin made a video with plaintiffs in the youth vs government suit that shows OSEAN giving them a donation envelope. This will be posted to our online platforms to promote giving Tuesdays. Marianne is going to make video with an apple tree for encouraging donations to Hidden Harvest, and perhaps one for the Food Bank. We discussed the book and accompanying website: Drawdown (<https://www.drawdown.org/>) that shows just how much we help combat climate change by reducing poverty and by promoting education to women and girls.
5. The ban of bottling water operations in Canada: Marianne brought up that the ban on operations is expected to expire Dec 31, based on evidence presented by environmental defense (petition and info here: <https://act.environmentaldefence.ca/page/50570/action/1?ea.tracking.id=Facebook+Ad>). Erin is to write up speaking points/ideas for letters to MPP's about this issue and will send along to Marianne/OSEAN group to put up online.
6. HCCO invitation to cooperate on Letter to McGuinty on climate action: Aiya brought up how the Hunt Club Riverside Association is reaching out to us to help with drafting a letter to McGuinty about concrete solutions to climate change at the local level and upwards:

*Aija, David McGuinty came to our AGM this week and one of the things he talked about was the environment. His message was don't panic, lets think of solutions. He invited us to contact him with ideas, etc. Brian and I would like to make the Environment a priority in our new year. We'd like to partner with you to brainstorm things people can do at the ground level as well as policies different levels of government to mitigate the effect of climate change. We would like to draft a paper or a letter to McGuinty as a result. Would you be interested in partnering with us? Can we meet for a coffee sometime soon?*

*Sue McCarthy*

As a group, we responded and are looking to meet on either a Monday or a Wednesday night. Sue will get back to us with proposed dates. Marianne, Aiya and Erin thought this would be a great opportunity to expand what HCCO does for its environment portfolio. Marianne mentioned that the Association has experienced a lot of turnover and some new members are interested in environmental initiatives. As a result, when we do meet to draft the letter, we will propose working more closely with them in the following capacities:

- encouraging them to sign on to become a part of CAFES Ottawa (parent community association group that meets twice yearly to discuss environmental initiatives at the local level)
- offering to attend the CAFES meetings (twice yearly) on HCCO's behalf provided we have authority to sign off on joint projects without needing to consult HCCO first for approval
- discussing using the community centre as a drop off point for pumpkins next year as well as Christmas trees (see agenda item 10 below) in order to promote Marianne's farmers initiative

It was also mentioned that last year when OSEAN was trying to facilitate waste tours with Cascades, this was already being done by the CAFES group, and resulted in a guided tour for 11 councillors and representatives from Waste Watch Ottawa, CAFES, and Ecology Ottawa. Marianne, Aiya and Erin all agreed joining forces with CAFES would lead to increased efficiencies and positive outcomes for OSEAN.

7. Tree Planting: Dave's initiative. Due to his absence, this will be pushed to next meeting.

8. Salting of sidewalks and roads: Marianne has proposed running an experiment where three families try using alfalfa meal (traction and melt) instead of road salt, and three families do the same with Eco traction from Terra 20 (traction, no melt). Erin volunteered to be one of the alfalfa meal testers. Aiya said she would write to the Citizen about it for exposure, and Erin will be asking local government members (Brockington, McGuinty and Fraser) to be participants and to challenge other officials. Marianne will write up experiment rules and details and share with group to get project started.

9. City Issues: We will be following People's Plan for the city and Climate emergency action from the city of Ottawa as they unfold. No new news to report.

10. Christmas trees: Frugal farmer is willing to pick up used Christmas trees to feed their goats (tree feed a natural de-wormer). We are trying to find out minimum and maximum amounts she wants, and whether or not Hunt Club community centre will volunteer to be a drop off spot. Marianne will follow up.

11. NCENN: Marianne attended meeting for National Capital Environmental Nonprofit network meeting. Some highlights were: she found a group who put on a dinner with almost past due grocery store food to show the food does not have to be wasted, and JUST FOOD is promoting lessons on fermentation to reduce food waste. Marianne will go to Friday meetings once a month when possible to foster connections.

12. Other:

- We discussed trying to capitalize on the apple tree harvest by connecting tree owners with farmers and/or Hidden Harvest. Aiya suggested renting a pig to use with Nature's babies by taking it around to apple trees, and measuring how much it grows as an educational activity.
  
- We were ecstatic that Julie has agreed to take up the writing torch for the community newsletters. She has asked for ideas for columns and Marianne, Aiya and Erin came up with some for her: planning for spring tree planting, how to de-ice walkways naturally, how to write to your MP (eg. don't need a stamp), explaining the circular economy (in general and in the home), the Top Ten Drawdown solutions and what we can do to help, how to write an op-ed and get it published, and how to encourage green initiative in your child's school. Hope some of these appeal to you Julie!
  
- Marianne talked about how many people want to help save the environment but don't know what they can do specifically. Marianne proposed each individual in the group think about what concrete actions we can tell people to do NOW to help fight climate change. She is asking everyone to send her a little blurb if possible of maybe five things and she will add these to our online forums.

13. Next meeting: Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at Erin's at 7pm unless we pilot a different time based on Marianne's survey of potentially interested new members.