



# Draft Mandate

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On May 28, 2018, Council unanimously supported the updated Community Energy Plan (CEP) and recognized Our Energy Guelph (OEG) as the implementer of that plan, “in principle”. The proviso ‘in principle’ is taken to mean ‘on the condition that OEG is a legal entity with a functioning board, a clear mission and a clear mandate that are aligned with what Council agreed to and supported’. Toward this end, the OEG Transition Team has undertaken four activities:

1. Submitted paperwork to incorporate OEG.
2. Identified prospective board members to whom invitations are being sent.
3. Developed a proposed a vision and mission that will guide Our Energy Guelph, found here. This vision and mission statement would ultimately need to be voted on by the OEG Board.
4. Articulated a proposal for the mandate or the role of Our Energy Guelph, found below.

## Proposed mandate for OEG

Our Energy Guelph will, first and foremost, work to meet the objectives set out in Guelph’s updated Community Energy Plan as recognized and approved by Council. OEG recognizes that those objectives require deep structural and systemic change, and therefore cannot be met by any single stakeholder in our community. As such, OEG will act as a catalyst and an intermediary for cross-sectoral initiatives that meet the objectives set out in Guelph’s updated Community Energy Plan.

More specifically, primary activities would include:

- Hold and steward Guelph’s Community Energy Plan and lead the update of the CEP at regular intervals.
- Convene stakeholder discussions focused around specific initiatives that have been identified in the CEI. As a starting point, these activities will focus on the five technical priorities identified in the CEP.

- Clarify the role of the City in achieving these priorities and, when appropriate, liaise with staff to develop motions that would be brought to Council to direct staff to execute that role.
- Facilitate social innovation and the actions of delivery partners by providing marketing support and guidance, financial expertise, etc. Some examples include My World My Choice, which is an initiative rooted in the University of Guelph that places undergraduate students as mentors of high-school students on climate change action, in hopes of fostering intergenerational cultural and behavioural change. Our Energy Guelph will provide backbone support for these and other initiatives that drive toward CEP objectives but, at this time, does not intend to be responsible for the delivery of new programs
- Maintain presence in the community through social media campaigns, providing or convening regular contributions to local press (e.g., opinion editorials), holding or convening public events. These are primarily intended to communicate opportunities and initiatives to the community writ-large.
- Manage volunteer resources in ways that help drive toward community energy and community sustainability goals.

Strategic direction for Our Energy Guelph will be provided by a Board of Directors. The Board will include a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and 8 to 12 regular members. Among those regular members, key skill sets will be pursued (accounting; legal support); and key energy sectors and community organizations will be represented.

The Board's first order of business will be to decide upon salary and funds for residency for an Executive Director. At this time we expect residency would be taken up at a shared office space, such as 10C or the Chamber of Commerce. The Board would also work to establish a near-term work plan for the E.D., which would include seeking supportive resources from the City (e.g., staff time from the Climate Office) as well as support from the University of Guelph (e.g., research and communications assistant).