



2020 Annual Report



IN THIS ISSUE

“Building back better”

A Message from the President

The world will not forget 2020 and in 2021 the global crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us. Vaccines and ongoing public health measures are helping yet outbreaks, variants and pandemic fatigue are challenges yet to overcome.

In the midst of this crisis many look to the future and the theme of “building back better”. This covers many areas from preparedness for the next pandemic and addressing societal inequalities on a number of levels. There are renewed efforts to limit global greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the climatic changes. Policy development is occurring that will provide a just transition to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2050. There are many win-wins in building back better perhaps even win-win-wins. Low-carbon green economies will provide employment, decreasing energy production from fossil fuels will have human health and environmental benefits beyond decreased carbon emissions and the clear skies in many cities during the global shutdown in March 2020 is a glimpse of what is possible. The transition will not be easy as so much is dependent on fossil fuels. In 2018 81% of the global energy supply is from fossil fuels – coal, oil and natural gas.

Nuclear energy is considered by some as a clean energy source. During the energy production phase there are very little greenhouse gas

emissions. Nuclear energy currently supplies about 60% of Ontario’s electricity. Canada is now planning to expand nuclear energy and develop a fleet of small modular reactors known as SMR’s. Nuclear energy may be significant part of the path toward net-zero emissions.

Environment North does not support nuclear energy as we do not believe an acceptable solution for nuclear waste has been found. Most critical are the highly radioactive spent fuel bundles from the nuclear reactors but there is also waste from mine tailings and decommissioned reactors. In addition the nuclear energy life cycle is far from emission free if one considers the mining, refining, transportation and final storage processes. The full financial cost of the nuclear energy fuel cycle is also not considered.

In 2010 Gordon Edwards, president of the [Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility](#), spoke at our AGM. At that time the Nuclear Waste Management Organization waste disposal site selection process was in early phases. There are two potential communities remaining at this time and one of them is Ignace. We have once again invited Dr. Edwards to speak. We hope you can join us, virtually, on Earth Day 2021.

Graham Saunders

Forestry and Mining	Page 2
Nuclear Waste	Page 2
Community Resilience	Page 2
Climate Change	Page 3
Financial Report	Page 4
2019-2020 Board Members	Page 4
Acknowledgements	Page 5

*Join us on EARTH DAY,
April 22, 2021 for a virtual
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*
6:15: Business Meeting
7:00: Public Presentation
TO REGISTER please send us an email
environmentnorth@gmail.com
Visit environmentnorth.ca for more details



Forestry and Mining

Ontario Forest Sector Strategy

Environment North submitted comments to the provincial government regarding the draft Ontario Forest Sector Strategy. The draft was weak on sustainability and stewardship. There were no details regarding how biodiversity will be enhanced and endangered species protected. This is of concern considering that recent changes to the Crown Forest Sustainability Act weakened the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. There was also little discussion on the forests of the future and the increased impacts of climate change.

Marathon Palladium Mining Project

The project first proposed in 2010 has been reinitiated. The proposed site is 10 km from Marathon and includes three to four open pits, an ore processing plant, tailings, a number of supportive facilities and additional infrastructure. The life of the proposed mine is approximately 14 years. Environment North has intervenor funding status and we are currently exploring what topics we will cover when participating in the environmental assessment.

Gravel Pits

At the end of April 2020 the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) released a decision that the 2018 Lakehead Rural Planning Board decision rezoning from Rural to Industrial Extractive would be repealed as the planning board had failed to consider the accompanying social and environmental impacts of gravel pit operations. The LPAT has sent the zoning by-law back to the planning board to make a new decision.

Nuclear Waste

At the end of 2020 two communities remain in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) Site Selection process: Ignace in northwestern Ontario and South Bruce in southern Ontario. Environment North has concerns about the transportation and the geological disposal of highly radioactive nuclear waste from Canada's nuclear power reactors, most of which are in Ontario. Environment North's position is

WE THE NUCLEAR FREE NORTH

"We the Nuclear Free North is a recently formed alliance of people and groups against the proposed deep geological repository for nuclear waste in Northwestern Ontario. We oppose the transport, burial and abandonment of the wastes in our northern watersheds. We seek to engage the public in a discussion of the risks of this proposal. We demand transparency from agencies responsible for the production and management of such waste." (GoFundMe)

that currently nuclear waste should be stored safely on the site of the nuclear reactor generating stations. There is research ongoing to find a better technological method to manage the nuclear waste.

Environment North Board member Dodie Legassick continues to be the lead on the nuclear waste issue. She gave a deputation to Shuniah council on February 11, 2020 and to Neebing council on February 19, 2020. The local television station CKPR taped the presentation to Shuniah Council and interviewed Dodie afterward.

Dodie had three opportunities to speak about nuclear waste disposal on Scott Kyle's radio program on CILU, the Lakehead University Radio Station.

Dodie continues to reach out to communities in Northwestern Ontario including First Nations. She keeps up to date with transportation accident statistics on northern highways. Buttons, bumper stickers and signs are available to show your opposition to burial of nuclear waste in the northwest.

Graham Saunders authored an article "Nuclear Waste Disposal: Déjà Vu for the Northwest" which was published in the July issue of the Walleye. Finding a potential site for storage of the waste has been a decades-long process and some will recall the interest by Atomic Energy of Canada in Atikokan during the 1970s. Current concerns about transportation and potential future effects on groundwater are very similar to those of the past. "Nuclear waste presents many dilemmas" and how to implement regional decision-making is one them.

In the summer "A Conversation about Nuclear Waste in Treaty 3 Territory" Zoom meeting was organized by grassroots members of Grand Council Treaty 3 First

Nations with support from Northwatch. From ongoing meetings an association of a number people and groups (including Environment North) was formed and is collectively known as "We the Nuclear Free North". The group will be focused on engaging the public on nuclear waste issues. A GoFundMe campaign has gone very well and a post-card and social media campaign will be launched in 2021.

On July 21, Dodie, as an invited guest, attended an NWMO presentation to Treaty 3 representatives. She was also able to connect with an environmental group in South Bruce who have similar concerns for their region. Dodie also attended a virtual meeting with representatives from the Great Lakes Water Commission.

In an effort to ensure transparency Environment North requested that the City of Ignace forward a copy of recent financial statements, financial arrangements with the NWMO and the city code of conduct.

Community Resilience

Environment North supported, the Canadian Environment Law Association's request to seek changes to the proposed Ontario Government Blue Box Recycling regulation. Concerns included that their new approach would reduce recycling services and exclude the most significant sources of waste from the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors.

Capacity - Environment North again participating in a program with two law students from the Bora Laskin Law School researching legal aspects of local environmental issues. The program is run in association with Pro Bono Students, the Canadian Environment Law Association as well as the Law School.

Cassandra Eby describes Canada's plan for the long term storage of nuclear waste and explores the concept of a willing host community. Many questions remain as to how the willing host community will be defined and how willingness be determined.

Matt Pascuzzo researched how members of the public might find out about pollutants in their community and what environmental protections are in place. He examined the toxic legacy of the Terrace Bay pulp mill as a case study.

GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS

FAST FACTS: FEDERAL GHG

2018 emissions = 729 Megatonnes CO₂ eq
 2030 target = 517 Megatonnes CO₂ eq
 2050 target = NET ZERO emissions

[Canada's Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#)

A few of the KEY POINTS from the Parkland Institute Report:

REASSESSING THE NEED FOR THE TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE EXPANSION PROJECT

By David Hughes

- The forecast increase in oil production could be accommodated for the next decade with existing pipelines
- Forecasts may be overstated as they do not account for demand reduction resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic or the need to meet Canada's emissions reduction targets.
- Economic viability is questionable: the cost estimates have grown to 12.6 billion dollars and there may not be a cost advantage to shipping to Asia.

FAST FACTS: THUNDER BAY GHG

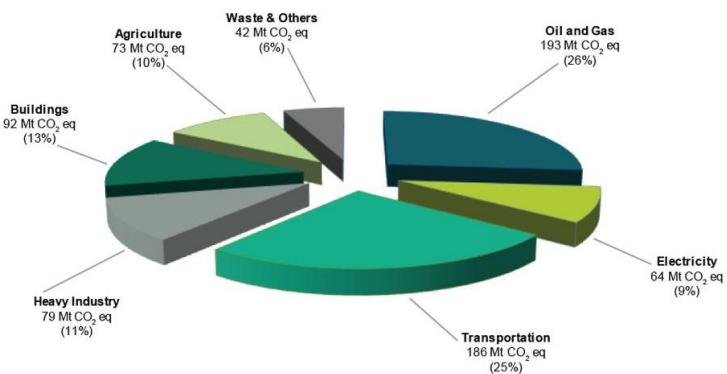
2016 emissions = 1.23 Megatonnes CO₂ eq
[Baseline Business as Planned Scenario](#)

48%

of Thunder Bay's GHG emissions in 2016 were from Buildings.

41%

of Thunder Bay's GHG emissions in 2016 were from Transportation



[Canadas Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector \(2018\)](#)

Climate Change

As mentioned in last year's Annual Report the City of Thunder Bay officially declared a climate emergency and Environment North sent a letter of support to the mayor and council. The challenge then becomes to make these declarations meaningful. One week later council voted to cancel the planned Carrick/Vickers bridge project which was to provide a safe link between the city's north and south sides for cyclists and pedestrians and a key part of developing active transport infrastructure. Graham Saunders wrote an article "Emergency Demands Action" published in the Chronicle Journal on February 11, 2020. This one decision will not negate the long-term efforts of Thunder Bay to implement climate plans, However, if there is insufficient progress in the near future declaration of a climate emergency will have been sadly only symbolic.

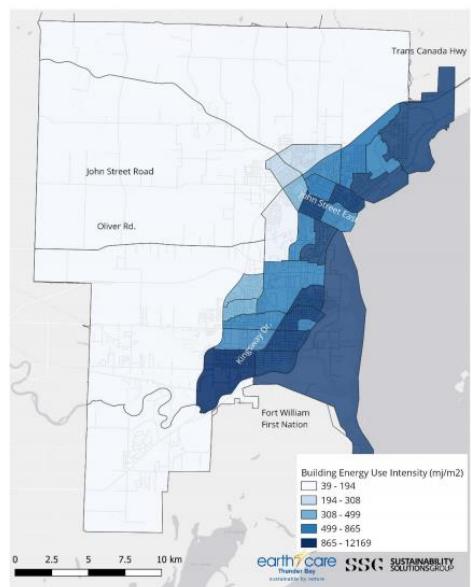
Environment North is following the development of City of Thunder Bay's [Community Energy Use and Emissions Plan \(CEEP\)](#). One step in the process was the creation of a [Baseline Inventory and Business as Planned Scenario and Energy Maps \(2016-2050\)](#). This report was published in May 2020. The map to the right shows "Building Energy Use Intensity", energy consumed per square metre of building floor space.

From the report:

"Higher intensities are noticeable in the non-residential inner city, as well as the residential inner city. This indicates of a combination of: Residential energy intensities are higher in the inner city due to older and less efficient housing stock, greater prevalence of mixed-use buildings in

the inner city, and greater industrial activity in the inner city. Residential energy intensities are significantly lower in the outer-city, indicating that despite the homes being larger, they are more efficient."

Better resolution images are available in the report.



The Community Energy Use and Emissions Plan is scheduled to be completed in 2021 and will include an energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction model.

Graham Saunders continues to write "WeatherWise", keeping members informed about the weather and climate news, local and global.

2020-2021 BOARD MEMBERS

2020 Financial Report

Receipts	2020	2019
Donations: Individual	\$931.00	\$80.00
Donations: Corporate	373.57	126.71
Project Fundraising	868.60	475.00
Grants	0	6000.00
Memberships	400.00	1115.00
Other (interest)	247.23	117.78
Total Receipts	\$2,820.40	\$7,914.49

Expenditures	2020	2019
Charitable programs	\$2,275.78	\$6,273.17
Meeting & Communication	45.48	261.03
Fundraising, Conferences	0	0
Salary & Benefits	0	0
Membership Fees Paid	0	0
Honorariums	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
Banking Fees	46.74	66.54
Other disbursements	0	0
Total Disbursements	\$2,368.00	\$6,600.74

2020 Assets		2020 Liabilities	
Bay Credit Union General	\$1263.88		
Nuclear Waste	1070.60	Nuclear Waste	\$ 1070.60
Lake Superior	392.11	Lake Superior	392.11
Climate Change	440.46	Climate Change	440.46
Food Account	186.60	Food Account	186.60
Lush Grant Remaining	0	Lush Grant Remaining	0
Bay Credit Union Term	10,003.49		
Profit Sharing Account	76.29	Enduring Property	11,343.66
Total	\$13,433.43	Total	\$13,433.43

Graham Saunders (president)
Karen Peterson (vice-president)
Lea Matyuska (treasurer)
Susan Grinstead (secretary)

Julee Boan
Scott Harris
Lucy Laframboise
Bruce Hyer
Dodie LeGassick

There was no change in the membership of the board from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of board members Dodie Legassick and Karen Peterson.

Dodie LeGassick continues to lead Environment North on the nuclear waste issue. With support from other board members and especially now with assistance from We the Nuclear Free North the public information campaign she set into motion is gaining momentum. We thank the members of We the Nuclear Free North for their shared passion in preventing the development of a nuclear waste disposal site in northern Ontario or anywhere else. The current disposal plan is not acceptable. And we again acknowledge the valuable assistance provided by Environment North member Wendy O'Connor.

Karen Peterson has recently stepped down from the board in anticipation of working on the environmental impact assessment of the Marathon Palladium Mining Project.

**Are you interested in becoming a board member?
Please contact us at:**
environmentnorth@gmail.com



Acknowledgements

A big THANK YOU to the members of Environment North. The board appreciates your concern and passion for the environmental well-being of Northwestern Ontario.

We are thankful for the many donations, especially those dedicated to the nuclear waste issue.

Assistance from Canadian Environmental Law Association has been invaluable, especially with the ProBono law student program.

We thank the Chronicle Journal for their ongoing support by publishing our articles on environmental issues.

We welcome new members!

We welcome donations!

Let us know if you wish your donation to be dedicated to the nuclear waste issue.

NEW! Online payments possible!

Visit environmentnorth.ca for details.

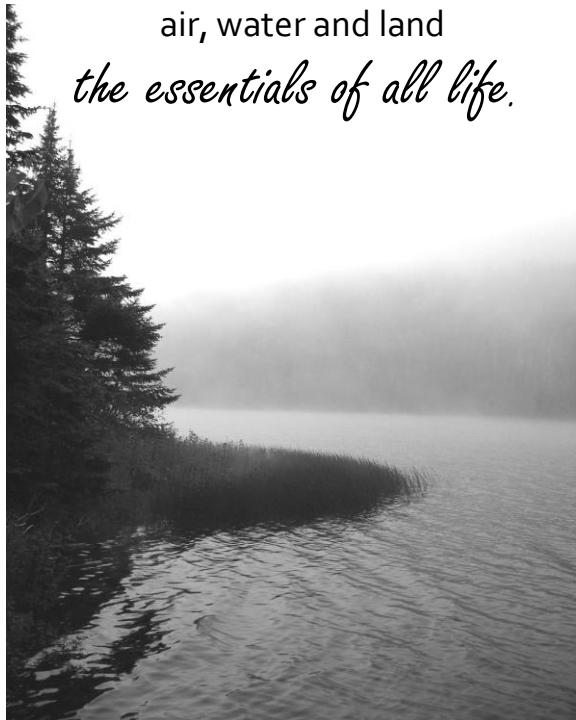
Included with your membership:

“Weather Whys”

A regional weather, climate and environmental newsletter by Graham Saunders. Weather Whys is delivered right into your electronic mailbox.



Environment North's specific actions revolve around respect and shared responsibility for air, water and land
the essentials of all life.



A regional non-government charitable organization focused on environmental sustainability

Environment North
P.O. Box 10307
Thunder Bay, P7B 6T8

environmentnorth@gmail.com

environmentnorth.ca