

## Summary of Written and Oral Submissions

### Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) (ACS2025-PDB-PS-0016)

This application was first considered by the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee at the meeting of January 23, 2025 (ACS2025-PDB-PS-0016) It was brought to Planning and Housing Committee on February 5, 2025 (ACS2025-PDB-PS-0016).

In addition to those outlined in the Consultation Details section of the report, the following outlines the written and oral submissions received between the publication of the report and prior to City Council's consideration:

#### Number of delegations/submissions

Number of delegations at Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee January 23, 2025: 14

Number of delegations at Planning and Housing Committee February 5, 2025: 11

Number of written submissions received by Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee between January 14 (the date the report was published to the City's website with the agenda for this meeting) and January 22, 2025 (the deadline for written submissions, being 4 pm the business day before the committee meeting date): 3

Number of written submissions received by Planning and Housing Committee between January 27 (the date the report was published to the City's website with the agenda for this meeting) and February 4, 2025 (the deadline for written submissions, being 4 pm the business day before the committee meeting date): 5

#### Summary of written submissions

Written submissions (**Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee**) are held on file with the City Clerk and available from the Committee Coordinator upon request:

- Email dated January 20, 2025 from Janice Johnston
- Email dated January 21, 2025 from Ruby Mekker
- Email dated January 21, 2025 from Shirley Dolan

Written submissions (**Planning and Housing Committee**) are held on file with the City Clerk and available from the Committee Coordinator upon request:

- Letter dated January 29, 2025 from Ottawa Hydro
- Email dated February 3, 2025 from Leigh Fenton
- Email dated February 3, 2025 from Bruce Collier
- Email dated February 4, 2025 from John Kirkwood

- Email dated February 5, 2025 from Andrew Thiele, Energy Storage Canada

## Summary of oral submissions

### (Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee)

1. Angela Keller-Herzog, CAFES outlined issues with this file, touching on, but not limited to, lack of balance, regulatory alignment and collusion of energy balance and land use planning. CAFES requests a clear, reasonable and timely pathway for the project proponent and recommends that the new OP policy language pertaining to zoning rules for Renewable Energy Generation Facilities be withdrawn.
2. Marko Cirovic, Independent Electricity System Operator\* provided background of IESO and spoke to planning for future energy needs in Ottawa as population grows. Noting more electricity infrastructure is needed to be built, two energy storage projects in Ottawa are critical to meet needs and delays may hinder ability to ensure reliability needs are met.
3. Andrew Thiele, Energy Storage Canada spoke to the reasons for and benefits of energy storage as well as the different types available. Concerns were expressed with the Zoning Bylaw Amendment process proposal touching on setting a dangerous precedent, risks system reliability, consistent treatment of developers and layered regulatory processes.
4. Jennifer Gautreau, CAFES spoke in support of BESS and installation in South March, noting it is key to energy independence, it's safer and cleaner and grid innovations will allow everyone to benefit.
5. Sara Washburn expressed concerns related to climate change, and noted that future generations will be impacted by decisions that are made today. Energy storage is needed, and incentives should be created to encourage growth in this area. This will provide cleaner energy for the City.
6. Nicky Trudell concerned about climate change, action is required at all level of governments, noting renewable energy is the cheapest sources of energy. BESS reduces the need for fossil fuels and provides local community benefits.
7. Raymond Leury spoke to the need for more reliable electricity, options on how to attain this and why BESS is a reliable option. BESS should be treated as a public utility with the same setbacks and other planning requirements.
8. Mark MacGowan expressed concerns with the impacts if installations of these facilities on local residents specifically to water supply and livestock and the

importance of setbacks. Battery failure rates exist and the more you put together the safety risk rises exponentially.

9. Monika Miller spoke to safety and security issues, noting once BESS fires start, they are left to burn out on their own. There is no official accounting of risks.
10. Courtney Argue expressed concerns as one of the largest BESS installations is located near her farm in West Carleton. The proposed amendments do not have sufficient differences in BESS and accessory BESS wording, there is a lack of alignment with rural purpose and there is a real concern that businesses are exploiting regulations for their economic benefits.
11. Geoff Wright and Alex Simakov, Evolugen acknowledges that Ottawa is growing exponentially, especially in the rural areas, and expressed the desire to invest in the city and looking for solutions. Bess works, it is cheap and reliable and are looking for the best plan to use, noting there is room for improvement. Timing is a priority for Evolugen given power system planning has a strict timeline.
12. Pam Chiles, Rural Woodlands expressed concern with BESS installations on agriculture land and recommended they be build on Brownfields. The Trail Road area is an opportunity for a BESS interim use, the City needs to take an active approach and should revisit the mineral zoning, especially as there is no mining left there.
13. Judy Makin believes BESS installations would get the City closer to where it needs to be in energy storage. Zoning is supposed to protect people and property from hazards, the City can follow best practices from BESS project locations around the world.
14. Eric Muller, CanREA noted concerns that zoning the by-laws would impede the building of these BESS projects and could signal that City is not open to this business, especially to clean energy investors. CanREA encourages the City to create an environment for clean energy as it helps with local reliability and resilience to various outages and extreme weather storms.

## **(Planning and Housing Committee)**

1. Angela Keller Herzog, CAFES\* outlined issues related to climate change, energy transition, Economic Development and Energy, Energy Planning vs Land Use Planning and safety and environmental safeguards. CAFES asks staff to consult with Hydro Ottawa and strike an energy task force with key stakeholders.
2. Goutam Shaw supports comments from CAFES and noted that the City will increasingly require more energy and should use a data based approach to enabling this.
3. Mark McGowan\* encouraged the City to pause and take more time to get this right. Current setbacks are not acceptable and spoke to the Provincial minimum distance separation as a land use planning tool.
4. Kathy Black\* expressed concerns with setbacks, installation of facilities in rural areas and effects on crops, livestock and well drinking water. More public engagement is encouraged until a robust review is completed.
5. Don Sproule\* spoke to what is happening with BESS globally and in Ottawa and provided a bigger context to the approve of installations in Ottawa and effects on climate, noting weather disruptions are only going to be more frequent and severe.
6. Janice Ashworth, Dunsky Energy + Climate Advisors\* spoke to the role of BESS in communities and outlined benefits related to local communities as well as Ontario wide benefits, and outlined concerns and mitigation strategies.
7. Shirley Dolan expressed concerns related to light pollution, water contamination and increased risk of fires. Installation of BESS should be considered in industrial zones as opposed to farmland.
8. Mark Kellenberger, DNV Canada\* outlined components of the company related to BESS touching on safety features, best practices, code landscape and burn testing.
9. Alex Simakov and Geoff Wright, Evolgen provided background on their company and spoke to the benefits and importance of BESS, noting the desire to double clean power capacity over the next 25 years. Ottawa needs to remain competitive and ensure that a clear signal is being conveyed that it is open to BESS opportunities.
10. Raymond Leury, Electric Vehicle Council of Ontario (EVCO)\* spoke to safety regulations and questioned the reason for more restrictions as it reduces choices and increases costs, and progress takes time and costs taxpayers money.

11. Courtney Argue urged the committee to reconsider the setback requirements for the proposed installations and expressed concerns related to safety, fire hazards and environmental implications.

## Effect of Submissions on Planning and Housing Committee

### Decision: (Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee)

Debate: The Committee spent approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes in consideration of the item.

Vote: The committee considered all submissions in making its decision and carried the report recommendations as amended by the following:

#### **Amendment:**

#### **Motion No. PHC 2025-41-01**

Moved by C. Kitts

WHEREAS Battery Electric Storage System (BESS) facilities are an important and growing aspect of clean and efficient energy grids; and

WHEREAS ensuring regulatory clarity will help provide confidence to residents and proponents alike that these facilities are being fairly and properly reviewed; and

WHEREAS according to a 2023 report from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), a typical electricity customer in Ontario uses roughly 25 kWh of electricity per day; and

WHEREAS based on the size to mega-watt hour (MWh) storage of other modern BESS facilities, a 1 hectare facility could provide 50MWh of storage which could provide power to roughly 2000 typical customers for one day; and

WHEREAS based on the current staff report, there are circumstances in which such a capacity and footprint could be considered an Accessory Use despite the intent of an Accessory Use being that these facilities be intended to provide the power needs of a site and are limited by the supply of the building's energy loads; and

WHEREAS the proper notification about proposed large scale or principal use BESS facilities to local representatives is an important way to ensure that social license for these facilities can be secured.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Document 2 Details of Recommended Zoning By-law Amendment to report ACS2025-PDB-PS-0016 regarding Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) be revised by adding the underlined text below to the proposed new Section 91-A entitled "Accessory Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)", sub-section 1(c)(i):

- (1) An Accessory Battery Energy Storage System is permitted:
- (c) In any non-residential zone, other than the EP, ME, and MR zones, and outside of the flood plain overlay, either enclosed within a building or other accessory structure or unenclosed, subject to the following:
- (i) they may not exceed 20 per cent of the total lot area or 1 hectare, whichever is the lesser;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that principal use BESS facilities require notification to the impacted Ward Councillor at the earliest possible stage in the planning and development process.

**Carried**

**(Planning and Housing Committee)**

Debate: The Committee spent approximately 2 hours in consideration of the item.

Vote: The committee considered all submissions in making its decision and carried the report recommendations as amended by the following:

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  - (i) they may not exceed 20 per cent of the total lot area or 1 hectare, whichever is the lesser;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that principal use BESS facilities require notification to the impacted Ward Councillor at the earliest possible stage in the planning and development process.

**Carried**

### Ottawa City Council

Pursuant to the *Procedure By-law*, members of the public may not make oral submissions to Council.

#### **(Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee)**

Number of additional written submissions received by Council between January 22, 2025 after 4 pm (deadline for written submissions to Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee) and February 12, 2025 (Council consideration date): 0

#### **(Planning and Housing Committee)**

Number of additional written submissions received by Council between March 26th after 4 pm (deadline for written submissions to Planning and Housing Committee) and April 3, 2024 (Council consideration date): 3

- Emails dated February 10, 11 and 12 from Kathy Black

#### **Effect of Submissions on Council Decision:**

Council considered all submissions in making its decision and carried the report recommendations as presented.