

**2. Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS Project**  
**Résolution municipale favorable pour le projet de SSEB de South March**

**Committee recommendation(s) as amended**

That Council:

1. **Deny the request for a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project;**
2. a) **Approve that staff, in the event this project proceeds, be directed to request that the South March BESS project proponent fulfill its stated intent to establish a “Community Development Fund” by entering into a host municipality responsibility agreement with the City of Ottawa through which the proponent would provide an amount of at least \$250,000 per year with the goal to achieve a higher amount if possible, for a period of not less than 20 years. The finalization and execution of such agreement shall be approved by Council, with recommendations to be provided as to the allocation and disbursements of such funds; and,**  
  
b. **Approve that staff be directed to provide City Council with an update on the status of the request to the proponent by way of memorandum within three months of the approval of a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project, and to bring forward for committee and Council approval any draft host municipality responsibility agreement negotiated with the proponent.**

**Recommandation(s) du comité telles que modifiées**

Que le Conseil :

1. **Refuse la demande de Résolution municipale favorable pour le projet de SSEB de South March;**

2. a) Approuve que, si ce projet va de l'avant, le personnel confirme auprès du promoteur du projet de SSEB de South March qu'il établira un « fonds de développement communautaire » en concluant avec la Ville d'Ottawa une entente de responsabilité de la municipalité hôte prévoyant qu'il injectera au moins 250 000 \$ par année, avec l'objectif de bonifier ce montant si possible, pendant au moins 20 ans. La mise au point et la signature de cette entente seront approuvées par le Conseil, et des recommandations seront formulées quant à l'allocation et au versement de l'argent;
- b) Demande au personnel de remettre une note de service au Conseil municipal pour rendre compte de l'état de cette confirmation auprès du promoteur dans les trois mois suivant l'approbation d'une résolution municipale favorable pour le projet de SSEB de South March, et de soumettre à l'approbation du Comité et du Conseil les versions provisoires de l'entente de responsabilité de la municipalité hôte négociée avec le promoteur.

Documentation/Documentation

1. Extract of draft Minutes, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, 5 June 2025.  
Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal du Comité de l'agriculture et des affaires rurales, le 5 juin 2025.
2. General Manager's Memo, Strategic Initiatives Department, dated June 4, 2025.  
  
Note de service, Direction générale des initiatives stratégiques, daté le 5 juin 2025.

**Agriculture and Rural  
Affairs Committee  
Report 25  
June 11, 2025**

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**Comité de l'agriculture et des  
affaires rurales  
Rapport 25  
Le 11 juin 2025**

**Extract of Minute 25  
Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
Committee  
June 5, 2025**

**Extrait du procès-verbal 25  
Comité de l'agriculture et des affaires  
rurales  
Le 5 juin 2025**

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Municipal Support Resolution (MSR) for the South March BESS Project

File No. ACS2025-OCC-CCS-0071 - West Carleton-March (5)

*This item was referred from Council on May 28, 2025 as per CC Motion No. 21D.*

**Report recommendation(s)**

**That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee consider the matter for recommendation to Council.**

At the outset, Ms Debbie Stewart, General Manager, Strategic Initiatives (SI) Department, spoke to provide context on this item.

Vice-Chair Kelly then read out the following Motion:

**Motion No. ARAC 2025-25-XX**

Introduced by Vice-Chair C. Kelly:

**WHEREAS as part of the proposed South March battery energy storage system (BESS) project at 2555 and 2625 Marchurst Road, the proponent has publicly stated that it plans to establish a “Community Development Fund” of \$250,000 per year to support local projects; and**

**WHEREAS the City of Ottawa has previously entered into host municipality responsibility agreements with third-party project proponents who provide funds related to community initiatives in recognition of the project’s effects on the local community; and**

**WHEREAS host municipality responsibility agreements generally provide for the City to determine how to allocate and disburse funds provided by the third party in order to respond to community needs and ensure**

**accountability and transparency, with eligible community initiatives often identified by City staff in consultation with the relevant Ward Councillor(s);**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be directed to request that the South March BESS project proponent fulfill its stated intent to establish a “Community Development Fund” by entering into a host municipality responsibility agreement with the City of Ottawa through which the proponent would provide Ward 5 with funding of at least \$250,000 per year for 20 years, to be allocated to community initiatives as determined by the City in consultation with the proponent and Ward Councillor;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff be directed to provide City Council with an update on the status of the request to the proponent by way of memorandum within three months of the approval of a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project, and to bring forward for committee and Council approval any draft host municipality responsibility agreement negotiated with the proponent.**

Committee then heard from the following public delegations:

The following spoke in support of the MSR for the South March BESS Project:

1. Angela Keller-Herzog, Executive Director, Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES)+
2. Janice Ashworth\*, Dunsky Energy and Climate Advisors
3. Dr. Judy Makin
4. Don Sproule+
5. Barrie and Laurie Ashworth\*
6. Tim Jodoin+
7. Nicky Trudell+
8. Tim Guttormson, Blue Water
9. Kelly Daize, Executive Director, Kanata North Business Association
10. Taylor White
11. Lisa Kyte
12. Brian Scholl, Energy Safe Response Group
13. Dr. Storer J. Boone, Ground Rules Engineering Incorporated

14. Dr. Mark Kellenberger<sup>+</sup>, Senior Engineer, Energy Storage Engineering  
DNV Canada Limited
15. Dr. Art Hunter<sup>+</sup>, Canadian Association for the Club of Rome
16. Korey Kauffeldt, AOP Limited Partnership
17. Dr. Stephen Ramsay<sup>+</sup>, Calvin Consulting Group Limited
18. Andrew Thiele, Energy Storage Canada
19. Trevor Freeman, Hydro Ottawa
20. Councillor Merv Sarazin, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan
21. Steve Willis<sup>+</sup>, Stantec (on behalf of Evolugen)
22. Brookfield Renewables / Evolugen Team:
  - Alexei Simakov, Director of Policy / Energy Storage (Canada), Evolugen,
  - Geoff Wright, Head of Development, Brookfield Renewables (Evolugen)
  - Carl Hausler, Project Director, Battery Projects (Ottawa)
  - Zac Benoit, Investment Lead and Project Originator (Ottawa) and
  - Adam Amara, Global Technical Advisor, Brookfield Renewables

The following spoke in opposition to the MSR for the South March BESS Project:

1. Cindy Berry<sup>+</sup>
2. David Carrol
3. Leigh Fenton<sup>+</sup>
4. Catherine Swift, Innovation Realty Limited
5. Teresa De Marco
6. Kathy Black<sup>\*</sup>
7. Michael D'Asti
8. Catherine Buck
9. Brenda Halabisky<sup>+</sup>
10. Clifford Wardle<sup>+</sup>
11. David Thomas
12. Sharon Podlesny<sup>+</sup>
13. Kerri Lynn Bulger<sup>+</sup>
14. Brian Martin
15. Monika Miller
16. Nadine Clarke and Sue Joshi
17. Marsha MacGowan<sup>+</sup>

18. Mark MacGowan<sup>+</sup>
19. Cori Ann Terai
20. Brian Parisien
21. Ed Hoskins
22. Alex Parisien
23. Mitchell Loeb
24. Lisa Smith
25. Richard Schreier
26. Leo Taylor
27. Nancy Todd-Giordano
28. Raff Giordano
29. Tonya Rivera
30. Glen Carroll<sup>+</sup>
31. Peter McGann
32. Mark Wight<sup>+</sup>
33. Courtney Argue<sup>v</sup>
34. Sheilagh Hoskins<sup>+</sup>
35. Diana Meneses Iwai
36. Daniel Buck
37. Nicholas Giordano<sup>+</sup>
38. Ken Love<sup>+</sup>
39. Dr. Jenn Hubbard
40. Andy Thomas
41. Sally Robins

Correspondence was also received from the following, in opposition to the MSR for the South March BESS Project (unless noted otherwise):

1. Courtney and Nick Argue Giordano (incl. 344-pg., 1,421-signature petition)
2. Marla Sullivan
3. Habib Mankal
4. Cari Rule
5. Karin Dobson
6. Kim Daley
7. Stacey Ross
8. Karen Devenish

9. Anne Malcolm
10. Stephanie Ward
11. Ava Ward
12. April Busa
13. Sarah Bowen, on behalf of concerned residents of Marchurst
14. Serena Ramley
15. Makoto Teraï
16. David McKeen
17. Melanie Paquette
18. Shirley Dolan
19. Jane Wilson, Chair, Ottawa Wind Concerns
20. Angele Taylor
21. Ivy Liu (position not identified; submission seeks answers to questions)
22. Carla Y, Nell, Vice President, Corporate Relations, Engagement and Strategy, IESO (in support of the MSR)
23. Myriam Antoine Guirguis
24. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines (in support of the MSR)

[ Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk (\*) provided written submissions. Individuals marked with a cross (+) provided a slide presentation. Individuals marked with a 'vee' (v) provided a video presentation. ALL are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk. ]

In addition to the General Manager, the following members of staff were also present to respond to questions:

- Chief Paul Hutt, Ottawa Fire Service
- Nichole Hoover-Bienasz, Director, Climate Change and Resiliency, SI
- Dr. Nick Stow, Program Manager, Natural Systems, SI
- Derrick Moodie, Director, Planning Services, Planning, Development and Building Services Department
- Tim Marc, Senior Legal Counsel
- Caitlin Salter MacDonald, City Clerk

Following the receipt of all public delegations, questions to the presenters and to staff, and at the conclusion of Committee deliberations, the following Motions were introduced and considered as noted:

**Motion No. ARAC 2025 25-03**

Moved by Vice-Chair C. Kelly:

(as amended from the original, introduced earlier in the meeting)

**WHEREAS as part of the proposed South March battery energy storage system (BESS) project at 2555 and 2625 Marchurst Road, the proponent has publicly stated that it plans to establish a “Community Development Fund” of \$250,000 per year to support local projects; and**

**WHEREAS the City of Ottawa has previously entered into host municipality responsibility agreements with third-party project proponents who provide funds related to community initiatives in recognition of the project’s effects on the local community; and**

**WHEREAS host municipality responsibility agreements generally provide for the City to determine how to allocate and disburse funds provided by the third party in order to respond to community needs and ensure accountability and transparency, with eligible community initiatives often identified by City staff in consultation with the relevant Ward Councillor(s);**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff, in the event this project proceeds, be directed to request that the South March BESS project proponent fulfill its stated intent to establish a “Community Development Fund” by entering into a host municipality responsibility agreement with the City of Ottawa through which the proponent would provide an amount of at least \$250,000 per year with the goal to achieve a higher amount if possible, for a period of not less than 20 years. The finalization and execution of such agreement shall be approved by Council, with recommendations to be provided as to the allocation and disbursements of such funds;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff be directed to provide City Council with an update on the status of the request to the proponent by way of**



**memorandum within three months of the approval of a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project, and to bring forward for committee and Council approval any draft host municipality responsibility agreement negotiated with the proponent.**

The above motion was put to a vote and was 'Carried' as noted below:

For (4):       Councillor C. Kitts, Councillor M. Luloff, Vice-Chair C. Kelly and  
                  Chair D. Brown

Against (0):

**Motion No. ARAC 2025 25-04**

Moved by Vice-Chair C. Kelly:

**WHEREAS at its meeting of May 28, 2025 Council directed that the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee provide a recommendation for the June 11, 2025 meeting of Council to either accept or deny a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project; and**

**WHEREAS the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee heard from a number of delegations at its meeting of June 5, 2025 and considered the request for a Municipal Support Resolution; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend Council deny the request for a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project.**

The above motion was put to a vote and was 'Carried' as noted below:

For (4):       Councillor C. Kitts, Councillor M. Luloff, Vice-Chair C. Kelly and  
                  Chair D. Brown

Against (0):

The report recommendation was then put before Committee and was 'Carried', as amended by Motions Nos. ARAC 2025 25-03 and ARAC 2025 25-04:

**That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend Council:**

- 1. Deny the request for a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project;**

2. a) Approve that staff, in the event this project proceeds, be directed to request that the South March BESS project proponent fulfill its stated intent to establish a “Community Development Fund” by entering into a host municipality responsibility agreement with the City of Ottawa through which the proponent would provide an amount of at least \$250,000 per year with the goal to achieve a higher amount if possible, for a period of not less than 20 years. The finalization and execution of such agreement shall be approved by Council, with recommendations to be provided as to the allocation and disbursements of such funds; and,
- b) Approve that staff be directed to provide City Council with an update on the status of the request to the proponent by way of memorandum within three months of the approval of a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project, and to bring forward for committee and Council approval any draft host municipality responsibility agreement negotiated with the proponent.

Carried as amended