

Town of Aylmer

Subject: Cooling and
Warming Centres
Policy

Policy #: ##

Date Approved: July 13, 2022

Purpose

This policy establishes service levels provided by the Town in response to extended extreme heat or extreme cold events.

Definitions

Extended extreme cold event – Environment & Climate Change Canada have different definitions for extreme cold across the country. In Southwestern Ontario the criteria is when the temperature including windchill reaches -30°C for two or more hours. The Town of Aylmer defines 'extended extreme cold event' as occurrences when the conditions as outlined above extend into a second consecutive day.

Extended extreme heat event - Environment & Climate Change Canada issues Heat Warnings across Canada. A Heat Warning is issued for an area when there is a forecast of two or more consecutive days with daytime maximum temperatures of 31°C or warmer, together with nighttime minimum temperatures of 20°C or warmer or when there is a forecast of two or more consecutive days with humidex values expected to reach 40°C or higher. The Town of Aylmer defines an 'extended extreme heat event' as occurrences when conditions as outlined above extend into three consecutive days.

Warming and Cooling Centres

During extended extreme heat or cold events the East Elgin Community Centre shall be utilized as a warming or cooling station during regular hours of operations.

For extended heat or cold events the Town of Aylmer will undertake the following:

- i) Posting of warming or cooling centres.
- ii) Links to the Southwestern Public Health information and advice upon heat waves or extreme cold.

For extended heat or cold events the Town of Aylmer will consider the following:

- i) Convening an Emergency Operations Control Group meeting to consider additional measures.
- ii) Potential addition of warming or cooling centres including hours of operation.
- iii) Optimizing existing infrastructure such as parks, splash pad and pool to provide additional relief.
- iv) Providing bottled water.
- v) Consultation with the Southwestern Public Health Unit upon additional measures.

Notwithstanding the above the Town of Aylmer shall allow access to open facilities during a period of heat wave or extreme cold as defined by Environment & Climate Change Canada.

There is no expectation that additional amenities or services will be provided at any warming or cooling centre operated by the Town of Aylmer.