

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, November 19, 2024. 5:00PM - 6:30PM
Virtual Meeting

Call-In Option: Join Zoom Webinar

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/84042769611?pwd=V6X5wGGk5hvgKKFqbAlZg4aZxXjK0s.1>

Webinar ID: 840 4276 9611

NOVEMBER AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the October 22, 2024 Meeting
- VI. Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - A. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - B. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation
- VII. Staff Reports
 - A. Acknowledgement of Staff Reports and Communications
 - B. Beth Gibbons, County Resiliency Office Director
 - 1. Staffing Status
 - 2. Resiliency Office Updates
 - 3. Other Updates
 - C. Other Staff Reports
- VIII. Chair's Report and Proposals
 - A. Upcoming meeting topics, scheduling, in-person meeting
 - B. 2025 Calendar (proposal forthcoming from Chair)
 - C. Other
- IX. New Business
 - A. Tree Preservation Resolution (forthcoming)
 - B. Other Resolutions
- X. Communications and Reports
 - A. Councilmembers

B. Staff

C. Committees and Committee Reports

XI. Adjourn

Next Meetings

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 (virtual)

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, October 22, 2024. 5:00PM - 6:30PM
Virtual Meeting

Call-In Option: Join Zoom Webinar
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/89127058352?pwd=pfBmKRmpFgTdCQSF9b8rFwdx8fmKj>

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Meeting ID: 891 2705 8352
Passcode: 591312

DRAFT OCTOBER MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order
 - a) 5:06 PM
- 2) Attendance
 - a) Present: Michelle Deatruck, Andrea Pierce, Gay MacGregor, Kris Olsson, Yousef Rabhi, Avni Rao, Elizabeth Ratzloff, Annie Somerville, Lauren Sargent, Benjamin VanGessel
 - b) Absent: Anne Brown, Andrew Comai, Tim Redmond, Katie Scott, Hudson Villeneuve
- 3) Land Acknowledgement
- 4) Approval of the Agenda
 - a) Moved by: Gay MacGregor
 - b) Seconded by: Liz Ratzloff
 - c) Approved Unanimously
- 5) Approval of the Minutes of the September 24, 2024 Meeting
 - a) Moved by: Liz Ratzloff
 - b) Seconded by: Gay MacGregor
 - c) Approved Unanimously
- 6) Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - a) Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - b) Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation
- 7) Presentation: Pittsfield Township Climate and Energy Initiatives

Presenter: Ben Carlisle, President, AICP, LEED-AP and Planner, Pittsfield Township

- a) Presentation
- b) Council responses and discussion.
 - i) KO: Have you faced any pushed back from neighbors about high density?
 - ii) LS: Is part of the plan preserving trees?
 - iii) AR: I have lived in Avni my entire life and I appreciate hearing all of these updates. I use the pathways often
 - iv) YR: I am a big fan of mixed-use development and having commercial opportunities, but one of the problems in Ann Arbor is that in addition to the housing shortage we also have a shortage of business space. What do you attribute the success of Pittsfield on the commercial side to?
 - v) YR: What were the pushbacks to parks in Pittsfield Township? It is important to keep mature trees.
 - vi) KO: Has the township thought about requiring all new builds to be all electric? Any work in the master plan of climate related provisions?
 - vii) AS: Thank you for coming, every time I drive through Pittsfield Township I nerd out on the mixed use. Looking forward to working with you on the Water Street project
 - viii) MD: Has there been any pushback to solar in Pittsfield?
 - ix) PUBLIC QUESTION: Policies and practices regarding separating bike lanes when a road is more than 25 mph.
- c) Council instructions, if any, to WCEC Advisory and Recommendations Committee

8) Presentation: Ann Arbor Township Climate and Energy Initiatives

Presenters: Kris Olsson, Ann Arbor Township Trustee & Benjamin VanGessel, Chair, Ann Arbor Township Climate Resilience Committee

- a) Presentation
- b) Council responses and discussion
 - i) MD: Are other townships that have a climate committee? I live in a township that has a lot of dirt roads and I have often wondered how much carbon is involved with maintaining those roads vs. The asphalt?
 - ii) YR: Is the carbon sequestration capacity the entire township or just the preserved land?
 - iii) MD: Important study on the potential (and possibly already ongoing) breakdown of natural system carbon sequestration on a net global level. The conclusion I draw from this serious issue with regard to the County is that we need to preserve and protect trees whenever at all possible, and do what we can to protect existing natural systems in our county.
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/oct/14/nature-carbon-sink-collapse-global-heating-models-emissions-targets-evidence-aoe>
- c) Council instructions, if any, to WCEC Advisory and Recommendations Committee

9) Staff Reports

- a) Beth Gibbons, County Resiliency Director
 - i) Staffing Status

- (1) We have a MHC Corps Member beginning with us on November 15!
We are thrilled that Kimberly Heumann has accepted the offer of serving with us for an 11 month fellowship
 - (2) We expect to have the Program Manager position posted and live on 10/28 - fingers crossed.
 - (3) Once it is ready, we would love to have support from the WCEC members sharing and promoting the position with their networks
 - ii) Resiliency Office Updates
 - (1) Focusing on coordination between GHG inventories across the region, approaches to developing teh inventories and monitoring;
 - (2) Working internally with departments
 - (3) Parks & Recreation has included achieving net-zero operations in its strategic plan. We are now developing an action plan comprised of projects across the Parks and Recreation portfolio
 - (4) Health and Adaptation Plan Technical assistance exploration
 - (5) Grant Tracking:
 - (6) FEMA BRIC Notice of Intent
 - (7) EPA Region 5 Thriving Communities Grant Program
 - (8) SEMCOG Climate Pollution Reduction and CMAQ grants
 - (9) Coalition for Green Capital – Capital stack and grants
 - iii) Outreach Updates
 - (1) I'll be supporting AAT community climate engagement
 - (2) Collaborating with SEMCOG in Ypsilanti Township on the community engagement around SEMCOG Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)
 - (3) Website is under development, brand kit is about to be finalized
 - (4) Moving the Resiliency Office to Ypsilanti, co-locating with the Health and community facing programs in "Towner Buildings"
 - b) Other Staff Reports
- 10) Chair's Report
 - a) Upcoming meeting topics, scheduling, in-person meeting
 - i) November meeting: Voting on 2025 Calendar
- 11) New Business
- 12) Communications and Reports
 - a) Councilmembers
 - b) Staff
 - c) Committees and Committee Reports
 - i) LS: A part of the UM2050 plan was to put a monorail through the Arboretum. A group of us are organizing against this, if you would like to be a part of it, please let Lauren know.
 - ii) MD: Suggest putting together a resolution opposing this development for the next meeting.

13) Adjourn

- a) Moved by: Liz Ratzloff
- b) Seconded by: Kris Olsson
- c) Approved Unanimously

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Washtenaw County Environmental Council October 2024 Meeting

Resiliency Office Report

Beth Gibbons, County Resiliency Office Director

1. Staffing Status

- We have a MHC Corps Member beginning with us on November 15. We are thrilled that Kimberly Heumann has accepted the offer of serving with us for an 11-month fellowship
- We expect to have the Program Manager position posted and live on 10/28. If it not live on 10/28, it will be live 11/6.
 - Once it is ready, we would love to have support from the WCEC members sharing and promoting the position with their networks. Materials to make promotion and sharing easy will be shared with Michelle.

2. Resiliency Office General Updates

Focusing on coordination between GHG inventories across the region, especially on alignment of to developing the inventories and monitoring;

Parks & Recreation has included achieving net-zero operations in its strategic plan. We are now developing an action plan comprised of projects across the Parks and Recreation portfolio

Health Department is exploring an application to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to receive technical assistance to develop an Adaptation/Health Plan applications to the program are due November 1.

Facilities Management has concluded its decarbonization assessment and we are waiting to receive the report from the consultant. The FM team developed a life of project cost assessment for the installation of solar panels on the Saline Court. This cost assessment included the social cost of carbon, as cited from Resilient Washtenaw in the assessment. The FM team is exploring using direct pay to receive a rebate tax benefit from the purchase of EVs in 2024. This will be the first use of direct pay by the County and will provide an important learning opportunity for the whole organization to benefit from in upcoming years. The current Michigan Healthy Climate Corps Member, who is working with FM hosted an organization-wide Circular Economy event which was highlighted the role that county staff and the county as a whole can meet the Resilient Washtenaw Strategy 8 goals and support a healthier environment. FM has executed a contract with Homeland Solar, to install a combination of ground and roof-mounted solar in 2024 and 2025 at the following facilities:

- **Correctional Facility** (2201 Hogback): Approximately 410 kW (Offsetting ~ 20% of current annual electricity usage)
- **Western Service Center** (705 Zeeb Rd): Approximately 145 kW + 8 EV charging ports (Offsetting ~40% of current annual electricity usage)
- **Human Services** (555 Towner): Approximately 87 kW + 8 EV charging ports (Offsetting ~30% of current annual electricity usage)
- **Learning Resources Center** (4135 Washtenaw): Approximately 90 kW (Offsetting nearly 100% of current annual electricity usage)

- **Community Corrections** (4101 Washtenaw): Approximately 50 kW (Offsetting nearly 100% of current annual electricity usage)
- **Children's Services** (4125 Washtenaw): Approximately 35 kW + 2 EV charging ports (Offsetting ~10% of current annual electricity usage)

Grant & TA Tracking:

- Michigan Department Health and Human Services Adaptation Technical Assistance Program
- FEMA BRIC Notice of Intent
- EPA Region 5 Thriving Communities Grant Program
- SEMCOG Climate Pollution Reduction and CMAQ grants
- Coalition for Green Capital – Capital stack and grants

3. Outreach Updates

- Beth will be supporting Ann Arbor Township community climate engagement on November 21
- The Resiliency Office will be collaborating with SEMCOG in Ypsilanti Township on the community engagement around SEMCOG Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)
- Website is under development, brand kit is about to be finalized
- Moving the Resiliency Office to Ypsilanti, co-locating with the Health and community facing programs in Towner Buildings.