

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

5:00PM - 6:30PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Join by Zoom: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Join by Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 891 2705 8352

Passcode: 591312

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. January 30, 2024
5. Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - a. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - b. Acknowledgement of any written Citizen Participation
6. Presentation: Light Pollution, Biodiversity and Emissions.
 - a. *Presenters:* Dr. Sally Oey and John Mirsky, [Michigan Dark Skies](#)
 - i. Council Discussion/Q&A
7. Regular Business
 - a. Washtenaw County Climate Action Plan & Sustainability/Resilience Office
 - i. Staffing Status. *Andrew DeLeeuw*, Deputy County Administrator
 - ii. Council Discussion
 - b. Council Membership: Open seats
 - i. Updates on applications for the two open seats: Water Protection, Renewable Energy Provider. *Andrew DeLeeuw*, Deputy County Administrator
 - c. Chair's Report: Proposed Upcoming Meeting Topics & Schedule
 - i. Chair will be asking Council approval for either the March or April meeting to be 2 hours if needed, with at least 10 days notice.
 - ii. March Council Officer Election Updates
8. New Business
 - a. Bylaws Update Proposal. *Michelle Deatrack*, WCEC Chair
Chair will be asking for a motion to approve.

9. Communications and Reports
 - a. Councilmembers
 - b. Staff
 - c. Committees and Committee Reports

10. Adjourn

Next Meetings

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

MEETING PACKET

Contents

1. Bylaws Updates Proposal. Prepared by Chair Deatrick
2. Current Bylaws
3. Slide Presentation. From Michigan Dark Sky Initiative. Prepared by Dr. Sally Oey
4. Written Communications or Reports to the Council, if any.

1. Bylaws Updates Proposal

Prepared by Chair Michelle Deatrick

- **Last Update.** The last update of the Bylaws was approved by the Board of Commissioners on 09/15/21.

See pp. 141-147, [BOC 9/15/21 \(click on "Agenda Packet"\)](#)

- **Process.** The Chair plans to ask for a vote on the proposed changes at the February 27, 2024 Council meeting.

- The proposed changes have been reviewed and approved by County legal staff.
- After the Environmental Council approves any changes, the changes go into effect only *after* the Board of Commissioners in turn approves them.

- **This proposal contains two versions of the Bylaws.**

- The first, redlined version, contains proposed changes.
- The second version is the current version. It follows the redlined version and is for your convenience as a reference (it exists online inside the BOC 9/15/21 Minutes, linked to above).

- **Summary of significant proposed changes:**

Many changes are simple updates or deletions of material no longer relevant, for example text related to the establishment of the Council and first terms on the Council. Significant proposed changes are noted here (those in bold have been added since the Draft version included in the January packet):

- Article 3: Addition of "just transition" as part of mission and update reflecting approved BOC priorities
- **Article 3, third bullet: The words "with no worker or community left behind" were added to clarify what a "just transition" is.**
- Article 4: Addition of more recent history/background.
- Article 5: Updates in Article 5 include those based on approval by the BOC of Resilient Washtenaw and also remove mention of a working group that no longer exists.
- **Article 5 #7: Clarifies that Council members may table and share the County's work on climate and environment.**
- Article 6:
 - Removes historical text no longer relevant to terms of Council members.
 - Adds an Expectation for Council Members to belong to or contribute to a Committee (the Food Policy Council has a more rigorous committee requirement, for context). *Chair notes: I recommend that we amend to exclude Commissioners from this requirement.*
 - **Section #1: adds a Youth seat and a Labor seat as dedicated seats on the board, rather than as suggested designations for those positions.**
 - **Section #3: specifies that the Youth and Labor seats are even year appointments (as they are currently - this is not a change in practice, it just puts it in the Bylaws).**
- Article 7:
 - Adds an additional officer to help share leadership tasks as the Council's work expands: "The Second Vice Chairperson presides over meetings in the absence of both the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, and carries out other tasks as agreed upon with the Chair."
 - Clarifies officer election timing and specifies that in the event of an unexpected officer vacancy, an election is for the remainder of the term so that all officer terms will end simultaneously in the first quarter of each year.
- Article 8:
 - Increases quorum from 5 to 7. This will allow larger committee sizes and reflects our actual attendance this year. Our membership is 15, though occasionally we have vacant positions. To the Chair's recollection, attendance this year has not dipped below 7.
 - Deletes text stating that we meet in person. Replaces it with text stating that we can meet in person or virtually, and sets an expectation of at least one in-person meeting annually.
- Article 10: Addition of Land Acknowledgement to the regular order of business at meetings
- Article 11: Requires current Council Bylaws to be posted on Council's webpage.

DRAFT OF REVISED BYLAWS OF

The Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Adopted by the Environmental Council On May 28, 2019

Approved by the Board of Commissioners On June 5, 2019

Amended by the Board of Commissioners On September 15, 2021

Amendments Adopted by the Environmental Council On _____

Amendments Approved by the Board of Commissioners On _____

Article 1

NAME

The name of this council is the Washtenaw County Environmental Council (“Council” or “WCEC”).

Article 2

ENABLING AUTHORITY

The Council was established by Resolution 18-191 on November 28th, 2018.

Article 3

VISION AND MISSION

Vision

A vibrant, sustainable, equitable and net-zero Washtenaw County.

Mission:

To develop environmental policy and organizational recommendations for Washtenaw County government in order to:

- Achieve net-zero emissions for County operations by 2030~~5~~ and Countywide by 2035.
- Reduce overall county contributions to climate change.
- Protect and improve the County’s air, land, water, food network, and both mental and public health as related to the environment.
- Prioritize environmental justice, **a just transition with no worker or community left behind**, and intergenerational justice related to the environment.

Article 4

BACKGROUND

The Board of Commissioners voted to strengthen and ramp up County sustainability efforts in its July 2017 Resolution upholding the Paris Climate Accord and committing the County to form an “Environmental Stewardship Committee” – a commitment now fulfilled in the establishment of

the Washtenaw County Environmental Council-, *the approval of the County's climate plan, Resilient Washtenaw, and the approval of a funded Resilience Office.* In 2017 and 2018, other environmental measures approved by the Board of Commissioners included: a ban on County purchases of Nestle brand bottled water, a ban on County purchases of certain single use plastics including plastic straws; resolutions opposing the Nexus and Rover fracked gas pipelines, which cross the County; and the first financial commitment to support the Washtenaw County Food Policy Council.

The 2018 Board of Commissioners passed a 2019-2022 Quadrennial Budget [2019-2022 Budget] which establishes the County's internal environmental task force – the Environmental Infrastructure Workgroup (EIW). According to the 2019-2022 Budget, the EIW will 1) provide support, information and advice to the Environmental Council, and 2) provide input to the Office of Infrastructure Management as the OIM develops its 2019 Energy and Environmental Infrastructure Policy, which is an updated comprehensive strategy addressing the County's energy use and environmental impact as they relate to infrastructure.

On November 28, 2018, the County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed the "Resolution Upholding the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners' Commitment to Environmental Justice and Establishing the Board of Commissioners' Environmental Council," which established this Council.

On December 7, 2022, following a unanimous recommendation by the WCEC, the County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a Resolution approving the County's climate action plan, Resilient Washtenaw.

On December 15, 2023, the County Board of Commissioners passed a 2024-2027 Quadrennial Budget which includes funding to staff a County Resilience Office with two full-time permanent staff members.

Article 5 DUTIES

The Council is responsible to the Board of Commissioners. The Council does not have regulatory authority. The Council is charged with the following duties:

1. Develop comprehensive, integrated environmental policies to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners.
2. Develop a proposal and timetable for the County's development of a plan to reach net-zero (neutral) emissions by 2035.
3. ~~If the proposal and timetable are approved by the BOC, the Council may, if tasked by the BOC, w-~~Work with County Administration, consultants, *the County Resilience Office and staff, and/or other appropriate County departments on environmental issues* and to develop *and implement Resilient Washtenaw* ~~the detailed plan~~ for the County to achieve net-zero emissions.
4. Act in an advisory capacity, without regulatory or legislative authority, to County departments, committees, and the Board of Commissioners on environmental issues.
5. ~~Act in an advisory capacity, with the County's Office of Infrastructure Managements' Environmental Working Group, in the development and review of the "DRAFT Energy~~

~~and Environmental Infrastructure Policy 2020-2023," which is being drafted by OIM as part of its comprehensive restructuring.~~

- ~~6.~~ 5) Work collaboratively with other commissions, boards, councils and committees on environmental issues.
- ~~7.~~ 6) Create committees, including standing committees, to help conduct the work of the Environmental Council.
- ~~8.~~ 7) Work to develop and maintain input and dialogue with the wider Washtenaw County community, **including serving as ambassadors to the community for the County's environmental and climate work when approved or appointed by the Council Chair, sharing that work via tabling and other community outreach events.**
- ~~9.~~ 8) ~~and to uphold~~ the mission of the Council and of environmental policies approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Article 6

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Council will be comprised of up to 15 members, appointed by the Board of Commissioners. No more than one (1) member may reside outside the County. Members are to represent the following perspectives and/or groups:
 - i. County Commissioners (1-3 members)
 1. 1 of these Commissioners may be appointed to act as WCEC Liaison to the Board of Commissioners
 - ii. Community Groups (2 members)
 - iii. Sustainable Energy Producers, private or non-profit sector (1 member)
 - iv. Land Use and Preservation (1 member)
 - v. Sustainable Agriculture (1 member)
 - vi. Racial Equity and Environmental Issues (1 member)
 - vii. Water Protection (1 member)
 - viii. Vehicle Emission Reduction Issues (1 member)
 - ix. Public Health Issues (1 member)
 - x. Infrastructure Energy Reduction Issues (1 member)
2. The Council is responsible for recommending member appointments to the County Board of Commissioners, which will appoint WCEC members.
3. ~~Initial appointments to the WCEC end on March 31st, 2020, when the WCEC will sunset unless extended by the Board of Commissioners. If the Council is approved to extend beyond March 31, 2020, new terms will be staggered as follows. Thereafter, c~~ Council members will be appointed for **staggered** two-year terms **as follows:**

Even years: ~~One-year initial terms:~~

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Water Protection
- Vehicle Emission Reduction Issues

- Infrastructure Energy Reduction issues
- **Youth**
- **Labor**
- Commissioners (1-3 members)

Odd years: ~~Two-year initial terms:~~

- Community Groups (2 members)
- Sustainable Energy Producers (private or non-profit sector)
- Land Use and Preservation
- Racial Equity and Environmental Issues
- Public Health Issues

6) 4) Any vacancy on the Council occurring in the middle of a term shall be filled for the remainder of that term in the same manner as for full-term appointments.

7) 5) Council members are expected to attend meetings to ensure full community representation on the Council. ~~Excused absences~~ **Absences excused by the Chair** (for illness, death in the family, vacation, business trip or emergency) will not affect a member's status. However, missing three consecutive meetings and/or more than three absences without reasonable excuse in a 12-month period shall constitute cause to recommend resignation to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and replacement of the appointee.

8) 6) Council members are expected to commit to membership on one Council committee, or else to commit to assist in the work of one of those committees.

Article 7

OFFICERS

1. Duties of Officers

a. Chairperson: The Chairperson ("Chair") shall preside at meetings, plan and organize the Council's work and perform other duties as described by these Bylaws.

The Chair may authorize expenditures up to \$100, which will be reported to the Council at the next meeting by the Treasurer. Expenditures exceeding \$100 are approved by a vote of the Council.

b. Vice Chairperson: The Vice-Chairperson presides over meetings in the absence of the Chairperson and carries out other tasks as agreed upon with the Chair.

c. Second Vice Chairperson: The Second Vice Chairperson presides over meetings in the absence of both the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, and carries out other tasks as agreed upon with the Chair.

2. Officer Elections

Officers will be elected by the Council in the first quarter of each year, and ~~will serve until at least March 31, 2020, or until their successor(s) have been elected. Thereafter, they~~ will serve one-year terms or until their successors are elected if no successor(s) have been elected at the one-year point. Officer vacancies between usual elections will be filled by election for the remainder of the term.

Article 8

MEETINGS

1. The Council will hold regularly scheduled meetings, publicly announced in advance, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. All regularly scheduled meetings will include at least 10 days notice. The Chair, or any five Council members may call special meetings, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. At least 18 hours public notice shall be given for special meetings.
2. Support for meeting organization; minute taking and distribution; website and social media; press and other communications; and publicizing meetings per the Open Meetings Act is provided by County Administration.
3. Meetings are open to all community members. The public has the right to speak during one public comment period at each meeting, limited to four (4) minutes per speaker.
4. The Chair may cancel a meeting if there is no business on the agenda, if it is clear that a quorum will not be present, or if weather, emergency, or other circumstances warrant. The Chair shall give notice of cancellation to members of the Council and any staff at least 18 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, when practicable. The Chair shall cause public notice of the cancellation to be posted as soon as practicable. Canceled regular meetings may be rescheduled in the same manner as special meetings.
5. A quorum of Council members, which shall consist of the lesser of ~~7~~ 5 members or no less than 51% of current members, must be present for decisions to occur.
6. The Council will make decisions by voting. Passage of a motion requires a simple majority of those present ~~and voting~~ who serve as voting members of the Council.

7. Council meetings may be held in person or virtually, and are generally expected to be held in person at least once per year. Virtual as well as in-person meetings must be accessible to the public and provide a public comment opportunity. ~~Members are expected to participate in person however, participating or voting by phone is permitted if an exceptional circumstance arises preventing in-person attendance.~~
8. Staff will report expenditures to the board as part of the agenda for the regular meetings.

Article 9

ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Members of the Council must abstain from discussion or voting on any matter in which that member has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Decisions regarding conflicts of interest shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reasonable application to the principles in this Article. A conflict of interest shall at a minimum include, but is not necessarily limited to, discussing, voting on, or otherwise acting on a matter in which a member, or any person in the member's immediate family, the member's partner, or an entity with which the member has family or business ties has a direct financial or beneficial interest.
2. A member of the Council shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from persons or entities in a position to receive financial benefit from a decision of the Council.
3. A member of the Council shall not obtain, for the member or for any person with whom the member has family or business ties, any financial or beneficial interest in a matter which may be affected by a decision of the Council. This restriction shall apply during the member's tenure and for one year thereafter.
4. With regard to Council decisions or potential decisions, Council members shall disclose the general nature of any potential conflict, real or apparent, unless such disclosure violates a confidence. These disclosures shall be made prior to discussion and voting when possible and shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings. If a member believes that a potential conflict warrants abstention, the member may choose to abstain from discussion and voting on a matter. A member who has a conflict and cannot vote shall leave the meeting or the area of the meeting until action on the matter is concluded, whether that conflict has been disclosed or not.
5. When a question has arisen as to whether a member is ineligible to participate in discussion or vote on a matter because of a potential conflict of interest, and the member has not chosen to abstain of his or her own volition, the Council may determine that the member is ineligible due to a conflict of interest by a vote of a majority of other members present. After such determination, the ineligible member shall not participate in discussion of, or vote on, the matter.
6. Members shall not act, hold themselves out, or permit themselves to be perceived as official representatives or spokespersons for the Council without authorization from the Council or the Chair. When communicating for personal purposes on matters that may

be related to the Council's business, members shall clearly indicate that their statements are made in a personal capacity and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Council. Whenever a member is asked to speak on behalf of the Council, the member will ask approval of the Council or Chair in advance.

7. To maintain public confidence in the objectivity of the Council and to avoid the appearance of bias or prejudice, a member shall not speak or appear before the Council on behalf of or as a representative of a potential or actual petitioner. A member should avoid speaking or appearing before another entity on behalf of or as a representative of a potential or actual petitioner.

Article 10

AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. An agenda for each meeting of the Council shall be developed by the Chair in consultation with the members of the Council. To the extent practicable, agenda, resolutions, and materials for regular meetings shall be made available to the public and members of the Council at least 48 hours before the meeting's scheduled start time. Members wishing to add an agenda item or a speaker to the agenda should contact the Chair with the request. **Approved meeting minutes and resolutions shall also be made available to the public.**
2. The order of business at regular meetings shall generally be as follows.
 - a. Call to Order
 - i. Roll Call
 - ii. **Land Acknowledgement**
 - ~~iii. ii)~~ Approval of the Agenda
 - ~~iv. iii)~~ Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings
 - ~~v. iv)~~ Public Comment
 - ~~vi. v)~~ Special Presentations
 - ~~vii. vi)~~ Regular Business
 - ~~viii. vii)~~ New Business
 - ~~ix. viii)~~ Communications and Reports
 1. Council
 2. Staff
 - a. Finance Report
 3. Committees
 - ~~x. ix)~~ Adjournment

Article 11

AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be approved at any regular meeting by vote of two-thirds of the voting members currently serving on the Council. Proposed amendments must have been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting to be considered.

2. Prior to submission of amendments to the Bylaws at the regular meeting, proposed amendments must be submitted to the Chair who will submit them to the Office of the County Corporation Counsel. Reasonable time must be allowed for Corporation Counsel's response.
3. After adoption by the Council, the amended bylaws are not effective until approved by the Board of Commissioners.
4. After approval by the Board of Commissioners, Bylaws will be made accessible to the public including via posting or a link on the WCEC's webpage on the County website.

**CURRENT BYLAWS OF
The Washtenaw County Environmental Council**

**Adopted by the Environmental Council On May 28, 2019
Approved by the Board of Commissioners On June 5, 2019
Amended by the Board of Commissioners On September 15, 2021**

**Article 1
NAME**

The name of this council is the Washtenaw County Environmental Council ("Council" or "WCEC".)

**Article 2
ENABLING AUTHORITY**

The Council was established by Resolution 18-191 on November 28th, 2018.

**Article 3
VISION AND MISSION**

Vision

A vibrant, sustainable, equitable and net-zero Washtenaw County.

Mission:

To develop environmental policy and organizational recommendations for Washtenaw County government in order to:

- Achieve net-zero emissions for County operations by 2035.
- Reduce overall county contributions to climate change.
- Protect and improve the County's air, land, water, food network, and both mental and public health as related to the environment.
- Prioritize environmental justice, and intergenerational justice related to the environment.

**Article 4
BACKGROUND**

The Board of Commissioners voted to strengthen and ramp up County sustainability efforts in its July 2017 Resolution upholding the Paris Climate Accord and committing the County to form an “Environmental Stewardship Committee” – a commitment now fulfilled in the establishment of the Washtenaw County Environmental Council. In 2017 and 2018, other environmental measures approved by the Board of Commissioners included: a ban on County purchases of Nestle brand bottled water, a ban on County purchases of certain single use plastics including plastic straws; resolutions opposing the Nexus and Rover fracked gas pipelines, which cross the County; and the first financial commitment to support the Washtenaw County Food Policy Council.

The 2018 Board of Commissioners passed a 2019-2022 Quadrennial Budget [2019-2022 Budget] which establishes the County’s internal environmental task force – the Environmental Infrastructure Workgroup (EIW). According to the 2019-2022 Budget, the EIW will 1) provide support, information and advice to the Environmental Council, and 2) provide input to the Office of Infrastructure Management as the OIM develops its 2019 Energy and Environmental Infrastructure Policy, which is an updated comprehensive strategy addressing the County’s energy use and environmental impact as they relate to infrastructure.

On November 28, 2018, the County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed the “Resolution Upholding the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners’ Commitment to Environmental Justice and Establishing the Board of Commissioners’ Environmental Council,” which established this Council.

Article 5 DUTIES

The Council is responsible to the Board of Commissioners. The Council does not have regulatory authority. The Council is charged with the following duties:

1. Develop comprehensive, integrated environmental policies to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners.
2. Develop a proposal and timetable for the County’s development of a plan to reach net-zero (neutral) emissions by 2035.
3. If the proposal and timetable are approved by the BOC, the Council may, if tasked by the BOC, work with County Administration, consultants, and/or other appropriate County departments to develop the detailed plan for the County to achieve net-zero emissions.
4. Act in an advisory capacity, without regulatory or legislative authority, to County departments, committees, and the Board of Commissioners on environmental issues.
5. Act in an advisory capacity, with the County’s Office of Infrastructure Managements’ Environmental Working Group, in the development and review of the “DRAFT Energy and Environmental Infrastructure Policy 2020-2023,” which is being drafted by OIM as part of its comprehensive restructuring.
6. Work collaboratively with other commissions, boards, councils and committees on environmental issues.
7. Create committees, including standing committees, to help conduct the work of the Environmental Council.

8. Work to develop and maintain input and dialogue with the wider Washtenaw County community and to uphold the mission of the Council and of environmental policies approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Article 6

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Council will be comprised of up to 15 members, appointed by the Board of Commissioners. No more than one (1) member may reside outside the County. Members are to represent the following perspectives and/or groups:
 - i. County Commissioners (1-3 members)
 1. 1 of these Commissioners may be appointed to act as WCEC Liaison to the Board of Commissioners
 - ii. Community Groups (2 members)
 - iii. Sustainable Energy Producers, private or non-profit sector (1 member)
 - iv. Land Use and Preservation (1 member)
 - v. Sustainable Agriculture (1 member)
 - vi. Racial Equity and Environmental Issues (1 member)
 - vii. Water Protection (1 member)
 - viii. Vehicle Emission Reduction Issues (1 member)
 - ix. Public Health Issues (1 member)
 - x. Infrastructure Energy Reduction Issues (1 member)
 - xi. If approved by the BOC, up to two more members, not to include elected officials, may be appointed by the Board of Commissioners; the Environmental Council suggests that these members might represent youth and labor.
- 2) The Council is responsible for recommending member appointments to the County Board of Commissioners, which will appoint WCEC members.
- 3) Initial appointments to the WCEC end on March 31st, 2020, when the WCEC will sunset unless extended by the Board of Commissioners. If the Council is approved to extend beyond March 31, 2020, new terms will be staggered as follows. Thereafter, council members will be appointed for two-year terms.
- 4) One-year initial terms:
 - Sustainable Agriculture
 - Water Protection
 - Vehicle Emission Reduction Issues
 - Infrastructure Energy Reduction issues
 - Commissioners (1-3 members)
- 5) Two-year initial terms:
 - Community Groups (2 members)
 - Sustainable Energy Producers (private or non-profit sector)
 - Land Use and Preservation
 - Racial Equity and Environmental Issues

- Public Health Issues

6) Any vacancy on the Council occurring in the middle of a term shall be filled for the remainder of that term in the same manner as for full-term appointments.

7) Council members are expected to attend meetings to ensure full community representation on the Council. Excused absences (illness, death in the family, vacation, business trip or emergency) will not affect a member's status. However, missing three consecutive meetings and/or more than three absences without reasonable excuse in a 12-month period shall constitute cause to recommend resignation to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and replacement of the appointee.

Article 7

OFFICERS

1. Duties of Officers

a. Chairperson: The Chairperson ("Chair") shall preside at meetings, plan and organize the Council's work and perform other duties as described by these Bylaws.

The Chair may authorize expenditures up to \$100, which will be reported to the Council at the next meeting by the Treasurer. Expenditures exceeding \$100 are approved by a vote of the Council.

b. Vice Chairperson: The Vice-Chairperson presides over meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

2) Officer Elections

Officers will be elected by the Council and will serve until at least March 31, 2020, or until their successor(s) have been elected. Thereafter, they will serve one-year terms or until their successors are elected if no successor(s) have been elected at the one-year point.

Article 8

MEETINGS

1. The Council will hold regularly scheduled meetings, publicly announced in advance, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. All regularly scheduled meetings will include at least 10 days notice. The Chair, or any five Council members may call special meetings, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. At least 18 hours public notice shall be given for special meetings.

2. Support for meeting organization; minute taking and distribution; website and social media; press and other communications; and publicizing meetings per the Open Meetings Act is provided by County Administration.
3. Meetings are open to all community members. The public has the right to speak during one public comment period at each meeting, limited to four (4) minutes per speaker.
4. The Chair may cancel a meeting if there is no business on the agenda, if it is clear that a quorum will not be present, or if weather, emergency, or other circumstances warrant. The Chair shall give notice of cancellation to members of the Council and any staff at least 18 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, when practicable. The Chair shall cause public notice of the cancellation to be posted as soon as practicable. Canceled regular meetings may be rescheduled in the same manner as special meetings.
5. A quorum of Council members, which shall consist of the lesser of 5 members or no less than 51% of current members, must be present for decisions to occur.
6. The Council will make decisions by voting. Passage of a motion requires a simple majority of those present who serve as voting members of the Council.
7. Members are expected to participate in person however, participating or voting by phone is permitted if an exceptional circumstance arises preventing in-person attendance.
8. Staff will report expenditures to the board as part of the agenda for the regular meetings.

Article 9

ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Members of the Council must abstain from discussion or voting on any matter in which that member has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Decisions regarding conflicts of interest shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reasonable application to the principles in this Article. A conflict of interest shall at a minimum include, but is not necessarily limited to, discussing, voting on, or otherwise acting on a matter in which a member, or any person in the member's immediate family, the member's partner, or an entity with which the member has family or business ties has a direct financial or beneficial interest.
2. A member of the Council shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from persons or entities in a position to receive financial benefit from a

decision of the Council.

3. A member of the Council shall not obtain, for the member or for any person with whom the member has family or business ties, any financial or beneficial interest in a matter which may be affected by a decision of the Council. This restriction shall apply during the member's tenure and for one year thereafter.
4. With regard to Council decisions or potential decisions, Council members shall disclose the general nature of any potential conflict, real or apparent, unless such disclosure violates a confidence. These disclosures shall be made prior to discussion and voting when possible and shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings. If a member believes that a potential conflict warrants abstention, the member may choose to abstain from discussion and voting on a matter. A member who has a conflict and cannot vote shall leave the meeting or the area of the meeting until action on the matter is concluded, whether that conflict has been disclosed or not.
5. When a question has arisen as to whether a member is ineligible to participate in discussion or vote on a matter because of a potential conflict of interest, and the member has not chosen to abstain of his or her own volition, the Council may determine that the member is ineligible due to a conflict of interest by a vote of a majority of other members present. After such determination, the ineligible member shall not participate in discussion of, or vote on, the matter.
6. Members shall not act, hold themselves out, or permit themselves to be perceived as official representatives or spokespersons for the Council without authorization from the Council or the Chair. When communicating for personal purposes on matters that may be related to the Council's business, members shall clearly indicate that their statements are made in a personal capacity and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Council. Whenever a member is asked to speak on behalf of the Council, the member will ask approval of the Council or Chair in advance.
7. To maintain public confidence in the objectivity of the Council and to avoid the appearance of bias or prejudice, a member shall not speak or appear before the Council on behalf of or as a representative of a potential or actual petitioner. A member should avoid speaking or appearing before another entity on behalf of or as a representative of a potential or actual petitioner.

Article 10

AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. An agenda for each meeting of the Council shall be developed by the Chair in consultation with the members of the Council. To the extent practicable, agenda,

resolutions, and materials for regular meetings shall be made available to the public and members of the Council at least 48 hours before the meeting's scheduled start time. Members wishing to add an agenda item or a speaker to the agenda should contact the Chair with the request.

2. The order of business at regular meetings shall generally be as follows.

a. Call to Order

i. Roll Call

ii. Approval of the Agenda

iii. Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings

iv. Public Comment

v. Special Presentations

vi. Regular Business

vii. New Business

viii. Communications and Reports

1. Council

2. Staff

a. Finance Report

3. Committees

ix. Adjournment

Article 11

AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be approved at any regular meeting by vote of two-thirds of the voting members currently serving on the Council. Proposed amendments must have been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting to be considered.
2. Prior to submission of amendments to the Bylaws at the regular meeting, proposed amendments must be submitted to the Chair who will submit them to the Office of the County Corporation Counsel. Reasonable time must be allowed for Corporation Counsel's response.
3. After adoption by the Council, the amended bylaws are not effective until approved by the Board of Commissioners.

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Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, January 30, 2023

5:00PM - 6:30PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/join>

Join by Phone: 1-470-250-9358

Meeting ID: 891 2705 8352

Passcode: 591312

JANUARY DRAFT MINUTES

I. Call to Order

5:01 PM

II. Attendance

Present: Anne Brown, Andrew Comai, Michelle Deatrick, Gay MacGregor, Kris Olsson, Avni Rao, Elizabeth Ratzloff, Tim Redmond, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville, Benjamin VanGessel, Yousef Rabhi

Absent: Hudson Villeneuve

III. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Tim Redmond

Seconded by: Katie Scott

Approved by: Unanimous Voice Vote

IV. Approval of Past Minutes for the October 24, 2023 and November 28, 2023 Meetings.

Moved by: Kris Olsson

Seconded by: Gay MacGregor

Some scribal changes were noted that need to be made.

Approved by: Unanimous Voice Vote

V. Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker) - No citizen participation

a. Council Responses to Citizen Participation

b. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation - No written citizen participation

VI. Presentation: Michigan Climate Smart Farm Project

Megan DeLeeuw, Executive Director, Washtenaw County Conservation District

Questions:

- What can big farms in our area do to be more climate smart?
- What types of tracking/reporting is associated with the program and how will carbon sequestration benefits be verified? Do you have a sense of how this will intermix with other farming certifications?
- How many farms do you think this will fund around?
- Do you have a sense for the kind of forestry practices you would pay for? Also, for minimum acreage of forest or farm?
- What can Resilient Washtenaw do to promote more of this?
- Are there any Farm Bill updates in regard to this topic (promoting regenerative or climate smart or whatever agricultural practices?)

VII. Regular Business

- a. Washtenaw County Climate Action Plan & Sustainability/Resilience Office- *Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator*
 - i. Budget and Staffing Status & Next Steps
 1. BOC made meaningful commitments to Climate Action Plan by funding two full time staffers for Resiliency Office.
 2. The County is actively working on the hiring process, Chair Deatruck and Commissioner Rabhi will be on the interview panel.
 3. Hoping for the hiring of the Resiliency Officer to happen by the end of March.
 4. Second position, program manager would be hired by the Resiliency Officer
 - ii. Council Discussion
 1. Tim Redmond: Abby Morris is a current employee of the county who has been working on a possible composting program for the county. Can this be included in the resilient washtenaw plan?
- b. SEMCOG regional climate action planning – *Staff*
 - i. IRA included 4.8B for climate planning across the country. Grand Rapids and SE MI have received funding.
 - ii. SEMCOG has released its preliminary climate action plan for public comment last Monday. That is on the agenda of the SEMCOG executive committee meeting
 - iii. Links to plan and way to give direct comment:
 1. <https://southeast-michigan-healthy-climate-plan-semcog.hub.arcgis.com/>
 - iv. Council members discussion:
 1. Chair Deatruck: If WCEC can be of support to the Board of Commissioners in drafting comments, we are happy to be helpful.

- c. Council Members
 - i. Updates on appointments to the WCEC - *Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator*
 - 1. Returning Members
 - 2. Openings: Water Protection, Renewable Energy Provider
 - a. Available and posted on the website, link to apply:
<https://www.washtenaw.org/3667/Current-Openings>
- d. Facilities Updates - *Jason Fee, Director, Facilities Management*
 - i. Jason will create a flyer of what the County is currently doing for the Council to use while tabling
 - ii. Jason will share recap of what has been done, what is being done, and what is on the horizon

VIII. New Business

- a. Updates: Communications and Reports
 - i. Councilmembers
 - 1. Chair's Report
 - a. Bylaws Updates Proposal: An introduction
 - i. Suggestion that a seat for a labor member would be added. Article 6 Membership
 - b. Meeting Schedule and topics
 - i. February 27th meeting will include a presentation by the Dark Skies Initiative, which is rescheduled from the January meeting date that was canceled due to the weather. It will also include consideration of Bylaws changes.
 - ii. March 26th meeting will include elections for Chair, Vice Chair.
 - 2. Chair noted this Chair Deatrick noted this focus at WEMU on the County's weatherization program for residents:
<https://www.wemu.org/show/issues-of-the-environment/2024-01-24/issues-of-the-environment-washtenaw-countys-weatherization-program-receives-bigger-budget-and-is-ready-to-serve-more-residents>
 - a.
 - 3. Other Reports: None.
 - ii. Other Councilmembers
- b. Staff - None additional
- c. Committees and Committee Reports
 - i. Outreach Committee- *Chair Avni Rao*
 - 1. First Tabling event of the year is Ann Arbor Climate Teach-In happening on March 10: <https://www.a2climateteachin.com/>
 - 2. Chair Deatrick would like to compile all resources in one place for the WC Environmental Council
 - ii. Other Committees – no reports

IX. Adjourn

- a. Moved by: Yousef
- b. Seconded by: Tim
- c. Approved Unanimously

Next Meetings

Tuesday, February 27

Tuesday, March 26

DRAFT

Light Pollution and Solutions

sites.lsa.umich.edu/darkskies

Sally Oey, University of Michigan

John Mirsky, Ann Arbor Energy and
Environmental Commissions



Michigan Dark Skies

UM Astronomy

Scenic Michigan

Washtenaw350

Sierra Club Huron Valley Group

Sierra Club Southeast Michigan Group

Washtenaw Safe Passage

Detroit Audubon

Wayne State Physics & Astronomy

EMU Physics & Astronomy

UM Student Astronomical Society

University Lowbrow Astronomers

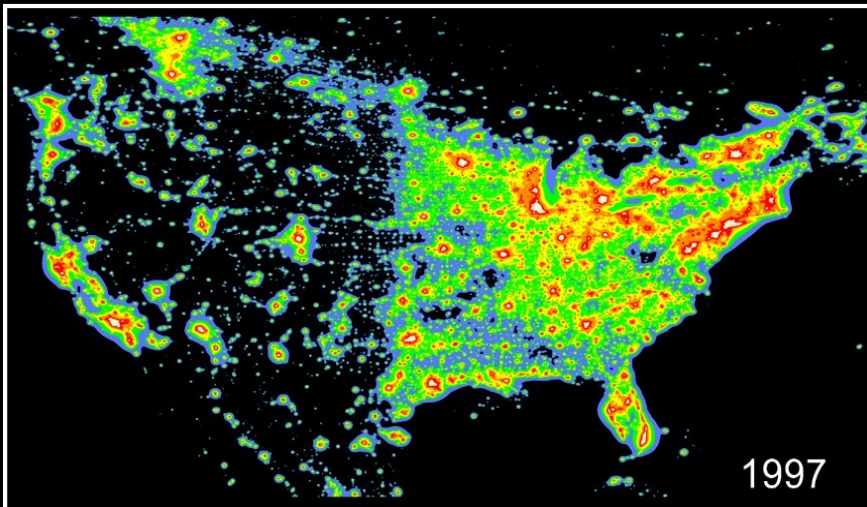
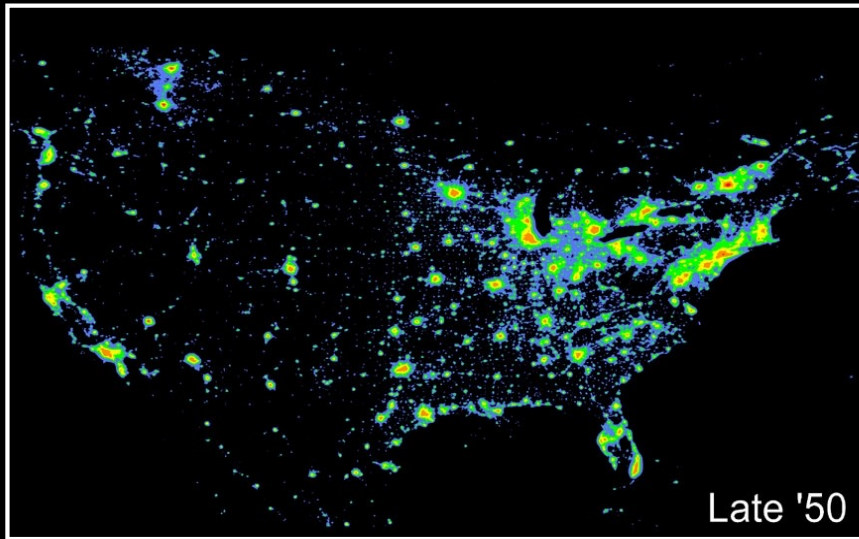
Nightscape: now

80% of people live
in urban areas

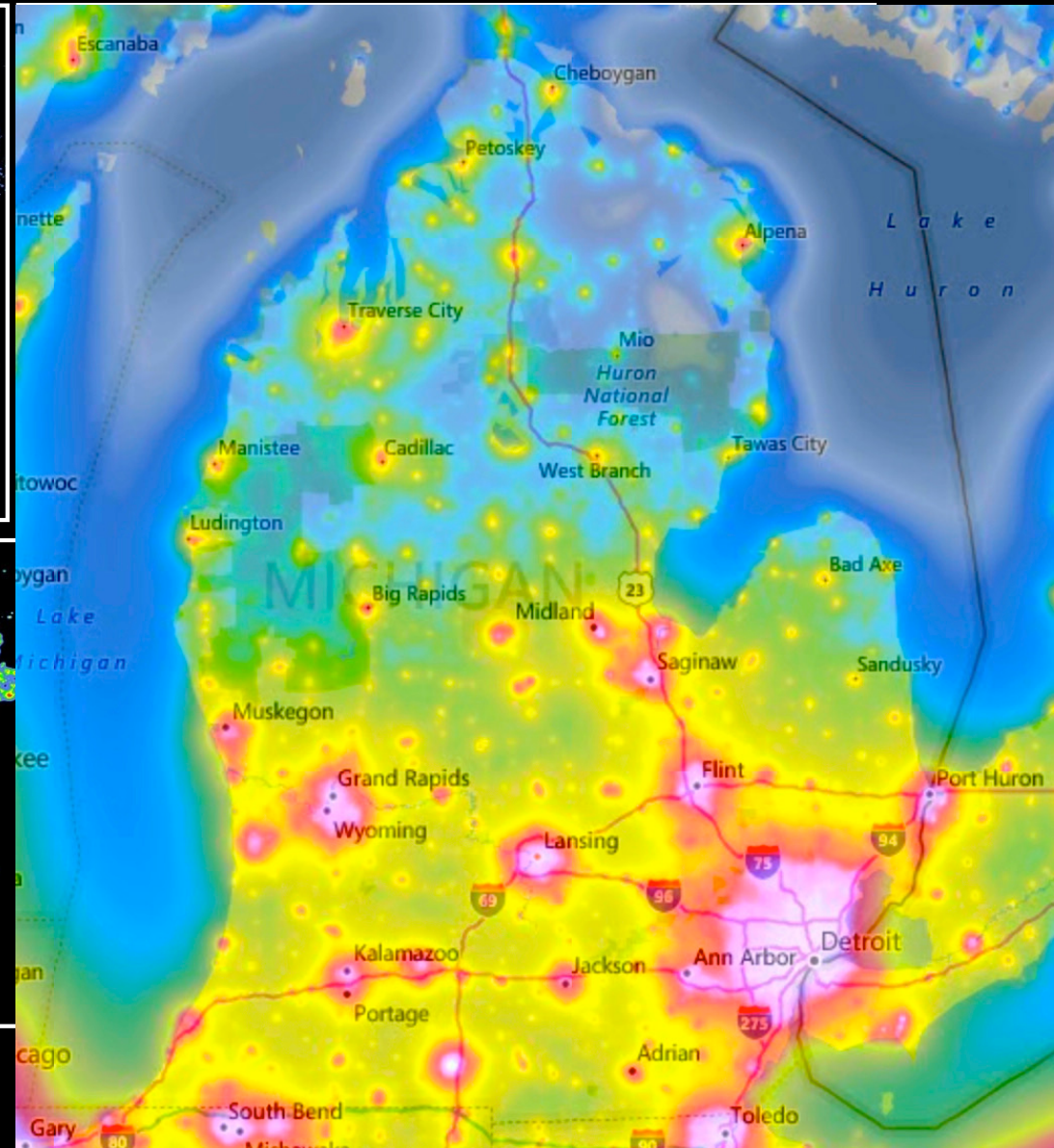


Light Pollution increasing at 10% / yr

(Kyba et al. 2023)



Cinzano, Falchi, and Elvidge (2001)



Impacts Biology and Human Health

- 24-hr circadian rhythm, and melatonin production, is disrupted by **artificial light at night (ALAN)**.



The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2017
Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash, Michael W. Young

“for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms
controlling the circadian rhythm”

- ALAN disrupts the ecosystem: birds, nocturnal pollinators, etc.



Existential threat to the nocturnal ecosystem



The Animals Come Out at Night

Written and Illustrated by
Erin Gennow

**Insect
Apocalypse**

Yspi: 1 building, 1 day



- Birds migrate at night
- Building collisions are #2 cause of bird death
- Up to a **Billion** birds killed annually
- 25% of species declined in 50 yrs

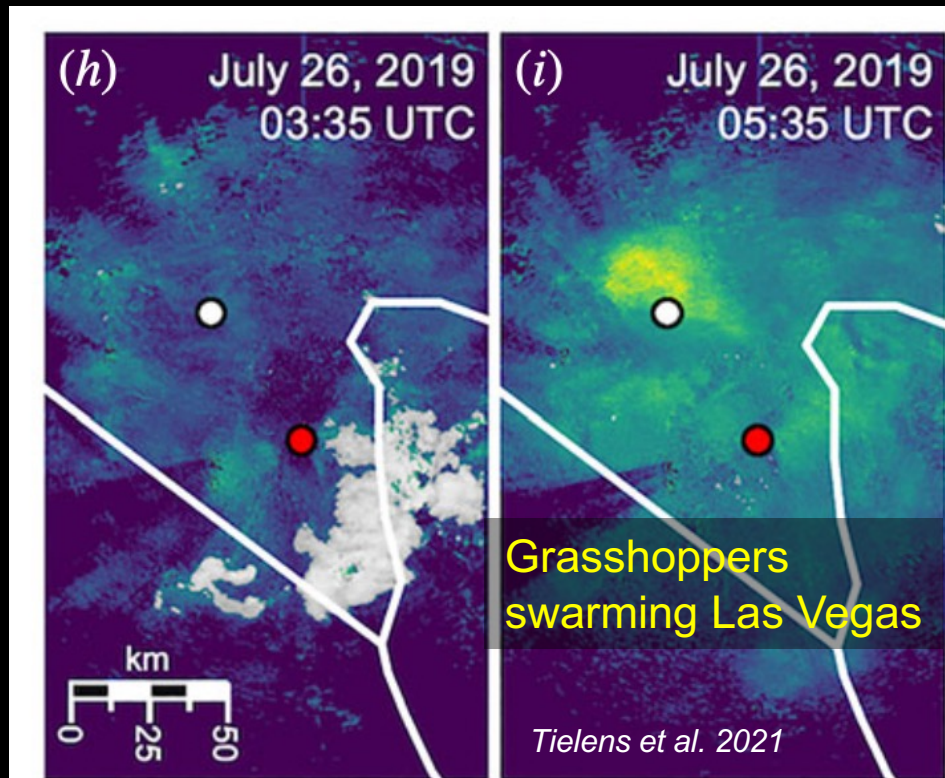
FLAP Canada's Annual Bird Display / flap.org
Royal Ontario Museum, 2016
These 2100 birds, recovered by FLAP volunteers, died in window collisions.



- Washtenaw Safe Passage
- Safe Passage Great Lakes, Detroit Audubon Society
- Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP), Toronto
- Chicago Lights Out Program



Insect Apocalypse:
40% of species threatened



- **Fireflies**
- **Bats**
- **Sea Turtles**
- **Salmon**
- **Deciduous trees**
- *... incl. nocturnal pollinators*
- **whole ecosystem!**

Humans: American Medical Association

Report of the Council on Science and Public Health (2016)

*... some evidence supports a long-term increase in the risk for **cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity** from chronic sleep disruption or shiftwork and associated with exposure to brighter light sources in the evening or night.*

*... excessive blue wavelength. This feature further contributes to **disability glare**, i.e., visual impairment due to stray light, as blue wavelengths are associated with more scattering in the human eye, and sufficiently intense **blue spectrum damages retinas**.*

It is well known that unshielded light sources cause pupillary constriction... This leads to worse vision than if the light never existed at all, defeating the purpose of the lighting fixture.

ENERGY WASTE

What is light pollution costing us?



13% of residential electricity use in the U.S. is for outdoor lighting



Average House

Bad outdoor lighting wastes **0.5 kilowatt-hours (kWh)** of energy per house, per night

0.5 kWh of electricity

= enough energy to power a 50-inch plasma TV for 1 hour



SKYGLOW

is the artificial brightness of the night sky that's caused by light pollution.

About **35%** of light is wasted by unshielded and/or poorly-aimed outdoor lighting

This is about **\$3 BILLION** per year worth of energy lost to skyglow



Which is about **\$10.00** spent for every man, woman, and child in the U.S. every year

About **15 million** tons of CO₂ are emitted each year in order to power residential outdoor lighting in the U.S.

About **3 million** passenger cars have the same CO₂ emission rate, which is 40,000 tons per day.



About **600 million** trees would need to be planted to offset that amount of carbon emission



3 Types of Light Pollution:



- Glare

Light Trespass -



- Sky glow

Safety

More light is not necessarily safer

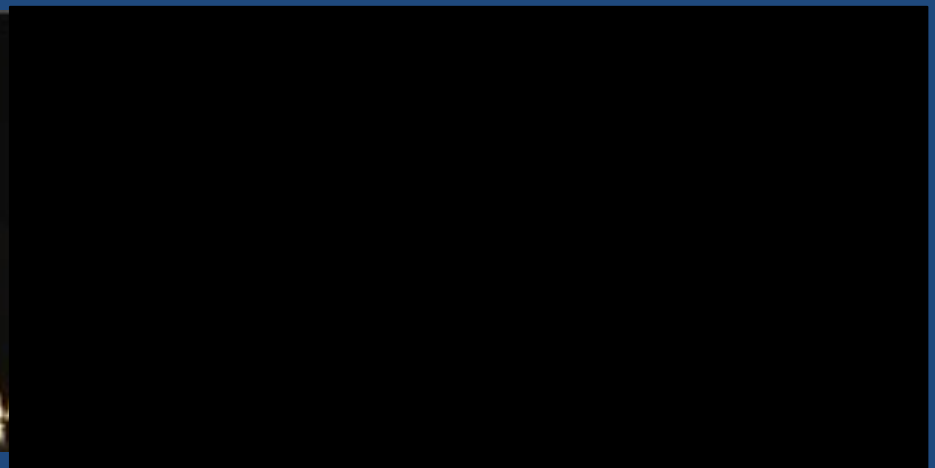
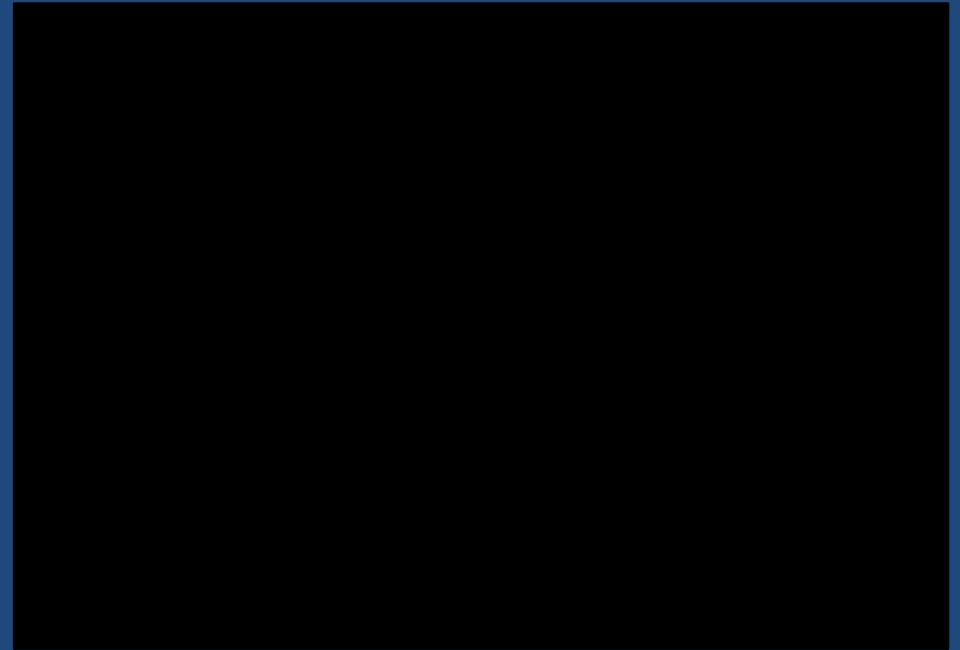
- Over-illumination causes deep shadows
- Glare reduces visibility
- Night vision compromised
- Stage lighting





More light $\neq$ more safe

Glare reduces visibility



Stage Lighting

Visible and safe? or vulnerable and exposed?



Eye's dark adaption compromised

LEDs tend toward Blue: Bad!

- Blue light scatters more strongly
- More disability glare, vision problems
- Blue destroys night vision more than red
- Blue is worse for ecosystem

It is estimated that white LED lamps have five times greater impact on circadian sleep rhythms than conventional street lamps.

--- **American Medical Association**, June 14, 2016

Easy Solutions!

Light only:

- What is needed
- No more than needed
- When needed
- No bluer than needed

*Need smart lighting,
not more lighting!*



Michiganders care!



Q dark sky



Michigan dark sky park announces 2021 stargazing dates

Jan 14, 2021 CASS COUNTY, MICH. — Stargazers, mark your calendars. Dr. Lawless International Dark Sky Park, which debuted just last year, has announced its night sky viewing ...



12 Michigan dark-sky spots for watching the Perseid meteor shower this week

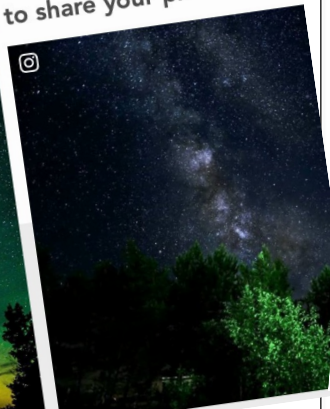
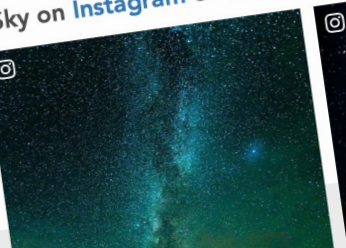
Aug 10, 2020 For stargazers, mid-August is one of the most magical times of the year. That's when the annual Perseid meteor shower occurs, a celestial show that, ...



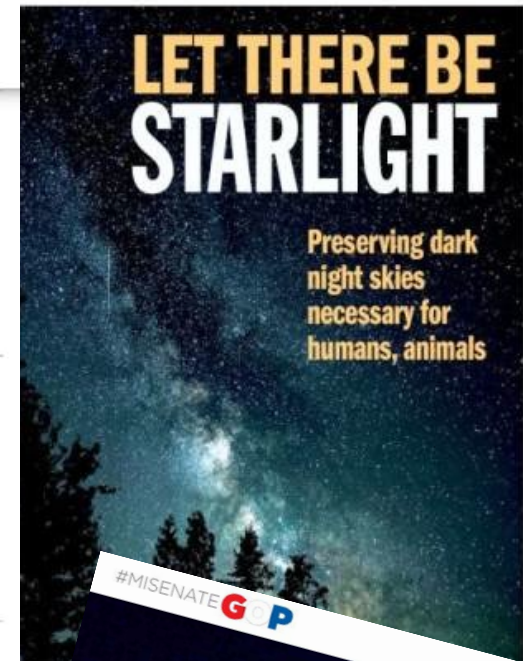
How to 'look up together' while social distancing during International Dark Sky Week

Apr 18, 2020 If you're growing tired of your everyday surroundings during pandemic stay-home orders, it's the perfect time to tap into a fresh, free resource that's updated ...

SHARE YOUR PURE MICHIGAN DARK SKY PHOTOS
Use #PureMichigan or #DarkSky on [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) to share your photos of yo



PURE MICHIGAN®



Would
for be
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car p

Vehicles sold
\$2,500 more

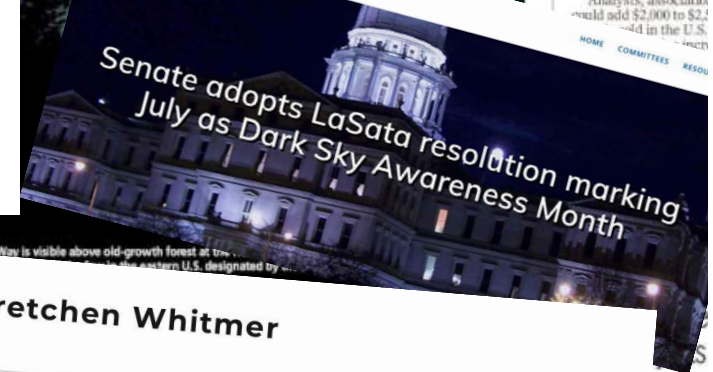
Proposals for a ho
with Mexico and
facturing in the 1
thousands of dollars to
truck sold here, includ



MARK PHELAN

the umbrella group for
tions representing 1,00
Analysts, association
could add \$2,000 to \$2.4
ad in the U.S.

HOME COMMITTEES RESOU



Governor Gretchen Whitmer

About ▾

News ▾

Issues & Accomplishments ▾

Appointments

Lt G

April 22-30, 2022: Dark Sky Week

April 15, 2022

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6 MI State Parks are
Dark Sky Preserves

+

3 International
Dark Sky Parks



Headlands, Dr. T K Lawless, Keewenaw

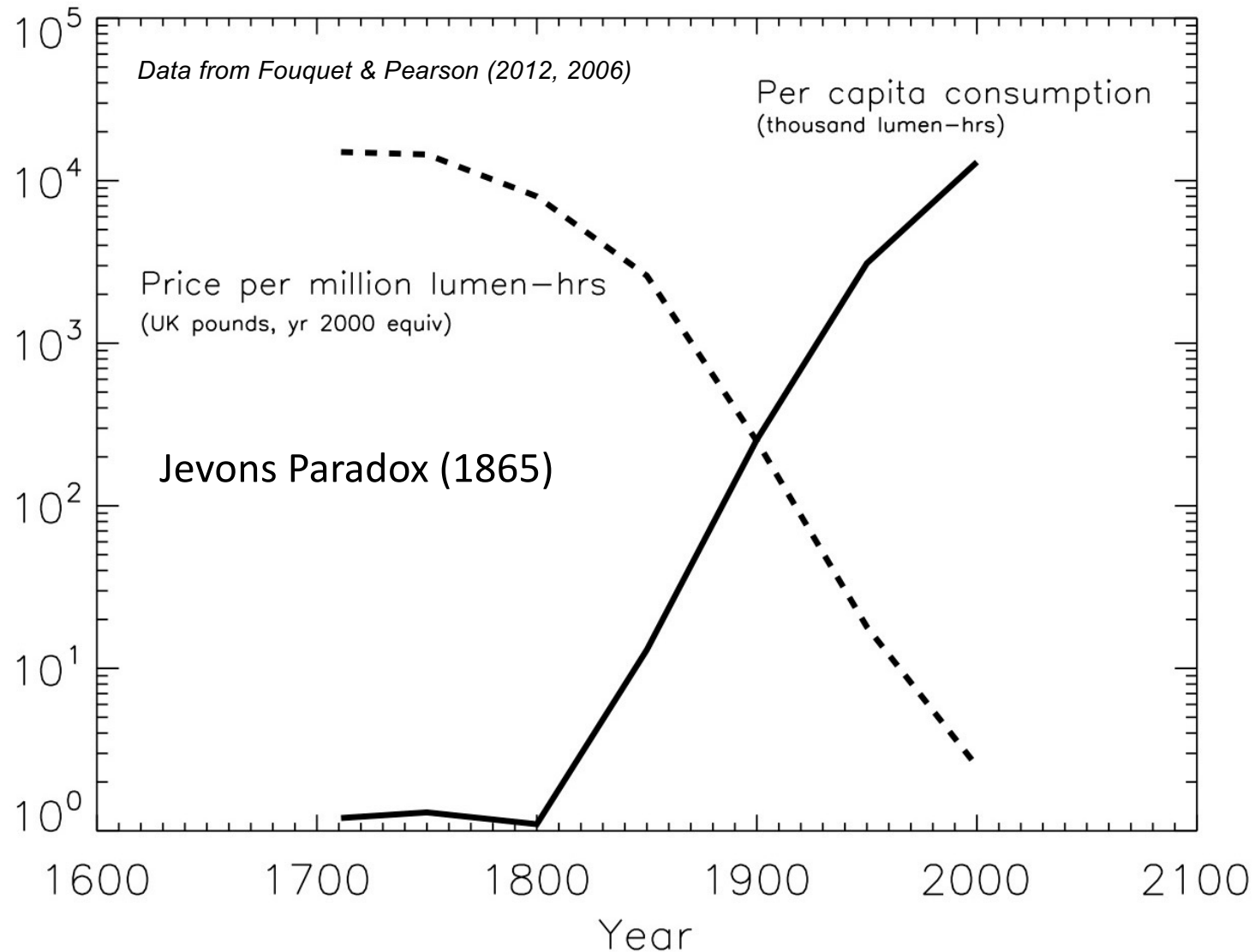


DarkSky



Cheaper energy = More consumption

Legislation imperative to realize conservation!



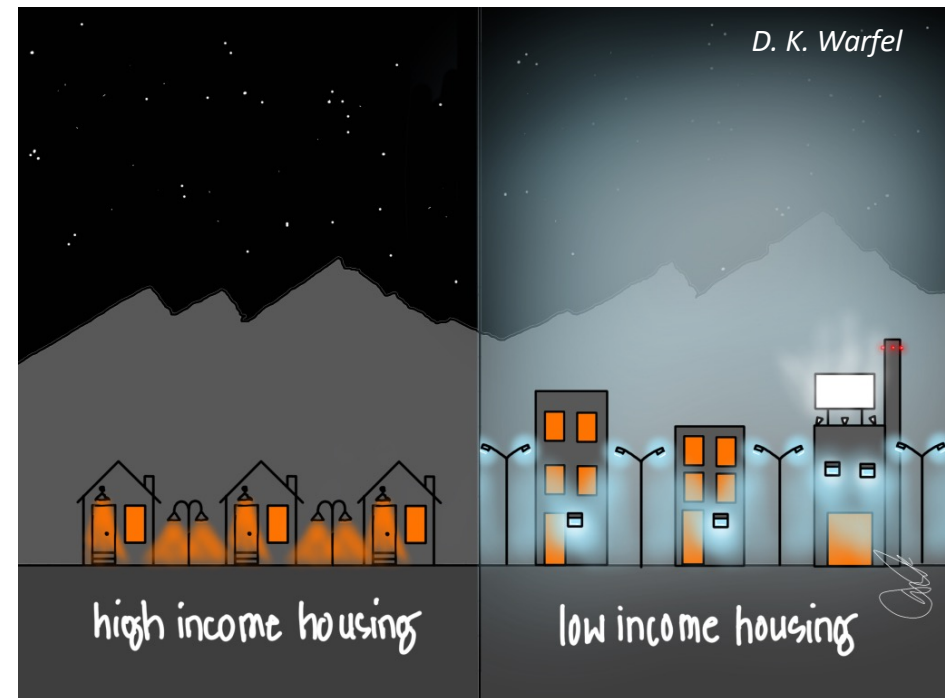
RESILIENT WASHTENAW

November 16, 2022

PRINCIPLES

Light pollution control
addresses all Principles

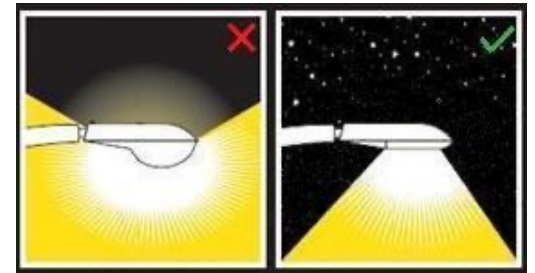
1. Racial Equity and Environmental Justice
2. Support Public Health
3. Just Transition
4. Resilient Economy *Food security*
5. Community Support & Partnership
6. High Communication & Engagement *Visibility*



Dark-Sky Compliant Criteria

ANSI standards set by Illuminating Engineering Society (IES)

1. Fixtures fully shielded
2. No light trespass at property line
3. Hours of operation
4. Brightness limits on specific uses, e.g., façade, canopy, and parking lot lighting
5. Warm colors (CCT < 2700 K)
6. Amortization



Township Lighting Codes

- Few fully implement dark-sky principles & standards
- ~25% have basically nothing
- Enforcement is poor
- **Rural areas critical** for containment of light pollution!

Ann Arbor Twp 76-606

Augusta Twp, 9.13

Bridgewater Twp, 11.20

Dexter Twp, Art. 21

Freedom Twp, 10.08

Lima Twp, Sec 6.7

Lodi Twp, Sec 55.21

Lyndon Twp, Sec 3.21

Manchester Twp, none

Northfield Twp, 36-602

Pittsfield Twp 40-13.05

Salem Twp 50.5d

Saline Twp 7.09

Scio Twp 36-315

Sharon Twp 18-04

Superior Twp, 14.11

Sylvan Twp, none (but working)

Webster Twp, 13-200

York Twp, 7.8, none

Ypsilanti Twp, 1303

Our group can suggest a consultant and/or help update

Washtenaw County

Suggested Actions

1. Enact Policy for outdoor lighting, adopting the ANSI standards of the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) for all County facilities, roads.

Include Road Commission projects

Don't defer to DTE recommendations

2. Include Light Pollution Control specifics in implementation plans for Resilient Washtenaw
3. Raise public awareness
4. Promote dark-sky practices among Townships and municipalities

We welcome your advice and
collaboration.

Thank you!

- sites.lsa.umich.edu/darkskies
- darksky.org