

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=pfBmKRmpFgTdCQSF9b8rFwdx8fmKjw.1>

Meeting ID: 891 2705 8352

Passcode: 591312

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the September 24, 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. 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.
 - C. Council instructions, if any, to WCEC Advisory and Recommendations Committee
- VIII. 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

- C. Council instructions, if any, to WCEC Advisory and Recommendations Committee
- IX. Staff Reports
 - A. Beth Gibbons, County Resiliency Office Director
 - 1. Staffing Status
 - 2. Resiliency Office Updates
 - 3. Outreach Updates
 - B. Other Staff Reports
- X. Chair's Report
 - A. Upcoming meeting topics, scheduling, in-person meeting
 - 1. November meeting: Voting on 2025 Calendar
- XI. New Business
- XII. Communications and Reports
 - A. Councilmembers
 - B. Staff
 - C. Committees and Committee Reports
- XIII. Adjourn

Next Meetings

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 (virtual)

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 (virtual)

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, September 24, 2024. 5:00PM - 6:30PM

In-Person Meeting

Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center

4135 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor

Call-In Option: Join Zoom Webinar

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

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Meeting ID: 840 4276 9611

Passcode: 300226

SEPTEMBER DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
 - a. Present: Anne Brown, Andrew Comai, Michelle Deatrick, Andrea Pierce, Gay MacGregor, Kris Olsson, Yousef Rabhi, Tim Redmond, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville, Lauren Sargent, Benjamin VanGessel, Hudson Villeneuve
 - b. Absent: Avni Rao, Elizabeth Ratzloff
3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Moved by: Tim Redmond
 - b. Seconded by: Kris Olsson
 - c. Approved by: Voice Vote
5. Approval of the Minutes of the August 27, 2024 Meeting
 - a. Moved by: Annie Somerville
 - b. Seconded by: Katie Scott
 - c. Approved by: Voice Vote
6. Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
7. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
8. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation
9. Presentation: Michigan's Energy and Environmental Future, and Opportunities and Outlook for Washtenaw County. Presenter: Phil Roos, Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
 - a. Presentation
 - b. Council responses and discussion.
 - i. TR: Soil health is critically important, would like to see metrics created for soil health.

- ii. KS: How have you seen the Chevron case impact your work? Does the Chevron case put the states environmental plan in jeopardy?
- iii. AP: There is PFAS in our water and I don't see where anything is being done to try and fix it. Concerned about fishing in Ford Lake, are the fish being tested?
- iv. HV: Is the DNR responsible for identifying citizens about PFAS in fish?
- v. BVG: You spoke about Michigan's status as an environmental leader, but michigan has higher per capita GHG emissions. Is there work being done to address this?
- vi. GM: Are the environmental stretch goals available for the public to access?
- vii. LS: We have data center bills that will suck up all the renewable energy we will hope to generate, and we have proposals from big energy companies to generate "renewable natural gas" from CAFO's. So what position can EGLE take when we have all of these bad things coming at us before we can dig out from the current mess?
- viii. AS: Can you please update the commission on work being done related to microplastics.
- c. Council instructions, if any, to WCEC Advisory and Recommendations Committee
 - i. YR: It may be worthwhile to create policy suggestions to recommend to the BOC.

10. Regular Business

- a. Staff Reports
- b. Staffing Status
- c. Resiliency Office Updates
- d. ADL: No major report
- e. BG: In the process of getting the second position in the resiliency office posted, should be posted before the next meeting. Also in the process of recruiting a MI Healthy Climate Corp Fellow.

11. Chair's Report

- a. Upcoming meeting topics, scheduling, in-person meeting
 - i. October: Pittsfield Township and Ann Arbor Township Sustainability Plans/Initiatives
 - ii. MD: May also have a presentation from Barton Hills Village
 - iii. November: TBD

12. New Business

- a. Motion: bill will be voted on tomorrow in the Michigan State House. This is a bill that will be giving Data Centers a tax credit. These centers use a lot of energy and a lot of water.
 - i. Moved by: Andrea Pierce

ii. Seconded by: Lauren Sargent

iii. Discussion

1. HV: This is a huge energy issue and it will undo any of the progress that the state's climate energy legislation.
2. AC: Are there any site proposals in Washtenaw County for Data Centers?
3. LS: Believes that the council should support this because the legislation is "one step forward, 5 steps back."
4. BVG: How would this legislation impact a public institution like University of Michigan?
5. KS: The university has a huge AI push. This is a good area to look into.
6. MD: I strongly support this resolution.

iv. The Motion Passed Unanimously

13. Communications and Reports

- a. Councilmembers
 - i. KO: Scio TWP Sustainability Fair is
- b. Staff
- c. Committees and Committee Reports

14. Adjourn

- a. Adjourned 6:40 PM