

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

5:00PM - 6:30PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/84042769611?pwd=V6X5wGGk5hvgKKFqbAIZg4aZxXjK0s.1>

Passcode: 300226

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the December 17, 2024 Meeting
- VI. Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - a. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - b. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation
- VII. Presentation by Sharon Popp, Barton Hills Village
- VIII. Presentation by Gay McGregor, Council Member *USEPA Ann Arbor: What It Does and How We Benefit*
- IX. Other Guest Speakers tbd
- X. Staff Reports
 - a. Acknowledgement of any Staff Reports and Communications
 - b. Beth Gibbons, County Resiliency Office Director
 - i. Staffing Updates
 - ii. Activities Update
 - 1. Hazard Mitigation Planning
 - 2. Department of Energy model codes and ordinances
 - c. Jason Fee, Director of Facilities Management
 - d. Other Staff Reports
- XI. Chair's Report and Proposals
 - a. Discussion: Supporting federal employees
 - b. Welcoming new Council members
 - c. Upcoming elections
 - d. Committee interests
 - a. Existing Committees: Planning Committee (Leadership - Chair, Vice Chairs, Immediate Past Chair or other), Outreach Committee, Advisory and Recommendations Committee.
- XII. New Business
 - a. Communications and Reports
 - i. Councilmembers

ii. Staff

iii. Committees and Committee Reports

XII. Adjourn

Next Meetings

Tuesday, March 25

Washtenaw County Environmental Council
Tuesday, December 17, 2024. 5:00PM - 6:30PM
Virtual Meeting

Join Zoom Webinar

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/84042769611?pwd=V6X5wGGk5hvgKKFgbAlZg4aZxXjK0s.1>

Webinar ID: 840 4276 9611

DECEMBER DRAFT MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - A. 5:03 PM
- II. Attendance
 - A. Present: Andrew Comai, Avni Rao, Benjamin VanGessel, Elizabeth Ratzloff, Gay MacGregor, Hudson Villeneuve, Kris Olsson, Michelle Deatruck, Tim Redmond, Yousef Rabhi
 - B. Not Present: Andrea Pierce, Anne Brown, Annie Somerville, Katie Scott, Lauren Sargent
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Moved by: Yousef Rabhi
 - B. Seconded by: Andy Comai, Liz Ratzloff
 - C. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the November 19, 2024 Meeting
 - A. Moved: Gay MacGregor
 - B. Seconded by: Avni Rao
 - C. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
- VI. Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - A. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - 1. No public comment made
 - B. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation
 - 1. No written comments made
- VII. Presentation by Kathy Morrison, Farmer and educator in Fremont, Michigan
 - A. Biodigester presentation – Fremont experience, threats and challenges

B. Council responses

1. GM: questions about state legislation for biodigesters
2. YR: comment on legislators
3. AC: question about contaminate oversight
4. BVG: question about policy solution types and best use of material
5. MD: comment about PFAS treatment
6. TR: supportive of efforts and need for regulation, question about mixing waste
7. Written comments: Dr. Sarah D'Onofrio
8. HV: question about biodigester interest across state
9. Public comment: Dr. Sarah D'Onofrio

C. Next steps to advise Board of Commissioners on biodigesters

1. BV: question about circular economy standards
2. Kathy: work with waste management committees
3. KO: question about application of clean water act and water, groundwater, and well permits
4. YR: ongoing concerns of people on waste committees. Suggests passing resolution from EC perspective about concerns
5. BVG: explore resolution regarding parking sealant and PFAS as potential solution
6. Kathy: townships writing ordinances to block outside waste from coming in

D. Motion for policy and recommendations committee to write resolution for consideration at January meeting with regard to this issue

1. Moved by: Yousef Rabhi
2. Second by: Tim Redmond
3. Approved by: Voice vote

VIII. Staff Reports

A. Acknowledgement of Staff Reports and Communications

1. Resiliency Office hiring updates
2. Parks & Recreation plan includes climate mitigation and resilience goals
3. Full report requested for next meeting on Eastern Washtenaw Community Recreation Center
4. Recognizing energy efficiency accomplishments of County Facilities

Manager, Jason Fee

5. Board of Commissioner approved solar installation on Saline Courthouse

- YR: comment on recognizing accomplishment, adding it is full electrification of building, and utilizing the Resilient Washtenaw plan to include social and health impact cost in addition to financial benefit
- HV: question about using Direct Pay for project
 - Beth Gibbons report includes Grant and Technical Assistance tracking information

B. Other Staff Reports

IX. Chair's Report and Proposals

A. Upcoming meeting topics, scheduling, in-person meeting

1. Follow up on mature trees resolution passed in November meeting
 - Three 100-year-old oaks were cut down on Gale Rd this month, it is natural beauty road
2. Have 2025 calendar ready so we can decide on in person meetings

X. New Business

A. Other Resolutions

1. Honor and thank departing or changing of role counselors
 - Tim Redmond has volunteered to continue in service as senior advisor to the council
 - Andrew Comai, Hudson Villeneuve, and Avni Rao
2. Motion to pass
 - Moved by: Tim Redmond
 - Second: Liz Ratzloff
 - Approved by: Voice vote

XI. Communications and Reports

A. Councilmember Rabhi updates from Board

1. Passed resolution to oppose gravel mining bills
2. Not yet passed mature trees resolution, have received communication and discussed it
3. State voting on financial support for m e project in Porcupine Mountains, contact representatives to encourage them to vote against it
4. Reminder that commissions will have to be reappointed to this group in the new year – has been honor to serve and thank you for your work

B. TR: brining attention to worrisome comments from incoming president

XII. Adjourn

A. 6:32 PM

Next Meetings

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 (virtual)

DRAFT

DRAFT



Presentation

By Barton Hills Climate Resilience Committee

January 28, 2025

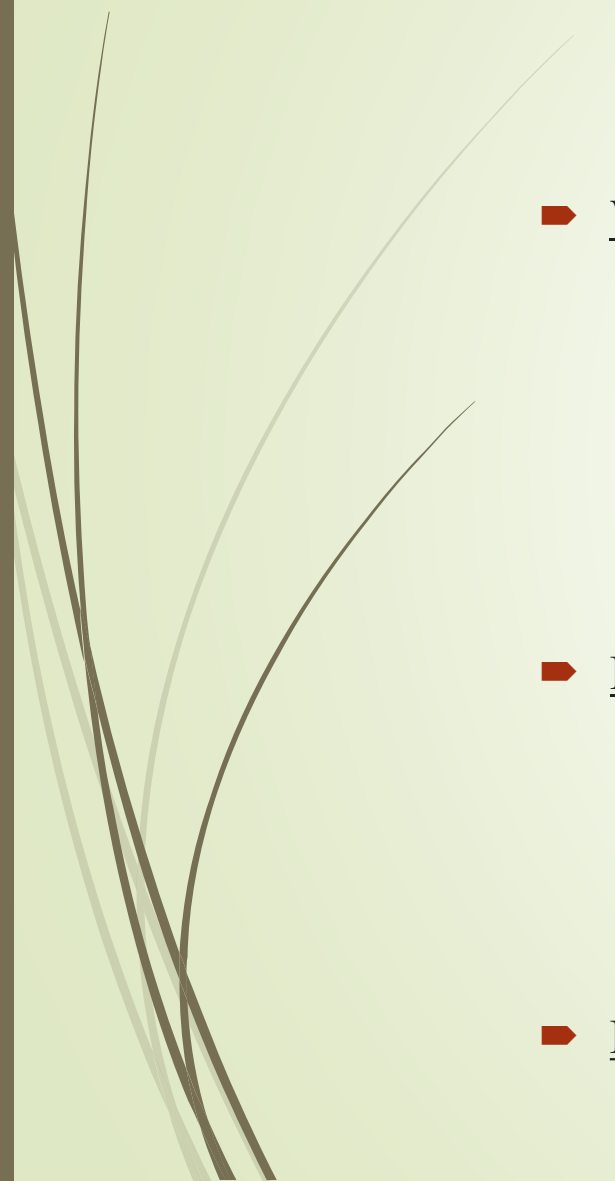


Progress

- Jan and Dave Esch Nature Preserve (formerly the 'North 40')
 - A 40-acre site owned by the BHV Maintenance Corporation was leased by outside farmers every year. A neighbor raised a concern about their use of Round Up.
 - Members of Maintenance Corp. Board looked for alternatives to farming and contacted US Fish and Wildlife who also contacted Ducks Unlimited.
 - We entered into a 15-year agreement that we would not develop or farm the land. Together these organizations created 3 shallow ponds and planted \$10,000 worth of wildflower seeds.
 - A path around the site is maintained for BHV residents' use. Residents spread mulch at entry path on Earth Day 2023.
 - Challenge: While the mowing is contracted, volunteers to do ongoing maintenance (paths mowed).
 - Challenge: Proliferation of black alder. Planned controlled Spring 2025.



Progress



➤ Waterfront

- The waterfront on Barton Pond was overgrown with invasives. We hired a landscaping company to remove the invasives and plant native wildflowers and other native species along the shore.
 - Residents did “clean up” along the river in 2022.
 - Action: Maintenance continues with contracted company.
 - Challenge: Invasive species proliferate.

➤ Lower Entrance off M-14

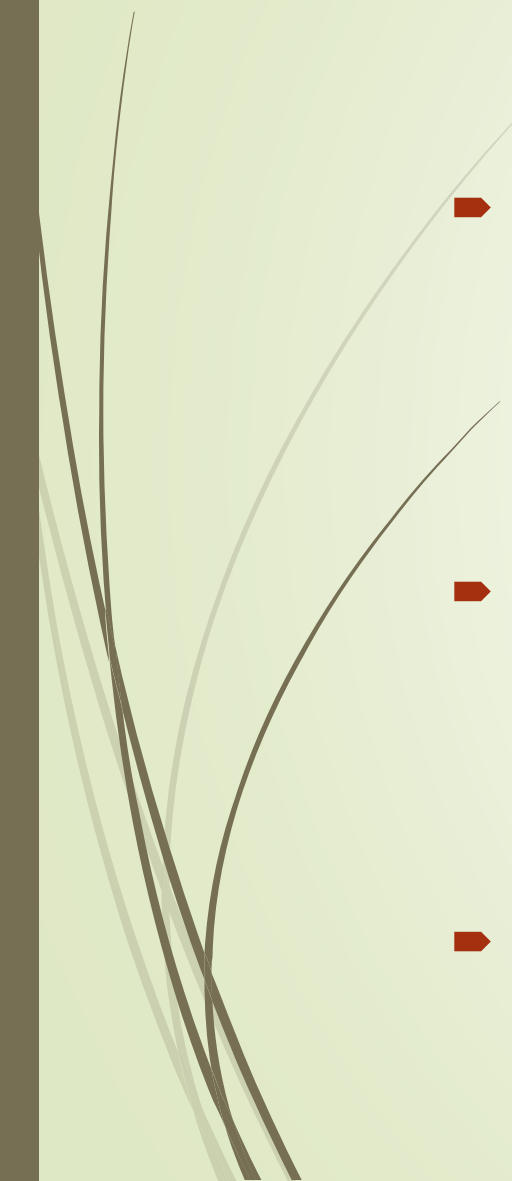
- Cleaned up the pine grove, groomed hackberries, and trimmed trees.
- Field and Fen Preservation: Entrance area determined to be a “fen”.
- Removed swimming pool, outbuildings, tennis courts. Converted to greenspace.

➤ Barton Green (40 Acres)

- Village maintains west of village in natural state



Progress



- Light Pollution Effort

- Committee members collaborated with Country Club to have reduced lighting in parking lot at night.
- Ongoing action: publicize importance of dark skies for wildlife

- Intersection gardens

- Village maintains these gardens.
- Action: Beginning to replace existing plants with native perennials

- Silt remediation

- BHCC initiated water saving strategies and minimized stream flow (completed Spring 2024).



Progress



- Speakers

- Fire Chief
- Rain garden experts
- Washtenaw County Climate Resilience

- Rain Garden Consultation to residents

- Rain garden experts assisted residents with rain garden developments.
- Several residents maintain rain gardens.



Progress

- Encourage solar panels
 - Assessed village owned buildings for feasibility of conversion to solar
 - Changed guidelines for solar panels expanded
 - Ongoing action: Encourage residents to consider.
 - Challenges: Revise zoning ordinance to make it more solar friendly
- Updated village owned buildings
 - Replace fuel oil furnace with hybrid heat pump HVAC system
- Recycling/Waste
 - Residential Recycling Program started in 2023. One-third of waste is being recycled.
 - **Sixty-three percent** are enrolled in a single-stream recycling program operated by Village. Other residents
 - Upgraded the waste collection truck with a compactor.



Progress

- Village safety
 - Reduced Vehicle Traffic/Emissions
 - Added benches and bicycle racks to wildlife areas and to encourage walking and biking
 - Crosswalks added at Country Club for pedestrian safety
 - Trimmed overhanging trees for fire truck access
- Communication with residents
 - Climate corner in monthly newsletter (topics included dark skies information, rain garden information, reducing waste in the holidays)



Progress

- Climate resilience challenges in the village
 - Preservation of steep slopes in the natural environment
 - Emergency preparedness of residents
 - Navigation of roads for emergency vehicles
 - Storm water retention
 - Feasibility of conversion to electric lawn equipment and service vehicles

National Vehicle, Fuel and Emissions Lab

US EPA, Ann Arbor

Washtenaw County Environmental Council Meeting - Feb 25, 2025

- **Office of Air, Office of Transportation and Air Quality, NVFEL**
 - @200 Ann Arbor Employees
 - @80 DC employees
 - Probationary employees in Ann Arbor @35
 - Highly educated engineering, policy, and legal staff that has driven innovation in the auto and engine industry- holds over 60 patents on advanced technologies
- **Premier Emissions Testing and Research Facility has attracted other emissions and technology industry to Washtenaw County**
 - Toyota Tech Center - 2000 employees in SE MI
 - Hyundai - 735 Employees



Technology/Innovation



NVFEL/CA Air Resources Board regulations have sparked major auto technology innovation

- 1975—2-way catalytic converter and unleaded gasoline (for new cars)
- 1980s—3-way catalytic converters, on-board computers, fuel injection
- 1990s—multi-valve engines, variable valve timing, on-board diagnostics
- 2000s—cleaner gasoline, end of leaded gasoline, direct injection 2-stroke lawn garden & outboards
- 2010s—gasoline direct injection, turbochargers, stop/start systems, more sophisticated transmissions, greater use of lightweight materials

Innovation means cars & engines are only cleaner & higher quality, more reliable, and more durable

NVFEL Protects Human Health

- By setting scientifically based pollution standards for every kind of mobile source
- EPA estimates that air pollution standards prevent more than 200,000 deaths every year in the U.S.
- In 2030- 5 Signature Emissions Rules monetized benefit = \$110B, cost \$3.1B



Cars, SUVs, Pickups



Heavy-Duty



Recreational and
Commercial Marine



Aircraft



Clean and Renewable
Fuels



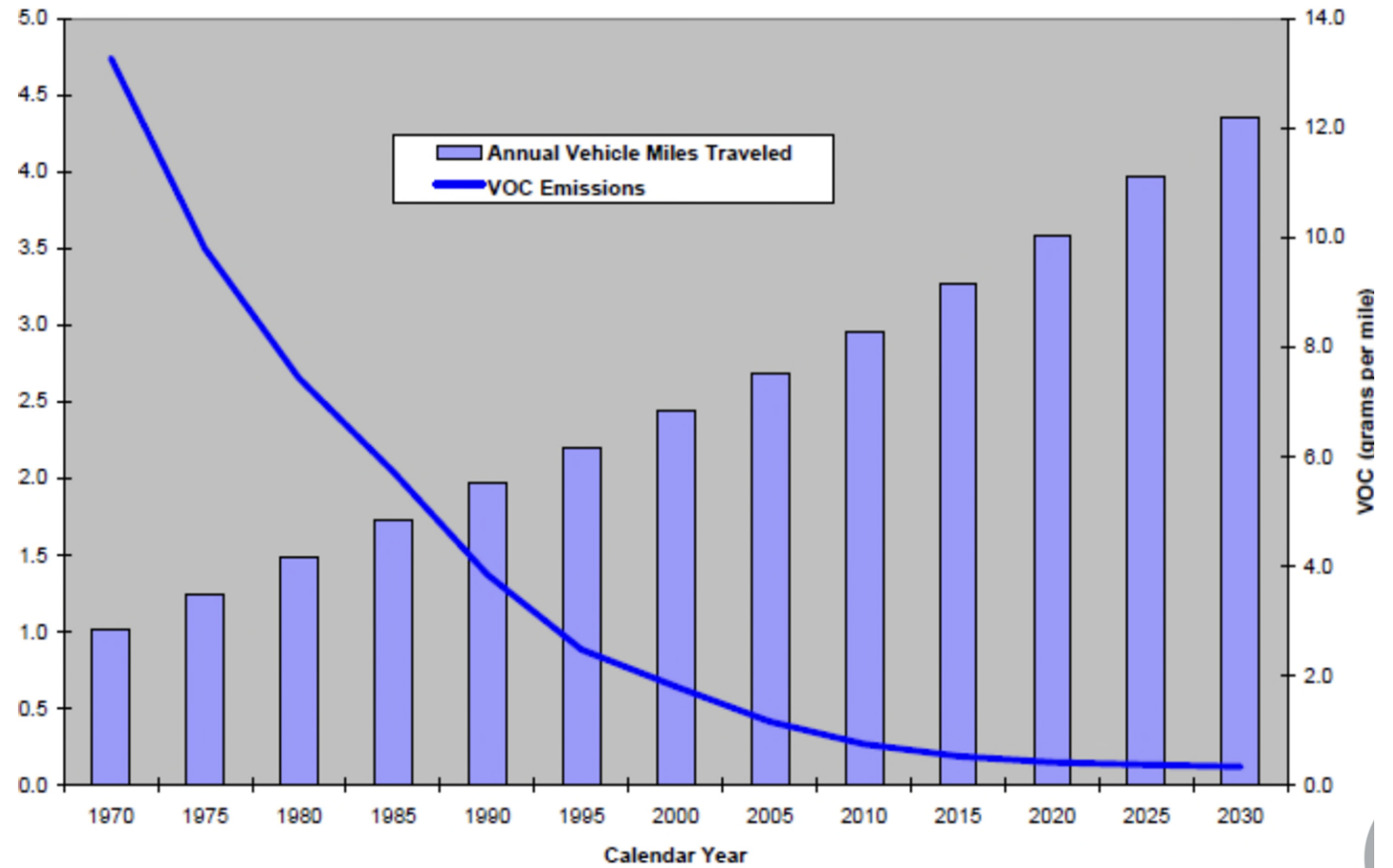
Locomotives



Non-Road



Vehicle Emissions vs. Miles Traveled



NVFEL Protects the Planet - Climate

Clean Car Rules phased in 2027-2032

NVFEL's greenhouse gas standards for cars and trucks may be the single most important action taken by any country to address climate change

- By 2032 Electric Vehicles will be 60% of the fleet
- CO2 reduced by 7 Billion metric tons in 2055
- Saving 15 Billion Barrels of Oil
- Reduce Particulate Matter (PM) by 95%
- **Net Social Benefit = \$2.1 Trillion**

Heavy Duty GHG Rule - Phase 3



NVFEL Protects the Consumer

Ensures motor vehicles and engines sold in the U.S. comply with pollution standards

- Certifies new vehicle and engine models meet emissions standards before they can be sold.

Issues more than 4,300 emissions certificates each year

16M passenger cars sold in 2024

- Monitors emissions of production & consumer-owned vehicles and engines to ensure products remain clean even years after entering customer service
- Generates the fuel economy labels that are on all new cars & the fuel economy data that the Department of Transportation uses to implement corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards

NVFEL Assists States and Communities

Creating and implementing cost effective programs to achieve clean air and climate protection - rules can't do it all

- Developing & approving state plans to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- Ensures Transportation Plans are consistent with Air Quality Plans
- Diesel Emission Reduction Programs
 - Clean School Bus \$5B (IRA), MI 2024: \$30M grants 2024, \$76M in Rebates, Tax rebates of \$40M
 - Clean Ports \$3B (IRA) EGLE \$3M, Port of Detroit \$3M & Clean Heavy Duty \$400M
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants \$5B (IRA)MI \$5M, State, Detroit, Grand Rapids
- SmartWay Partnership - works with the total supply chain to reduce emissions
- Reformulated Fuels Program and emergency fuel waivers in disasters



NVFEL Protects the Manufacturer

- Working with manufacturers to set technology neutral standards that foster innovation with adequate lead time for compliance
- By ensuring those that comply with standards are not disadvantaged by manufacturers who willfully cheat
 - NVFEL's multi-faceted compliance oversight led to the historic \$25 billion settlement with Volkswagen for cheating on diesel vehicles



Washtenaw County Environmental Council February 2025 Meeting

Resiliency Office Report

Beth Gibbons, County Resiliency Office Director

1. Staffing Status

- Beatrice Miringu has accepted the position of Program Manager. She will begin on March 10.

2. Grants & Funding Update

- EPA Region 5 Thriving Communities Grant Program (In-process)
 - Proposals Due: March 30
 - Proposal Purpose: Funding a community led visioning and planning process for the future Eastside Recreation Center.
- Michigan State Police HMPG 4757/FEMA HMA (In-process)
 - Proposals Due: April 18, 2025
 - Proposal Purpose: Funding for the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan for Washtenaw County
- Michigan Infrastructure Office Technical Assistance
 - Proposals Due 2/19/2025
 - Submitted, requesting support to complete the HMPG 4757 Application
- MPSC Renewable Energy and Electrification Infrastructure Enhancement and Development (Under consideration)
 - Proposals Due: March 20, 2025.
 - Funding Priorities:
 - Renewable energy and electrification infrastructure projects including, but not limited to:
 - Electrification technologies
 - Renewable energy systems
 - Waste heat to energy systems
 - Combined heat and power using wastewater treatment biogas
 - Electric vehicle charging infrastructure
 - Renewable natural gas facilities
 - Other projects related to renewable energy and electrification infrastructure
 - Advancing opportunities for local government, frontline communities, and place-based funders to build trust and develop projects together.



3. Outreach Updates

- Climate Social Hour
 - Friday, February 28, Corner Brewery 5 – 7pm
- Green Team Meetings
 - Taking place quarterly (internal meetings for County staff)
- Climate Teach-In
 - May 4
- 2030 District Workshop
 - June 2025 at the Learning Resource Center (details TBD)
- Resilience Hub Network Meetings
 - First meeting in March/April 2025 (details TBD)