

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, March 25, 2025. 5:00PM - 6:30PM

Virtual Meeting

Link to join:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/84042769611?pwd=V6X5wGGk5hVqKKFqbAlZg4aZxXjK0s.1>

MARCH MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the February 25, 2025 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 written Staff Reports and Communications
 - B. Washtenaw County Resiliency Office
 - 1. Staffing Status
 - 2. Resiliency Office Updates
 - 3. Other Updates
 - C. Other Staff Reports
- VIII. Chair's Report
 - A. Contact List & Member Interest Survey, Committee Appointments
 - B. May 27 meeting date
 - C. Other
- IX. New Business
 - A. PACE
 - B. Other new business
- X. Communications and Reports
 - A. Councilmembers

B. Staff

C. Committees and Committee Reports

XI. Elections: Chair, Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair

XII. Adjourn

Next Meetings

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

5:00PM - 6:30PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

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Passcode: 300226

FEBRUARY DRAFT MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 5:02 PM
- II. Attendance
 - a. Anne Brown, Mark Coryell, Michelle Deatrack, Gay MacGregor, Andrea Pierce, Tyler LaBerge, Alex Bryan, Benjamin VanGessel, Kris Olsson, Brian Geiringer, Yousef Rabhi, Lauren Sargent
 - b. Not present: Elizabeth Ratzloff, Annie Somerville
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Moved: Gay MacGregor
 - b. Second: Ben VanGessel
 - c. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the December 17, 2024 Meeting
 - a. Moved by: Gay MacGregor
 - b. Second: Andrea Pierce
 - c. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
- VI. Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - a. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - i. No public comment made
 - b. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation
 - i. No written comments made
- VII. Presentation by Sharon Popp, Barton Hills Village
 - a. KO: question and comments about to how support their efforts
 - b. MD: supportive of efforts
 - c. BVG: question about long term land use and pressures

- d. KO: comment about zoning and land use
- VIII. Presentation by Gay MacGregor, Council Member USEPA Ann Arbor: What It Does and How We Benefit”
 - a. BVG: comment about additional impacts
 - b. AB: comment about current updates of funding
 - c. BVG: comment about economic impacts
 - d. MC: comment on experience
 - e. MD: comment on AI
- IX. Other Guest Speakers
- X. Staff Reports
 - a. Acknowledgement of any Staff Reports and Communications
 - b. Beth Gibbons, County Resiliency Office Director - full written report in minutes
 - i. Staffing Updates
 - ii. Activities Update
 - 1. Hazard Mitigation Planning
 - 2. Department of Energy model codes and ordinances
 - iii. Discussion
 - 1. BVG: question about DOE voucher program timeline
 - 2. AB: interest in internship and comment on resilience hubs
 - 3. BVG: question clarifying grant information shared
 - 4. YR: question to expand on resilience hubs
 - 5. MD: question about resilience hubs
 - 6. YR: additional comment and question about DOE voucher program
 - 7. MD: comment on resilience hub outreach
 - c. Jason Fee, Director of Facilities Management
 - i. Activities Update
 - 1. Acknowledge previous MHC member work in 2024
 - 2. Decarbonization study update
 - 3. Solar projects in county
 - 4. Update on EV charging project
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. YR: question about solar projects
 - 2. MD: invite Jason to report again in April; comment about EV charger project

- 3. YR: comment on EV charger project
- d. Other Staff Reports
- XI. Chair's Report and Proposals
 - a. Resolution to Recognize and Appreciate Federal Workers
 - i. Moved by: Lauren Sargent
 - ii. Second by: Kris Olsson
 - iii. Approved by: Voice vote
 - b. Discussion
 - i. YR: comment thanking EPA workers
 - ii. MD: comment expressing gratitude to federal workers
 - iii. LS: support and comment about federal employees
 - iv. YR: comment supporting resolution and further encouragement
 - c. Welcoming new Council members
 - d. Upcoming elections in March
 - e. Committee interests
 - i. Existing Committees: Planning Committee (Leadership - Chair, Vice Chairs, Immediate Past Chair or other), Outreach Committee, Advisory and Recommendations Committee.
 - f. Will ask for participation in May 4 Climate Teach-in
 - g. Call for information about upcoming events
 - i. BVG: question is there a list already
 - ii. AB: comment Sen. Peter's portal to submit Congressional funding is open
- XII. New Business
 - a. Communications and Reports
 - i. Councilmembers
 - 1. TL: request to do introductions at next meeting
 - ii. Staff
 - iii. Committees and Committee Reports
- XIII. Adjourn
 - a. 6:30 PM
 - i. Moved: Tyler LaBerge
 - ii. Second by: Kris Olsson
 - iii. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation

Next Meetings

Tuesday, March 25

DRAFT

Washtenaw County Environmental Council March 2025 Meeting

Resiliency Office Report

Beth Gibbons, County Resiliency Office Director

1. Staffing Status

- Beatrice Miringu started as Program Manager with the Resiliency Office!
 - Beatrice brings over a decade of experience in climate resilience and community engagement at the local government level. Previously serving as a Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Toledo, she successfully led climate vulnerability assessments and enabled the city to secure significant funding for urban tree canopy expansion and environmental justice projects. At our office, Beatrice will focus on county-wide decarbonization efforts, staffing our environmental council and leading the Washtenaw County Resilience Network, and creating an integrated climate adaptation and health program for a flood-risk neighborhood. We're thrilled to have her expertise guiding these critical initiatives.

2. Projects Underway

- Department Energy Voucher Program
 - Program announcement shared with municipalities March 20
 - Kickoff meeting scheduled for April 10
- Michigan Resilience Hub Network
 - No kick-off meeting identified yet
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Service Adaptation/Health Project
 - Start date: May 2025
- Washtenaw County Climate Resilience Network/County Climate Collaborative
 - Meeting scheduled for end of April (likely April 24 or 25)

3. Grants & Funding Update

- National Science Foundation (NSF) (In-process)
 - Submitted by University of Michigan College of Engineering
 - Proposal Purpose: propose and test a community co-design approach to energy systems that optimize the use of solar panels on productive agricultural land in rural communities
- Climate Smart Communities Grant (Submitted)
 - Submitted by City of Ann Arbor
 - Proposal Purpose: Equitable climate adaptation integration with the upcoming HMP renewal for City of Ann Arbor.
- 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 (Submitted)
 - Submitted: March 10
 - Proposal Purpose: Funding for the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan for Washtenaw County

3. Outreach Updates

- Michigan Healthy Climate Conference
 - April 23 - 24
- Climate Teach-In
 - May 4
- 2030 District Workshop
 - June 2025 at the Learning Resource Center
- Resilience Hub Network Meetings
 - First meeting in April/May 2025 (details TBD)