

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 5:00PM - 6:30PM

Virtual Meeting

Link to join:

[https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/87283540017?pwd=gVEEnSyqxp4FAxM4EzR4qTbEzg
f7mj.1](https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/87283540017?pwd=gVEEnSyqxp4FAxM4EzR4qTbEzg
f7mj.1)

Passcode: 565413

JULY MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the June 24, 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. Beth Gibbons, Director, County Resilience Office: *Washtenaw County Resiliency Office*
 - i. Resiliency Office Report
 - ii. Resiliency Office Events in last month and any upcoming, including
tabling or other events that the WCEC might want to also participate
in

- iii. Other Updates
 - c. Other Staff Reports
- VIII. Chair's Report
 - a. Finance/Budget Report
 - b. Bylaws proposal
- IX. Old Business
 - a. Proposed Data Centers in Washtenaw County
- X. New Business
 - a. Discussion: Upcoming Meetings
 - i. August 26 Meeting: Proposal to cancel
 - ii. September 23 Meeting: Discussion
 - 1. Proposal to hold in person and/or hold a Community Listening Session
- XI. Communications and Reports
 - a. Councilmembers
 - i. Andrea Pierce: Pipe Up Paddle Out and Line 5
 - ii. Other
- XII. Adjourn

Next Meeting

August 26, 2025 (unless cancelled)

September 23, 2025

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, June 24, 2025. 5:00PM - 6:30PM

Virtual Meeting

Link to join:

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

JUNE DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - A. 5:03 PM
- II. Attendance
 - A. Michelle Deatrick, Anne Brown, Gay MacGregor, Liz Ratzloff, Alex Bryan, Benjamin VanGessel, Annie Somerville, Yousef Rabhi
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Motion to amend agenda to move Chair's report to after guest speakers
 - 1. Moved: Liz Ratzloff
 - 2. Second: Ben VanGessel
 - 3. Approved by: Unanimous Acclamation
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the May 27, 2025 Meeting
 - A. Moved: Alex Bryan
 - B. Second: Liz Ratzloff
 - 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 public comment made
- VII. Staff Reports
 - A. Acknowledgement of written Staff Reports and Communications
 - B. Beth Gibbons, Director, County Resiliency Office: *Washtenaw County Resiliency Office Report*
 - 1. Staffing Status

2. Resiliency Office Updates and Events

3. Other Updates

C. Other Staff Reports

1. Jason Fee, Director of Facilities Management

a) present, no report at this time, available for questions

VIII. Guest Speakers TBD / Waiting on Confirmation

A. Presentation on Royal Oak and Oakland County Climate Action Plans and Actions by Woody Gontina, Chair, Royal Oak Environmental Advisory Board; Amanda Herzog, Royal Oak City Commissioner; and Julie Lyons Bricker, Sustainability Manager, Oakland County

1. Council Discussion:

a) MD: Question about successes in engaging community

b) MD: Question to hear more about how the Environmental Council can better support the BOC

c) AS: Question about conversations surrounding impacts of federal activity

d) BVG: Question about community engagement that has been more successful v more of a reach

e) Director Beth Gibbons: Comment Washtenaw Co has USDN membership. Question about County Master Plan.

f) MD: Expressing gratitude they were able to join us and share their experience

B. Presentation on Huron Valley Area Labor Federation's Just Transition organizing and JT Committee by HVALF Just Transition Committee Co-Chair and WCEC Council Member Liz Ratzloff

1. Council Discussion:

a) MD: Comment supporting work. Inviting any others to share about their work from their organizations as well.

IX. Chair's Report

A. Council Survey Results

1. Hearing from other Washtenaw Co municipalities or neighboring Counties about climate/environment work being doing and additional specific speaker topics and organizations were requested

2. Council Discussion

- a) YR: Comment to include ecosystem wide considerations/topics such as carbon sink inventory, animals, in addition to trees
- b) BVG: Comment to tie in Parks & Rec, new director and master plan
- c) YR: Confirmed and agreed with BVG, good to give everyone awareness about what county properties have
- d) MD: Comment that this is ongoing conversation
- e) AP: Comment on data center update, may cut down trees
- f) MD: Does Ypsi Twp have Heritage Tree Ordinance
- g) BVG: Comment to include The Ride in land use conversations
- h) YR: Comment about timing

B. Council Committee Appointments

- 1. Option to increase quorum
- 2. Community, Planning, Policy Recommendations
 - a) There are still spots to join committees if anyone is interested
 - b) First meetings happen within next month

X. Old Business

A. Proposed Data Centers in Washtenaw County

- 1. Wrote letter last week, will follow up on that to be ready for next meeting
- 2. Council Discussion
 - a) AB: Comment giving community update, attended meeting and quiet a few people are attending to oppose the project
 - b) AP: Comment updating about Ypsilanti Twp. There is no control and involvement, they find things out as the news happens. DTE will be building substation
 - c) MD: Comment supporting right to know about impact to County's climate action plan

B. Other

XI. New Business

A. Discussion: Upcoming Meetings

- 1. August 26 Meeting: Discussion of Council Member Availability
- 2. September 23 Meeting: Discussion
 - a) Proposal to hold in person and/or hold a Community Listening Session

XII. Communications and Reports

A. Councilmembers

XIII. Adjourn

A. 6:27 PM

B. Motion: Yousef

C. Second: Alex

D. Approved by: Unanimous Acclamation

Next Meetings

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

August 26, 2025



WASHTENAW
COUNTY
RESILIENCY OFFICE

SEMI- ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2025

DRAFT

Semi-Annual Report July 2025

Executive Summary

In its first year, the Washtenaw County Resiliency Office (WCRO) has laid a strong foundation for advancing the goals of the Resilient Washtenaw Plan - the County's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 for county operations and 2035 community-wide. While significant emissions reductions are not yet measurable at this early stage, the systems, partnerships, and strategies now in place are essential to achieving those goals in the years ahead. The Resiliency Office has become an integral part of County operations, serving as an internal consultant on climate and sustainability priorities. Through participation in administrative business meetings, the WCRO now provides departments with guidance on incorporating climate resilience into planning, budgeting, and service delivery. At the same time, WCRO is cultivating regional partnerships, delivering technical assistance on local projects, and engaging in policy and infrastructure initiatives to reduce emissions, build climate resilience, and improve community well-being.

Priority efforts in this reporting period include launching a menu of decarbonization pathways, building tools to assess facility-level vulnerabilities, coordinating updates to the County's greenhouse gas inventory, and supporting energy transition projects such as solar siting and building electrification. The Office also co-hosted Renewable Energy Academy workshops with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the University of Michigan's Graham Sustainability Institute Center for EmPowering Communities, supporting local government leaders in advancing renewable energy zoning and ordinance development.

This semi-annual report documents progress, partnerships, and emerging impact across all eight strategy areas of the Resilient Washtenaw Plan and reflects the County's commitment to embedding climate action in every facet of government.

Applying Resilient Washtenaw Principles

The Resiliency Office is committed to putting the principles of the Resilient Washtenaw Plan into practice. This commitment is reflected in prioritizing initiatives that align climate action with equity and wellbeing. The WCRO is partnering with local and state health agencies to develop programs that address climate-related health risks, particularly in historically underserved areas of the County. Work on decarbonization planning, fleet electrification, and the Zero Emissions Buildings Handbook supports a just transition, helping to reduce emissions while improving access to low-emissions infrastructure and minimizing household energy burdens. WCRO collaborates with municipalities, nonprofits, and institutions to share knowledge, access resources, and co-design solutions. Internally, the Office coordinates with departments through the County Green Team and participates in administrative planning to ensure climate considerations are integrated across County operations.

To foster high engagement, the Office has expanded communications through social media, events, and storytelling efforts, keeping stakeholders informed and involved. These principles are not abstract—they shape how the Office works, what it prioritizes, and how it measures success across all strategy areas.

STRATEGIES	PRINCIPLES
- Focus areas of climate action plan - Do impact carbon levels	- County-wide priorities - Do not impact carbon levels
- Implementation - Energy Transition - Housing - Mobility and Access - Health - Preserve Working Lands & Natural Areas - Infrastructure - Circular Economy	- Racial Equity and Environmental Justice - Support Public Health - Just Transition - Resilient Economy - Community Support & Partnership - High Communication & Engagement
ACTIONS: 5-10 per strategy, each of which connect to the plan principles, and which cumulatively would achieve the carbon neutrality goals	

Strategy Area 1: Implementation

Actions:

- On-going Climate Education and Public Engagement
- Create a Regional Resilience Authority
- Carbon Pricing in Decision Making
- Create a County-wide Carbon Off-set program

Summary:

The Resiliency Office has prioritized actions within the Implementation Strategy to lay the groundwork for achieving sustained success in the following seven strategy areas. The actions under this strategy are necessary foundational steps to reinforce climate goals across operations and staff culture in order to continue building internal alignment across County departments, including support for budget planning, internal communications, and staff engagement.

Activities:

- Serving as Internal Consultants and Subject Matter Experts to Advise on Aligning County Activities with Climate Priorities:** The Resiliency Office has been mandated by the Board of Commissioners to implement the Resilient Washtenaw Plan's strategies and principles internally across all departments. The WCRO has begun developing a framework that includes setting internal sustainability targets, establishing systems for monitoring and evaluating progress, and fostering collaboration among departments to eliminate institutional barriers. These efforts are designed to accelerate the implementation of priority actions while also ensuring the principles of the Resiliency Washtenaw Plan are upheld.
- The Michigan Green Communities Challenge** is an annual program that serves as a guide to help communities in measuring progress toward their sustainability goals. Washtenaw County has achieved **GOLD certification**, an upgrade from Silver received in 2023. The challenge evaluates



sustainability and emission reduction in both the county operations and community-wide consumption of electricity, gas, and water, together with all other holistic efforts made by the community towards mitigating and adapting to climate change.

- **Publication of the Bi-Monthly Resiliency Office Newsletter:** The WCRO launched a bimonthly newsletter, distributing the first three editions in January, March, and May. Each issue spotlights one of the eight strategy areas of the Resilient Washtenaw Plan, shares updates on active projects and partnerships such as the ongoing solar installation project spearheaded by Facilities Management Department, and offers helpful information to prepare for climate impacts.



Excerpts from the Resiliency Office video

Establishing Social Media Accounts and Communication Strategy: Two interns from the University of Michigan’s Ginsberg Center Storytelling Program developed outreach materials to support WCRO’s external communications, including social media content and a video discussing resiliency in Washtenaw County. These tools help articulate the Resiliency Office’s role within the County and connect stakeholders to the goals of the Resilient Washtenaw Plan.

Co-leadership of the County-wide Employee Green Team: The Facilities Management Department and Resiliency Office co-lead a Green Team comprised of county employees that act as ambassadors to their offices for sustainability and resilience priorities. The Green Team now includes 55 staff members from 16 departments, helping to embed climate-conscious operations throughout County government and perforates institutional to strengthen cross-departmental relationships. This year, the Green Team has organized quarterly Lunch and Learn meetings. **In the 1st and 2nd quarters, 55 staff members registered for the events and 47 attended, representing 16 departments.**



County Green Team Lunch and Learn flyer; Quarter 2 Lunch and Learn speaker Susan Bryan, Rain Garden Coordinator at Washtenaw County Water Resources Office

Strategy Area 2: Energy Transition

Actions:

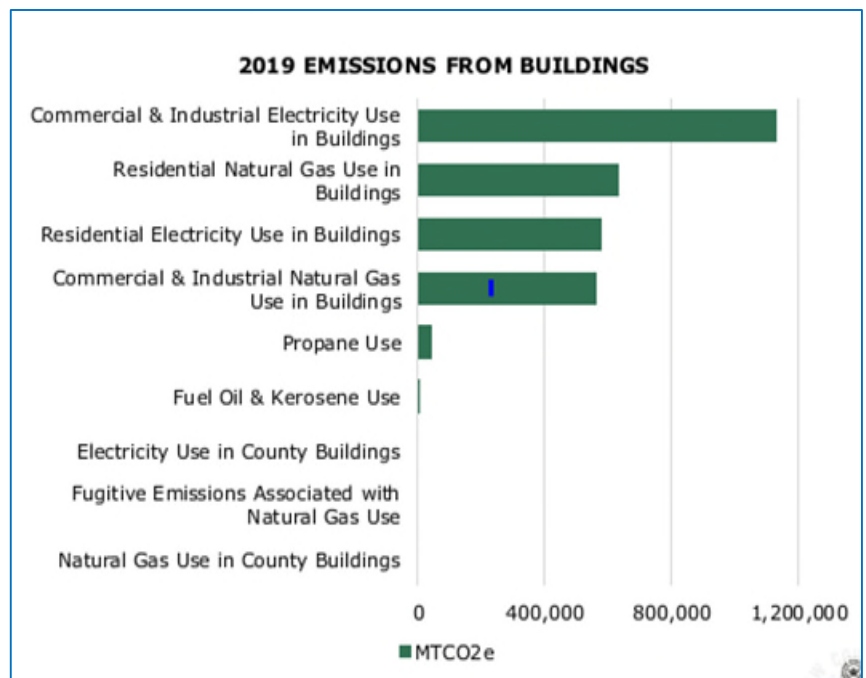
- 100% Renewable Energy Options for Everyone
- County-wide Energy Concierge
- Community Bulk Buy for Solar and Building Electrification
- Expand Weatherization
- Update Building Codes
- Time of Marketing Energy Rating Disclosure
- 100% Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for County Operations

Summary:

While the Implementation Strategy forms foundational work for the Resilient Washtenaw Plan, the Energy Transition Strategy contains actions which propel the County toward its ambitious carbon neutrality goals. Over this reporting period, the Resiliency Office has focused on addressing GHG emissions by coordinating with partners on reporting tools, reporting cadence, maintaining steady reporting of energy use across County-owned facilities, and providing technical assistance and support for renewable energy projects across County-owned facilities and to communities.

Activities:

- **Establishing ClearPath 2.0 as the County Climate Reporting Platform:** Washtenaw County is part of ICLEI, an international network that supports sustainable development by providing technical consulting and resources to local governments. The Resiliency Office is currently uploading the County's 2019 Community-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory into ICLEI's ClearPath 2.0 platform to better evaluate progress in reducing emissions over the past five years and chart data-driven pathways toward achieving net-zero GHG emissions by 2035. Use of ClearPath 2.0 aligns the County with the reporting standards used by the City of Ann Arbor and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).



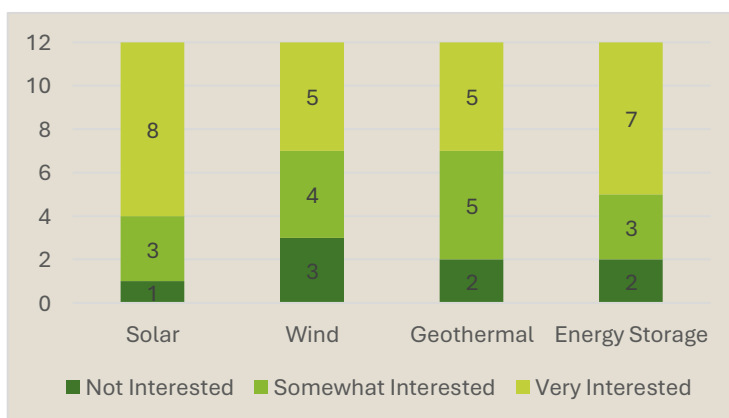
Data excerpt from Washtenaw County 2019 GHG Inventory data

- **Facilities Management Solar Project:** The Facilities Management Department completed the initial installation of roof solar panels on the Community Corrections Facility, as well as soil testing and site preparation at three other county buildings. This is the first phase of a large project that will add 1 Megawatt of solar power to county facilities by the end of 2025.
- **Decarbonization Plan:** The Facilities Management Department is finalizing a comprehensive decarbonization strategy for County-owned buildings. WCRO supported the effort by integrating GHG data, applying the Resilient Washtenaw Social Cost of Carbon, and developing an energy vulnerability key performance indicator (KPI) to prioritize facilities for upgrades based on risk and resilience. A critical first step toward achieving the County’s carbon neutrality goals, the plan includes building-level assessments, cost-benefit modeling, and implementation timelines.

Partnership Highlight: Washtenaw 2030 District

The Resiliency Office and Washtenaw 2030 District collaborate to advance electrification, energy efficiency, and municipal leadership. Joint efforts include a sustainability curriculum for Scio Township, co-hosting the 2030 District Summit, and delivering public education programs, like a municipal workshop on sustainability and electrification at the 3rd Annual 2030 District Conference. This partnership also connects departments to technical resources—including an ASHRAE Level II energy assessment for the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center—to help drive sustainable upgrades across the County.

- **Project Plan Development for Renewable Energy Siting on County-owned Facilities:** The Resiliency Office is receiving technical expertise provided by EXP, a consulting firm contracted through a Department of Energy Voucher Program designed to accelerate domestic energy development. The expected deliverables from EXP will include renewable energy project development plans for three County-owned locations and/or facilities. These plans will further support the County’s efforts to expand renewable energy sources for County-operations, helping achieve the goal of internal net-zero GHG emissions by 2030.
- **Renewable Energy Zoning Technical Assistance Program:** The Resiliency Office has partnered with EGLE and the University of Michigan’s Graham Sustainability Institute Center for EmPowering Communities to deliver technical assistance to local municipalities within Washtenaw County. This program addresses land use codes, zoning, and ordinances that meet the unique needs and interests of each community regarding large-scale renewable energy projects. To date, 25 municipal leaders and consultants representing 12 municipalities across the County have participated in online and in-person workshops.



Municipal Leader Survey Question: How interested are you in learning more about siting the following energy projects in your community?

Strategy Area 3: Housing

Actions:

- Infill Housing and Increased Density
- Model Zoning Ordinances and Policies
- Create Emissions Accounting Mechanism

Summary:

Residential housing occupies 10% of Washtenaw County's land, it plays a central role in community well-being. Residents spend upwards of 68% of their time in their homes, making housing quality and energy performance critical to public health and climate resilience. Improving building efficiency, indoor air quality, and electrification not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions—it also ensures that homes remain safe, comfortable, and affordable as climate risks such as extreme heat and energy price volatility increase.

WCRO's housing-related work prioritizes policies and programs that support low-emission, resilient housing across all communities.



Affordable family housing in Ypsilanti

Activities:

- **Zero Emission Buildings Handbook Development:** The Resiliency Office hired a SummerWorks intern from Eastern Michigan University to assess regulatory, policy, and implementation barriers to expanding the development of electrified, low-emissions construction in Washtenaw County. The resulting handbook will provide actionable guidance for developers, planners, and code officials on adopting high-performance building standards. The handbook will also equip municipal leaders and community advocates for promoting zoning and code updates that enable resilient, zero-emission development across Washtenaw County.
- **County Building Stock Assessment for Emissions Modeling:** To support accurate emissions tracking in ClearPath 2.0, the Resiliency Office is conducting a comprehensive assessment of Washtenaw County's building stock based on existing standard publicly available building data. This foundational dataset will improve the precision of future GHG modeling by aligning building characteristics with local emissions profiles. For Washtenaw County, buildings account for 66% of countywide emissions, with 38% from commercial and 28% from residential sources—underscoring the critical role of building-focused decarbonization strategies.

Strategy Area 4: Mobility and Access

Actions:

1. Electric Mobility Options Hub
2. Improve Transit County-wide
3. Build All-Season County-wide Non-Motorized Transportation Network
4. Support Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)
5. Reduce VMTs by Sector
6. Track and Report VMTs by Sector
7. Improve MPG and MPGE throughout Community-wide Fleet
8. Expand on Work from Home and Remote Service Access for County Operations
9. Provide Financial Incentives to Employees to Mode Shift
10. Support More Efficient School Transportation

Summary:

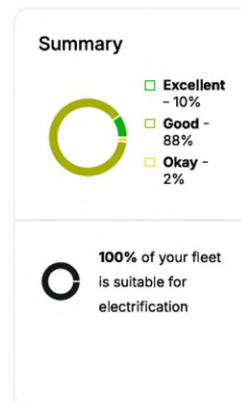
Transportation accounts for about a third of GHG emissions in Washtenaw County. The Resilient Washtenaw Plan includes supporting the increase of multiple modes of transportation in order to decrease the total vehicle miles traveled. This work must be accomplished through various avenues, such as tracking and improving the efficiency of vehicles, providing incentives for alternative modes of transportation, and rethinking region-wide systems. In this reporting period, the Resiliency Office has focused on partnership development to support a wide range of future initiatives.

Activities:

- **Facilities Management Leading Fleet**

Transition: The County currently owns 4 electric vehicles with 6 more on order and has applied for direct pay/elective pay tax benefits for the EVs purchased in 2024. The installation of telematics took place in all County vehicles, allowing for real-time tracking, driver behavior monitoring, and predictive maintenance. This information reduces costs and improves safety while providing valuable utilization data to support converting County fleet vehicles to EVs.

EV Suitability ☆



Fleet Management's Telematics dashboard information

Your Electrification Criteria

Showing vehicle suitability based on the following criteria [Edit](#)

Lifetime Usage Vehicles with > 100,000 mi driven total	Avg. Fuel Efficiency Vehicles that typically return < 26 MPG
Avg. Daily Range Vehicles that typically drive < 200 mi per day	Max Daily Range Vehicles that always drive < 300 mi per day
Est. Annual Fuel Savings Vehicles that can save > \$ 9,300 in fuel	Est. Annual Emissions Savings Vehicles that can save > 91 kg CO2

- **County Administration Leading Remote Work Policy Standardization:** The Administration Office reviewed departmental practices and drafted a standardized, county-wide remote work policy, enabling more consistent adoption of hybrid work schedules. According to the EPA, allowing employees to work remotely two days per week can reduce commuting-related GHG emissions by up to 40% per employee. For Washtenaw County, this policy has the potential to reduce emissions by approximately 717 metric tons of CO₂ annually. It also lays the groundwork for reducing reliance on county-owned or leased parking infrastructure over time.

Strategy Area 5: Health

Actions:

1. Update County's Hazard Mitigation Plan
2. Create Resilience Hubs Countywide
3. Reduce Heat Island Effect
4. Expand And Maintain County Tree Canopy.
5. Expand County Education/Outreach Programs
6. Create Opportunities For Local Food Production On County Properties
7. Prepare Health System For Climate Emergencies

Summary:

The Resilience Office prioritizes health equity and resilience, focusing on the intersection of climate change and public health. WCRO has begun convening partners and seeking grant funding for projects that fall under the Health Strategy. Progress was stalled by the loss of federal grant funding for resilience infrastructure, but WCRO is continuing to prioritize foundational work to move forward on projects in the future.

Activities:

- **Eastside Recreation Center:** The Resiliency Office is actively participating in the Eastside Recreation Center Committee. WCRO is providing input on the functionality of the space as a sustainable, resilient, and community serving space, as well as supporting sustainable building practices in the design and construction of the building.
- **Resiliency Hubs - Washtenaw County Resilience Network:** The Resiliency Office is collaborating with the City of Ann Arbor to raise awareness about the critical role of community resource centers and the need to enhance their capacity to serve as extreme weather shelters. In April, City of Ann Arbor staff highlighted this issue during a presentation at the Climate Resilience Network Meeting. As part of this ongoing effort, WCRO staff are providing technical guidance to community-based organizations working to establish a coordinated network of resource centers.



WCRO Resilience Hub efforts are aligned with the Guidance for Scaling Community Resilience Hubs in Michigan, which offers a strategic approach to building local resilience infrastructure. WCRO provided input and guidance on the development of this state-wide resource.

- **Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Pre-Development Partnerships:** Washtenaw County is 1 of 5 counties in the state without a current HMP, limiting funding opportunities for disaster recovery and pre-disaster resilience dollars. The Resiliency Office has submitted a grant for \$220,000.00 through the Michigan State Police Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to begin reapplying for an HMP. Initial meetings between Washtenaw County, City of Ann Arbor, and Ypsilanti Township are aligning expectations and goals for the planning process to take place in 2026.

Impact of Federal Action: Rescinded EPA Grant

In April, the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County were notified that their joint EPA Government-to-Government grant—intended to support the development of a countywide Resilience Hub Network—had been rescinded. As a result, work to plan and implement this coordinated network has stalled, delaying efforts to establish community-based infrastructure for climate resilience and extreme weather preparedness across the County.

Strategy Area 6: Preserve Working Lands and Natural Areas

Actions:

1. Natural Area Preservation
2. Farmland Preservation

Summary: This Strategy aims to protect 30% of natural areas by 2030 and 50% by 2050. To achieve these milestones the Resiliency Office is coordinating with partners to establish a county-wide approach to ecosystem valuation and a shared understanding the value of preserved land for its sequestration and resilience benefits.

Activities:

- **Identifying Best Practices in Agrivoltaics:** The Resiliency Office, in partnership with the University of Michigan, submitted a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to support an agrivoltaics project designed to serve as a model for optimizing agricultural production and solar energy development in Washtenaw County. This initiative aims to demonstrate how agricultural productivity and solar energy generation can coexist, offering a replicable framework for sustainable land use.
- **Partnership Coordination to Measure Ecosystem Benefits:** Organizations across Washtenaw County and the broader region have or are in the process of developing tools to measure the value of the County's natural capital. Examples include: The University of Michigan Resilience Plan, focusing on ecoservices, including carbon sequestration and other climate resilience benefits; Huron River Watershed Council Technical Advisory Committee on the Huron River Watershed Sustainable Investment Strategy; SEMCOG's Regional Resilience Plan; utilizing ICLEI's LEARN Protocol to account for ecosystem benefits in a manner consistent with global standards.

Impact from Federal Actions: Program Pause of Climate Smart Agriculture Program

The Michigan Climate Smart Farms Project, currently paused due to federal administrative decisions, was launched to help small-scale farmers adopt carbon-neutral practices and prepare for more severe climate impacts. WCRO serves as an advisor, and Washtenaw County provides in-kind support through equipment and office space. Led by Washtenaw County Conservation District, the project offered a promising model for building climate resilience in agriculture by advancing soil health, emissions reduction, and farm-level verification tools.

Strategy Area 7: Infrastructure

Actions:

- Provide Comment on Infrastructure Agency Planning Projects
- Prioritize Public Projects That Reduce Fossil Fuel Use and Prepare for More Extreme Weather
- Urbanized Area Storm Vulnerability Risk Assessment and Prioritization
- Countywide Stormwater Basin Inspection and Retrofit
- Expand Rain Garden Program
- Develop New Stormwater Regulations

Summary:

WCRO advanced infrastructure resilience by integrating climate considerations into investment decisions. Facilities adopted the Resilient Washtenaw Social Cost of Carbon in modeling solar installation at the Saline District Court, projecting a 93.5% emissions reduction. WCRO also supported flood mitigation efforts in West Willow and updates to the County's PACE program.

Activities:

- **Washtenaw County PACE Program Updated:** In collaboration with Lean and Green Michigan and the Washtenaw County Environmental Council, the Resiliency Office supported updating the County's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program in alignment with Michigan's 2024 legislation (SB 302 and SB 303). These updates expand the program's eligibility to include agricultural properties and environmental hazard mitigation projects, such as lead and PFAS remediation and measures to address flooding and drought. They also affirm that new construction projects financed through PACE must exceed Michigan's Uniform Energy Code, ensuring that public financing supports high-performance, resilient buildings.
- **Saline Court Infrastructure Updates:** The Facilities Management Department conducted a life-cycle analysis for the Saline District Court renovation, comparing full electrification and solar to a baseline scenario. Incorporating the Resilient Washtenaw Social Cost of Carbon (\$190/ton), the analysis showed a 93.5% emissions reduction – avoiding 1,492 metric tons of CO₂ – and total costs at just 35% of the baseline when factoring in climate impacts. This internal carbon pricing approach strengthens the case for clean energy investment.
- **Backing Flood Mitigation Efforts:** The Resiliency Office supported the Water Resources Commissioner's Office efforts to secure funding for the removal of Beyer Dam and site improvements at Tyler Dam – key interventions identified through stormwater studies and community engagement in the flood-prone West Willow neighborhood in Ypsilanti.
- **Utilizing Climate Vulnerability Index:** Included in the County-wide decarbonization plan is a climate vulnerability Key Performance Indicator Index. The Facilities Management Department with the support of WCRO has developed this index to consider energy, utilization, and criticality of infrastructure to provide a score to prioritize projects for renewable energy upgrades and battery energy storage upgrades.

Strategy Area 8: Circular Economy

Actions:

1. Build an Equitable, Low-carbon, and Resilient Circular Economy
2. Develop a County Wide Organics/Compost Program
3. Support and Grow the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority (WRRMA)
4. Build a Multi-dimensional Public Education and Promotion Plan for the Circular Economy
5. Diversify Funding for Circular Economy Work
6. Policy Initiatives to Expand Circular Economy Scope and Infrastructure
7. Incentivize Local Food Production

Summary:

The actions the Resiliency Office took during this reporting period within the Circular Economy Strategy moved forward initiatives regarding materials management and education. Attention was also given to residents in Freedom Township regarding concerns about a bio-digester in that community. Moving these actions forward are helping embed circular practices in County culture while preparing for state-mandated updates to the County's Materials Management Plan.

Activities:

- **Zero Waste County Events:** The Resiliency Office has been supporting the Facilities Management Department and the Water Resources Commissioner's Office in expanding countywide recycling and food composting programs. County staff are encouraged to utilize the Zero Waste materials for events and meetings, and all Green Team Lunch and Learn events are conducted as Zero Waste, modeling sustainable practices for staff engagement.
- **Materials Management Plan:** As required under Michigan law, Washtenaw County is developing a new Materials Management Plan (MMP) in alignment with 2022 amendments to the state's solid waste statute. These changes shift the focus from ensuring landfill capacity to prioritizing waste reduction, recycling, and composting. The MMP will serve as a guiding framework to help the County meet its waste-related emissions reduction targets and transition toward a more circular, climate-resilient materials system.
- **Recycle and Waste Signage:** Updated signs were hung throughout all County buildings providing clear instructions to employees on waste and recycling management.
- **Internal Waste Audit Process Documentation:** In collaboration with the Facilities Management Department, protocol for County waste audits was created and tested with an initial waste audit at Zeeb Rd in 2024. Planning is underway for a second waste audit in another County building in fall 2025.

ORG YR/PR	ACCOUNT JNL EFF DATE	SRC REF1	REF2	REF3	CHECK #	OB	AMOUNT	NET LEDGER BALANCE	NET BUDGET BALANCE
10101104	1010.105.SS.110.1104.00000.P.805400.			Special Events - Envr. Council					
				REVISED BUDGET					5,000.00
25/05 AA	997 05/21/25	BUA	WCEC		T		5,000.00	.00	
	LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:			.00	CREDITS:		.00	NET: .00	
	GRAND TOTAL --- DEBITS:			.00	CREDITS:		.00	NET: .00	

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Andrew DeLeeuw **

DRAFT

Bylaws Update Proposal: July 22, 2025 **Washtenaw County Environmental Council**

Bylaws Updates Draft Proposal ***Prepared by Chair Michelle Deatrick***

- **Background.**
Last update of the Bylaws was approved by the BOC in early 2024.
- **Process. The Chair plans to call for a vote on the proposed changes at the August or September Council meeting.**
 - This Draft can be considered and discussed by the Council at the July 22 meeting.
 - The proposed changes must also be reviewed by County legal staff.
 - Changes go into effect only *after* the BOC in turn approves them.
- **This proposal contains a redlined version of the Bylaws.**
 - The current Bylaws are available online [here](#).
- **Summary of significant proposed changes:**
 - A few obvious typos have been corrected. More significant proposed changes are noted here:
 - Article 6 (1): Added the Labor and Youth seats which were inadvertently omitted in the previous Bylaws in this section.
 - Article 7:
 - Increases the amount that the Chair can authorize to \$200. This amount was okayed by staff.
 - Allows the Chair to provisionally authorize expenditures over \$200 if necessary - for example, if a conference deadline were to occur before the next Council meeting occurred - but does not require the Council to then approve those expenditures.
 - Adds the position of Treasurer to the elected Officers of the Council

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 February 27, 2024
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, 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) 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 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) Work collaboratively with other commissions, boards, councils and committees on environmental issues.
- 6) Create committees, including standing committees, to help conduct the work of the Environmental Council.

- 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.
- 8) 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:
 - a. County Commissioners (1-3 members)
 - (1) 1 of these Commissioners may be appointed to act as WCEC Liaison to the Board of Commissioners
 - b. Community Groups (2 members)
 - c. Sustainable Energy Producers, private or non-profit sector (1 member)
 - d. Land Use and Preservation (1 member)
 - e. Sustainable Agriculture (1 member)
 - f. Racial Equity and Environmental Issues (1 member)
 - g. Water Protection (1 member)
 - h. Vehicle Emission Reduction Issues (1 member)
 - i. Public Health Issues (1 member)
 - j. Infrastructure Energy Reduction Issues (1 member)
 - k. Labor (1 member)
 - l. Youth (1 member)
- 2) The Council is responsible for recommending member appointments to the County Board of Commissioners, which will appoint WCEC members.
- 3) Council members will be appointed for staggered two-year terms as follows:

Even years:

 - Sustainable Agriculture
 - Water Protection
 - Vehicle Emission Reduction Issues
 - Infrastructure Energy Reduction issues
 - Youth
 - Labor
 - Commissioners (1-3 members)

Odd years:

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

- Public Health Issues

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.

5) Council members are expected to attend meetings to ensure full community representation on the Council. 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.

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 \$2400, which will be reported to the Council at the next meeting by the Treasurer. Expenditures exceeding \$2400 are approved by a vote of the Council. The Chair may, for expenditures exceeding \$200 on which a decision must be made before the next Council meeting, ask the Council to retroactively approve an expenditure for reimbursement, but the Council is not required to approve said expenditure retroactively.

- 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.
- d) Treasurer: The Treasurer coordinates with the Chair and with staff regarding obtaining monthly financial reports, reports on expenditures and the financial reports to the Council, and conducts other tasks pertinent to the position.

2) Officer Elections

Officers will be elected by the Council in the first quarter of each year, and 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 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.
- 8) Staff **or the Council Treasurer** 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) Approval of the Agenda
- iv) Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings
- v) Public Comment
- vi) Special Presentations
- vii) Regular Business
- viii) New Business
- ix) Communications and Reports
 - (1) Council
 - (2) Staff
 - (a) Finance Report
 - (3) Committees
- x) 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, the Bylaws will be made accessible to the public including via posting or a link on the WCEC's webpage on the County website.

**A Resolution Amending the
Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program
Originally Established on February 5, 2014**

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 6, 2025

Prepared By: Washtenaw County Resiliency Office

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Washtenaw County, Michigan adopted a property assessed clean energy program (the "PACE Program") for Washtenaw County and created a property assessed clean energy ("PACE") district consisting of Washtenaw County (the "PACE District") pursuant to Public Act 270 of 2010 ("Act 270") on February 5, 2014, for the purpose of promoting the use of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements by owners of certain real property; and

WHEREAS, the PACE Program was amended by the Board of Commissioners' adoption of Resolution No. 15-0032 on February 18, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Act 270 was amended by Public Act 242 of 2017 and Public Acts 106 and 107 of 2023, and, as a result, the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act, 2010 PA 270, as amended, MCL 460.931 to 460.949 (the "PACE Act") now authorizes counties to adopt PACE programs to promote environmental hazard projects in addition to renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements; and

WHEREAS, the County Administration, Corporation Counsel, and Resiliency Office have reviewed this matter.

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Environmental Council (WCEC) voted unanimously to recommend and advise the Board of Commissioners to approve the Washtenaw County PACE Program and adopt an amended PACE Program Report on March 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wants to amend the Lean & Green Michigan (LAGM) PACE Program for consistency with the current PACE Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing on August 6, 2025, to receive comments on a proposed revised PACE Program Report (the "PACE Report") on the proposed amended Lean & Green Michigan PACE Program, consistent with section 9(1) of the PACE Act; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the PACE Report is available on the Washtenaw County website at [Washtenaw County PACE Program Report.pdf](#) in the office of the Washtenaw County Clerk.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners finds that the financing of PACE projects as provided under the PACE Act is a valid public purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that under the PACE Program, Washtenaw County may enter into a contract with the record owner of property within the PACE District to finance or refinance one or more PACE projects on the property, with the contract providing for the repayment of the cost of a project through assessments on the property benefited, and the financing or refinancing including the cost of materials and labor necessary for the project and the amount of permit fees, inspection fees, application and administrative fees, bank fees, or any other fees that may be incurred by the record owner for the installation on a specific or pro rata basis, as determined by Washtenaw County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that under the PACE Program, no money of Washtenaw County, taxes imposed by Washtenaw County, or any credit of Washtenaw County may be pledged, committed, impaired, or used in connection with any PACE project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PACE Program may finance a “renewable energy system”, “energy efficiency improvement”, or “environmental hazard projects” as those terms are defined in the current PACE Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approves amendments to the PACE Program and adopts the amended PACE Report attached to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PACE Program must be administered in a manner consistent with the requirements of the PACE Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Lean & Green Michigan will provide a public report to the Board of Commissioners annually, sharing utilization of the PACE program and steps Lean & Green Michigan is actively taking to increase utilization of the PACE program in Washtenaw County.

Pipe Out Paddle Up Hosted by:



SHUT DOWN LINE 5 NO TUNNEL

FREE FAMILY PICNIC!

Kayak, Feast & Celebrate the Water!

*Help make this a
Zero Waste event.
Bring a Feast Bag:
reusable plate/bowl,
utensils, cup*

**Saturday, Aug 30 , 2025 - 9am-12:30pm
American Legion Park
200 N. State St, St. Ignace, MI 49781**

For Questions Email: team@glwpn.org

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