

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, October 14, 2025. 5:00PM - 6:30PM

In-person Meeting

With Zoom Viewing. Link to watch:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/87283540017?pwd=gVEEnSyqxp4FAxM4EzR4qTbEzgf7mj.1>

OCTOBER 14, 2025 FINAL MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - A. 5:08 PM
- II. Attendance
 - A. Michelle Deatrick, Anne Brown, Gay MacGregor, Mark Coryell, Alex Bryan, Benjamin VanGessel, Brian Geiringer, Andrea Pierce, Liz Ratzloff, Lauren Sargent, Annie Somerville, Yousef Rabhi
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Moved: Lauren Sargent
 - B. Second: Liz Ratzloff
 - C. Approved: Unanimous Acclamation
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the September 2, 2025 Meeting
 - A. Moved: Liz Ratzloff
 - B. Second: Gay MacGregor
 - C. Approved: Unanimous Acclamation
- VI. Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - A. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - 1. Mitchell Seymore - Ypsi Twp
 - a) Appreciation for his visit and suggestion to connect with policy and outreach committee.
 - 2. Kathy Morrison
 - a) This is important to pay attention to because a biodigester is being proposed near Pleasant Lake in our county.
 - B. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation

1. Kathy Morrison – two files included in the agenda packet

VII. Staff Reports

A. Acknowledgement of written Staff Reports and Communications

B. Beth Gibbons, Director, County Resiliency Office: *Washtenaw County Resiliency Office Report*

1. Resiliency Office Report
2. Resiliency Office Events since last meeting and any upcoming, including tabling or other events that the WCEC might want to also participate in.
3. Other Updates
4. Council Response
 - a) Chair request for REA workshop participant communities to be shared with Councilors.
 - b) Question about qualification of savings from an operational perspective for some of the facilities that could be reinvested. Request for one pager to be made accessible to the public.
 - c) Discussion about RWP carbon offset requirement and other options for mitigation in the future.
 - d) Urging importance of involvement in decisions that move the RWP goals forward.
 - e) Question about Office conversations with UM about community benefits.
 - f) Question and discussion about impacts concerning community solar and direct pay tax credits.

C. Other Staff Reports

VIII. Chair's Report

A. Finance/Budget Report

B. Green Energy Tax Credits

IX. Presentation: Bio-Digesters in Freedom Township: No Suitable Location. *Chris Mikesell, Freedom Township Preservation and Pleasant Lake Property Owners Association*

Question BVG: Was there anything in the Township's master plan.

Answer: Vanguard was trying to go around the township; Washtenaw County is between the community and the bio-digester because of the MMP.

Question MD: What is the MMP Process?

Answer YR: It would be appropriate to invite the Public Works director to the WCEC. There is this issue and there is also the issue of the landfill.

Chris Mikesell shared an overview of the process, which can also be found on the Public Works webpage: [Materials Management Planning | Washtenaw County, MI - Official Website](#)

- X. Presentation: Simplifying Solar: Local Ordinances on Rooftop & Solar and Battery Storage. *Councilor Kris Olsson*
 - A. Presentation was not given
- XI. Committee Reports
 - A. Outreach Committee
 - 1. Alex Bryan & Mark Coryell
 - a) Debrief: A2 Green Fair Sept. 19 5-8pm
 - b) Debrief: Third Act SunDay Sept. 21 2-6pm
- XII. Old Business
 - A. Resolution: Data Centers in Washtenaw County
 - B. Green Energy Tax Credits Presentation: Follow up?
- XIII. New Business
 - A. No new business
- XIV. Communications and Reports
 - A. Councilmembers
- XV. Adjourn
 - A. 6:36
 - B. Moved: Lauren Sargent
 - C. Second Yousef Rabhi
 - D. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation

Next Meetings

November 18, 2025

December 16, 2025

