

Washtenaw County Environmental Council
JANUARY 27, 2026 MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 5:00PM - 6:30PM

Virtual Meeting

With Zoom Viewing. Link to watch:

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

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 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 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
- VIII. Chair's Report
 - A. Finance/Budget Report
 - B. February Meeting
 - 1. Elections
 - 2. Hydrogen Presentation
- IX. Remarks/Presentation: Salem Township AI Data Center. Beth Foley, Saline Township resident

- X. Washtenaw County Environmental Council Resolution Advising the County Board of Commissioners Against Approval of the Proposed Expansion or Creation of a New Landfill Associated with the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township, Washtenaw County
- XI. Committee and Member Reports
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
- XIV. Adjourn

Next Meetings

February 24, 2026

March 24, 2026

**Chair's Proposal:
2026 Washtenaw County Environmental Council Calendar**

The proposed Council meeting dates are third or fourth Tuesdays 5pm to 6:30pm

January 27, 2026

February 24, 2026

March 24, 2026

April 28, 2026

May 19, 2026

(Third Tuesday: Fourth Tuesday is the first evening of Eid and day after Memorial Day)

June 23, 2026

July 28, 2026

August 25, 2026

September 22, 2026

October 27, 2026

November 17, 2026

(Third Tuesday: Fourth Tuesday is Thanksgiving week)

December 15, 2026

(Third Tuesday: Fourth Tuesday is Dec. 22)

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, November 18, 2025. 5:00PM - 6:30PM

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NOVEMBER 18, 2025 DRAFT MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - A. 5:02 PM
- II. Attendance
 - A. Anne Brown (City of Ypsilanti), Mark Coryell (City of Ann Arbor), Michelle Deatrick (Superior Township), Gay MacGregor (Oregon), Kris Olsson (City of Ann Arbor), Liz Ratzloff (City of Ypsilanti), Alex Bryan (Ypsilanti Township), Lauren Sargent (City of Ann Arbor), Benjamin VanGessel (Ann Arbor Township), Brian Geiringer (City of Ypsilanti), Annie Somerville (City of Ypsilanti), Yousef Rabhi (City of Ann Arbor)
- III. Land Acknowledgement
 - A. Chair seeking volunteer to read this at next meeting
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Moved: Lauren Sargent
 - B. Second: Alex Bryan
 - C. Approved: Unanimous acclamation
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the October 14, 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. 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. 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
 - a) Stiped reports have been sent out from the Resiliency Office, please respond.

VIII. Chair's Report

- A. Finance/Budget Report
- B. Proposal: 2026 Calendar
 1. Moved: Lauren Sargent
 2. Second: Kris Olsson
 3. Approved: Unanimous acclamation

IX. Presentation: Salem Township Landfill. *Dave Drinan, The Conservancy Initiative*

- A. Discussion included short questions about Arbor Hills operations, including perfume blowers, labor issues, and groundwater contamination sampling.
- B. Request for Resiliency Office to share back at next meeting whether or not the Resilient Washtenaw Plan accommodates the emissions off of Arbor Hills.

X. Presentation: Washtenaw County Facilities Management Environmental Initiatives. *Jason Fee, Washtenaw County Facilities Management Director.*

- A. Discussion included requests for more information from Facilities to share tips and lessons learned, how cost of carbon is incorporated into data, and the importance of continuing to talk about the benefits of these projects to gain support.

XI. Presentation: Gelman Sciences Dioxane Contamination Plume. *Roger Rayle, Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane (CARD).*

- A. Continue raising awareness and bringing attention to this.

XII. Committee and Member Reports

A. Planning Committee Report.

Liz Ratzloff, WCEC Councilor and Vice Chair: County Materials Management Plan

1. Defer to next meeting.

B. Advisory and Recommendations Committee Report.

Michelle Deatruck, WCEC Chair: Resiliency Office's "Preliminary Municipal Toolkit on Data Centers"

1. Will receive feedback in the future.

XIII. Old Business

XIV. New Business

XV. Adjourn

A. 6:33 PM

B. Moved: Lauren

C. Second Liz

D. Approved: Unanimous acclamation

Next Meetings

December 16, 2025

ACCOUNT DETAIL HISTORY FOR 2025 01 TO 2025 13

ORG YR/PR	OBJECT JNL	PROJ EFF DATE	SRC	REF1	REF2	REF3	CHECK #	OB	AMOUNT	NET LEDGER BALANCE	NET BUDGET BALANCE
10101104	805400		Special Events - Envr. Council								
							ORIGINAL BUDGET				.00
25/04	2356	04/10/25	APM	288563		294269	457550		225.00	225.00	-225.00
	modify acc	BRIAN GEIRINGER				MICHIGAN STATE OF -					
25/04	2357	04/10/25	APM	288563		294268	457550		225.00	450.00	-450.00
	modify acc	GAY MACGREGOR				MICHIGAN STATE OF -					
25/04	2358	04/10/25	APM	288563		294267	457550		225.00	675.00	-675.00
	modify acc	LAUREN SARGENT				MICHIGAN STATE OF -					
25/05	997	05/21/25	BUA		WCEC			T	5,000.00	675.00	4,325.00
	AA										
25/08	1872	08/04/25	API	000001		310291			55.00	730.00	4,270.00
	6673	MICAN* O #694				Unknown					
25/08	1872	08/04/25	API	000001		310292			55.00	785.00	4,215.00
	6673	MICAN* O #695				Unknown					
LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:						785.00	CREDITS:	.00	NET:	785.00	
GRAND TOTAL --- DEBITS:						785.00	CREDITS:	.00	NET:	785.00	

6 Records printed

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Camellia Khorrami **

Washtenaw County Environmental Council – December 16, 2025

Resiliency Office Report

Beth Gibbons, Washtenaw County Resiliency Office Director

1. Staffing/Support Status

- The Resiliency Office and Racial Equity Office will host three Equity Policy Fellows from January – April 2026. This fellowship program is a joint effort with Eastern Michigan University to provide practical experience in equity and climate for undergraduate and graduate students.
- The Resiliency Office and Facilities Management are jointly applying for a Mobility Fellow. This 15 month Fellowship will support efforts ranging from building Washtenaw County's EV charging network and EV fleet to increasing non-motorized and public transportation utilization by County staff and residents.

2. Projects Underway

- MICHAP Project: Washtenaw County is partnering with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and MSU to address local climate-related health challenges. The project will inform design strategies for the redevelopment of Ecorse Road in Ypsilanti Township. The Resiliency Office is coordinating with County staff and Township officials to facilitate community engagement and assess additional potential project sites.
- Renewable Energy Zoning Technical Assistance: The Office continues to provide technical assistance to municipalities in the development of renewable energy zoning frameworks. The year-end update to participating communities include guidance on siting for battery energy storage, data center development, and direct-pay updates.
- Data Center Resources & Municipal Toolkit: On September 15, 2025 the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution directing staff develop usable resources for communities to prepare for and respond to data center development. The Resiliency Office is leading this effort and will work with the Environmental Council and regional experts to design a usable toolkit for townships, villages and cities within Washtenaw County. To support the Board of Commissioners and inform the public at-large about data centers the Resiliency Office published a webpage that will be updated on a weekly basis: [Data Centers | Washtenaw County, MI - Official Website](#)

3. Grants & Funding Update

- **EGLE's Challenge #2: Unlocking Elective Pay** - The Resiliency Office partnered with Washtenaw 2030 District on a proposal to host a Direct Pay Ambassador in Washtenaw County. The grant was awarded and beginning in November a Direct Pay Ambassador will work with non-profit entities and faith-based organization to establish direct-pay eligible projects.

- **Climate Migration Planning** - The Resiliency Office partner ICLEI-USA was awarded a \$50,000 grant to work in Washtenaw County on planning and narrative development around demographic shifts driven by climate change. This project will explore municipal and social service preparedness for supporting an aging population in a changing climate; institutional readiness for an influx of newcomers; and identifying data, resources, and strategies needed to better plan for future demographic changes.
- **Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant – HMPG4757** – The Resiliency Office has modified and resubmitted its application to FEMA for funding of a county-wide hazard mitigation plan. The plan is routed for approval with FEMA.

4. Outreach Updates - (New events added since last meeting)

Stewardship Network Annual Conference	Stewardship Network	1/22-23/2026	East Lansing, MI
Elective Pay Webinar	Washtenaw 2030 District	1/27/2026	Virtual
Midwest Climate Conference	Midwest Climate Collaborative	3/3/2026	Cleveland
MI Healthy Climate Conference	EGLE	4/21 - 4/22	Detroit
American Planning Association Conference	American Planning Association	4/25-28	Detroit
National Adaptation Forum	EcoAdapt	5/12/2026	Pittsburgh
MI Sustainability Conference		November 2026	
MI EJ Conference		September 2026	

COUNTY COMMISSION ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL COMMENTS – December 16, 2025

Good afternoon, Council Members.

My name is Loren Rullman, and I live in the City of Chelsea along Werkner Road. I am here on behalf of numerous neighbors who are very concerned about County Road Commission plans to widen Werkner Road. Several of us have already shared concerns with the Road Commission, and I volunteered to make sure our concerns are known to you as well.

Our understanding is that:

- An additional 12 feet will be added to the width of the current road,
- Resulting in removal of old growth trees that are in the way (some are 100+ years old)
- Forfeiting of homeowner land and habitat on both sides (even if in the right-of-way)
- Likely leading to more and faster traffic on a largely rural road,
- Potential ecosystem impact (such as wetlands, drainage, and pollinators)
- And inconsistency with tree preservation and climate action goals

What is equally concerning is that homeowners along Werkner Road – representing both Sylvan Township and the City of Chelsea – would not have known about widening without a neighbor waking up one day a few weeks ago to find survey stakes in the middle of his yard surveying for road widening. The County Director of Engineering has since told us:

- The public should already have known about widening from the millage planning process
- That a public meeting will be held, but after the engineering is complete and a decision is made
- Information about road widening will be available on their website at a later date

The Road Commission Managing Director confirmed that no federal or state monies are involved so the County has authority on what it does; that widening is not mandatory, but they always prefer widen when rebuilding; and that expectations to widen the road are outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding with the County. Although repaving seems important, widening seems unnecessary, especially with M-52 nearby.

It is troubling to find survey stakes in the yard with no prior homeowner communication, and it feels to us – whether true or intended - like the Road Commission hopes to gather information and then simply inform residents, rather than invite authentic feedback to inform a decision.

We have asked the Road Commission to:

- Abandon plans to widen Werkner Road, and instead consider alternatives, like curbing on Sibley Rd.
- Thereby protecting trees, land, habitat and ecosystem along that route,
- Even if still rebuilding or repaving Werkner Road,
- Because the decision to widen 12 feet appears to not be mandatory.
- And, to invite citizen feedback before making a final decision

We just don't believe it's necessary to lose old growth trees and disrupt the ecosystem further. We simply wanted to make sure that this body, which thankfully works to protect our soil, trees, and habitat, is aware of our concerns.

Thank you for your service to our community, and the chance to speak today.

Loren John Rullman, Ph.D.
6091 Werkner Road
Chelsea, MI 48118
734.546.5505
ljrullman@yahoo.com

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
RESOLUTION 2026-002**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Northville, held on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Northville Township Hall, the following information was offered:

WHEREAS: The Charter Township of Northville is responsible for the safety, quality of life, health and welfare of its residents and Township residents have complained about odor and possible water contamination emanating from the Arbor Hills Landfill located in Salem Township; and

WHEREAS: Arbor Hills Landfill Inc. had entered into a Consent Judgment with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, dated March 4, 2022. Said Consent Judgment alleges that Arbor Hills violated Rule 901 of the Michigan Air Pollution Control Rules, Sections of the Michigan Administrative Code and the general provisions of the National Admission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants as they relate to Municipal Solid Waste landfills; and

WHEREAS: The Township initiated a Complaint against Arbor Hills based on these resident complaints. In a Settlement Agreement dated October 27, 2025, the Township now has the right to "submit recommendations for corrective or supplemental actions at the Arbor Hills Landfill"; and

WHEREAS: It is the Township's understanding that Arbor Hills intends to expand/create a new landfill adjacent to or near the current landfill. The Township believes that such expansion or creation of a new landfill would further impact the residents of Northville Township; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Charter Township of Northville is hereby authorized to object to the expansion or creation of a new landfill in Salem Township and take such other actions as may be necessary to further such objections.

AYES: Abbo, Jankowski, Herrmann, Hwang, Lundberg, Roosen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Rhines

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED:

I, Cynthia L. Jankowski, Clerk of the Charter Township of Northville, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution of action approved by the Board of Trustees at their regular meeting held on January 15, 2026, at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, Michigan 48168.

Cynthia L. Jankowski, Clerk

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
VOTE AGAINST APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OR CREATION OF A NEW LANDFILL
ASSOCIATED WITH THE ARBOR HILLS LANDFILL IN SALEM TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN**

WASHTENAW COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

January 27, 2026

At a duly called meeting of the Washtenaw County Environmental Council held virtually on January 27, 2026, the following resolution was offered by Council Chair Michelle Deatruck and adopted.

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Environmental Council is responsible for advising on policies that protect the health, safety, environment, and quality of life of Washtenaw County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Council was tasked with developing “comprehensive, integrated environmental policies to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners... in order to: achieve net-zero emissions for County operations, reduce 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”; and to “address and counter environmental and intergenerational injustice, and ensure a just transition with no worker or community left behind;” and

WHEREAS, landfills emit methane, which is an ozone precursor, therefore negatively impacting ground-level air quality, and is also a super-potent greenhouse gas, contributing significantly to the County’s carbon footprint and contribution to global heating; and hydrogen sulfide, a flammable gas with a strong rotten egg smell that is heavier than air and that even at low levels can cause headaches, eye irritation, nausea and respiratory irritation, and even trouble breathing for some individuals such as those with asthma; and that low-level chronic exposure is reported to per a NIH meta-analysis; and

WHEREAS, residents in the communities of Northville Township in Wayne County and Salem Township in Washtenaw County have “long complained about persistent foul odors and reported various health symptoms like headaches, sore throats, and nausea due to emissions from the Arbor Hills Landfill...with 769 reports filed, up from just 190 in the first half [of 2023], which coincided with activation of a new landfill cell” (WEMU, June 11, 2025), and

WHEREAS, for nearly a decade, reported persistent noxious odors, heavy truck traffic, noise, litter, seagulls, and declines in quality of life and property values have been linked to operations at the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township; and

WHEREAS, Ridge Wood Elementary School, located under a mile from Arbor Hills Landfill and the proposed new landfill, experiences frequent odor issues; and

WHEREAS, regulators have documented significant compliance issues at Arbor Hills, and state officials have had to act repeatedly to enforce compliance, including a lawsuit by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the Michigan Attorney General for failures in landfill gas capture and leachate management, resulting in a 2022 Consent Judgment with substantial penalties and required remedial investments, yet odor complaints and risk concerns have persisted; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Hills’ record includes violations of Rule 901 of the Michigan Air Pollution Control Rules and related state and federal laws that prohibit emissions harmful to health or unreasonably interfere with the

enjoyment of life and property, and documentation shows elevated PFAS “forever chemicals,” including PFOS, in landfill groundwater, leachate, and stormwater discharges affecting Johnson Creek near residential areas; and.

WHEREAS, despite the above history, a large new landfill cell or expansion is being proposed near the current Arbor Hills Landfill site, which is close to densely populated residential neighborhoods in Northville and Plymouth Townships and within the Johnson Creek watershed, resulting in more odors, heavy truck traffic, noise, and potential contamination of the Creek by leachate as well as other additional potential soil and air contamination in a heavily populated area; and

WHEREAS, Michigan still has significant remaining landfill capacity, enough for approximately 20 years according to EGLE; and state policy increasingly emphasizes waste reduction, recycling, and composting over construction of new or expanding existing landfills; and

WHEREAS, public information shows that Canadian waste haulers supply a significant portion of the municipal solid waste received in Michigan and that imported waste was nearly 20% of Michigan landfill waste in 2024, meaning Canadian investors, haulers, and waste streams generate profits while local Michigan communities bear the environmental, health, and property value burdens; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has the most landfill capacity per capita of any state, and data indicates that Washtenaw County imports over 1.5 million cubic yards of waste from outside the County; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Northville’s Board of Trustees adopted Resolution 2026-002 on January 15, 2026, which states in part that the Township is “authorized to object to the expansion or creation of a new landfill in Salem Township and take such other actions as may be necessary to further such objections”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Environmental Council finds that, because of the long history of non-compliance for the current landfill and the nearby large residential developments and school, and because a new landfill or landfill expansion will *add* to existing health and environmental exposures and risks already borne by the communities near the landfill, the Arbor Hills site is not appropriate for a new or expanded landfill with a multi-decade operational lifespan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Environmental Council therefore recommends that the Board of Commissioners deny approval of any new landfill construction or significant capacity expansion related to the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve a resolution that urges EGLE and the Michigan Attorney General to diligently enforce the 2022 Consent Judgment and all applicable air, water, and solid-waste regulations at Arbor Hills, including strong oversight of gas collection, leachate management, PFAS monitoring and controls, and odor mitigation, to safeguard residents and downstream communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council recommends that the Board of Commissioners’ above-referenced resolution also urges state and regional leaders, including major investors such as the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan and operators such as GFL Environmental, to reject long-term expansion at this unsuitable site and instead increase investments in waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting in line with Michigan policy and modern best practices; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, the Washtenaw County Health Department, and the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission.

Adopted this 27th day of January, 2026, by the Washtenaw County Environmental Council.

Michelle Deatrick
Chair, Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Anne Brown
First Vice Chair, Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Gay McGregor
Second Vice Chair, Washtenaw County Environmental Council