

Washtenaw County Environmental Council
JANUARY 27, 2026

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>

JANUARY MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - A. 5:02 PM
- II. Attendance
 - A. Mark Coryell, Michelle Deatrick, Gay MacGregor, Alex Bryan, Benjamin VanGessel, Kris Olsson, Lauren Sargent, Finn McCarty, Annie Somerville, Brian Geiringer, Yousef Rabhi
 - B. Not Present: Anne Brown, Andrea Pierce, Liz Ratzloff
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Moved: Lauren Sargent
 - B. Second: Alex Bryan
 - C. Motion to move Remarks about Salem Twp AI Data Center to immediately after Staff Reports
 - 1. Moved: Kris Olsson
 - 2. Second: Lauren Sargent
 - 3. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Meeting
 - A. Moved: Alex Bryan
 - B. Second: Kris Olsson
 - C. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
- VI. Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - A. Council Responses to Citizen Participation

1. Loren Rullman Chelsea, MI - concerning WC Road Commission widening of Werkner Road
 - a) Council members ask clarifying questions and express suggestions to speak with Washtenaw area transportation area study group and bicycle groups. A request is made for this council to come up with a statement on the value of trees. An additional request confirms desire to work with Road Commission on balancing zero-carbon goals and importance of bicycle transportation with the value of preserving trees.
 - b) Motion to refer it to advisory and recommendations committee to work on a statement and consult the Washtenaw transportation groups.
 - (1) Moved: Lauren Sargent
 - (2) Second: Ben VanGessel
 - (3) Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
2. John Spur Salem Township – concerning Arbor Hills landfill expansion
 - a) YR thank advocates in Salem Twp, does not support expansion.

B. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation

1. No written comments 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.
 - a) Council Responses
 - (1) Thanks for staff report and thanks to departing office staff Kim Heumann.
 - (2) Multiple council members were unable to register for UM data center event, the Chair is going to communicate with

event leaders that community members wanting to come are unable to get tickets.

3. Other Updates

VIII. Remarks/Presentation: Salem Township AI Data Center. Beth Foley, Saline Township resident

A. Council Responses

1. Council members express thanks to Beth for sharing and hope the council will follow through on the requests. A specific suggestion is made to recommend the full moratorium on data centers in the county until some issues can be worked out.
 - a) Chair reminds the council on previous actions taken, suggests a motion to instruct the advisory and recommendations committee to look at what other steps this council can make with the Board of Commissioners or other county departments regarding data centers.
 - b) Moved: Brian Geiringer
 - c) Second: Andrea Pierce
 - d) Approved by: Unanimous acclamation

IX. Chair's Report

A. Finance/Budget Report

B. February Meeting

1. Elections
2. Hydrogen Presentation

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

- A. Moved: Yousef Rabhi
- B. Second: Annie Somerville
- C. Council Discussion

1. Council members share additional experiences related to this and continue to recommend residents share their perspectives with councils and at public meetings.

D. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation

E. Chair confirming County process, asks Resiliency Office to send through regular resolution process, WC Health Dept, and Water Resource Commissioner's Office. Chair will email all members of the board directly and Commissioner Rabhi notes to be sure to include Ashley, it is not too late to add before next agenda packet meeting.

XI. Committee and Member Reports

A. Commissioner Rabhi is impressed and proud to live in a community where people are organizing and stepping up against the corporate machine that is coming to hurt our environment.

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

A. Council members welcome Finn McCarty to Youth seat.

XIV. Adjourn

A. 6:21 PM

B. Moved: Annie Somerville

C. Second: Yousef Rabhi

D. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation

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)