

Washtenaw County Environmental Council
August 25, 2026 MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, August 25, 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 July 28, 2026 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. Presentation and Discussion: Director Beth Gibbons
 - A. Washtenaw County Resilience Network
 - B. Washtenaw County Wildfire Smoke and AQI
- VIII. Staff Reports
 - A. Acknowledgement of written Staff Reports and Communications
 - B. Staff Reports Q&A
- IX. Committee and Member Reports
 - A. Outreach
 - 1. Green Fair
 - 2. Annual Meeting
 - B. Tree Policy
 - 1. HRWC Tree Policies
- X. Chair's Report
 - A. Finance/Budget Report
 - B. October meeting attendance
 - C. In-person Public meeting, November 17, LRC
 - D. Upcoming Meeting Topics

1. Sept. - Director Fee and County Operations Electrify/Decarb Efforts
2. Oct. - Unknown
3. Nov. - In-Person, Annual Meeting

E. In-person meeting timing survey

XI. Old Business

A. Tree and Woodland Protection Policies

B. MMPC Draft Goals

C. Upcoming engagement opportunities

1. Green Fair
2. RECESS Conference
3. UM Data Center Town Hall - <https://record.umich.edu/articles/u-m-to-host-town-hall/>
4. Michigan Sustainability Conference

XII. New Business

XIII. Adjourn

Next Meetings

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Annual Meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Events and Conferences

Event	Hosting Organization	Dates-2026	Location
Ann Arbor Green Fair	City of Ann Arbor	9/18/2026	n Arbor
RECESS		9/27 – 9/29	Detroit
MI Sustainability Conference	EGLE	Sept 9-10	Lansing
MI EJ Conference	EGLE	Sept 2026	
U-M Climate Week	U-Mich	Sept 26- Oct 3	Ann Arbor, MI
Scio Sustainability Fair	Scio Township	Oct 4	Meijer on Jackson Rd

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)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Last update and approval: May, 2024

The Washtenaw County Environmental Council acknowledges that county buildings and operations occur on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabek - Three Fires Confederacy, the Odawa (Ottawa), Ojibwe (Chippewa), and Bode'wadmi (Potawatomi). Acknowledgement is a small gesture, a start and not an end to acknowledging and addressing the ongoing, current process of colonialism. We recognize the ongoing relationship and dependence upon, and respect for, all living beings of earth, water and sky. And we uphold the rights of living beings, nature, and natural systems to exist, persist and flourish. We honor with deep gratitude the Native people who have stewarded these in the past and continue to do so. And we uphold our responsibility to care for and steward the land, the water, the air and our climate for our community, this County, and for this and future generations.

Washtenaw County Environmental Council
July 28, 2026, DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 28, 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

A. Chair called to order at 5:04pm

II. Attendance

First Name	Last Name	Officer	Seat	Location (if Present)	When joined
Anne	Brown	Scnd Vice Cha	Racial Equity and Environmental Issues	Y	Ypslinati Twp
Mark	Coryell		Labor	Y	City of Ann Arbor
Michelle	Deatrick	Vice Chair	Land Use and Preservation	Y	Superior
Andrea	Pierce		Water Protection	Y	Ypsilanti Twp
Gay	MacGregor		Vehicle Emission Reduction Issues	x	x
Kris	Olsson		Community Groups	X	Out of the Country
Finnegan	McCarty		Youth	Y	City of Ypsilanti
Liz	Ratzloff		Public Health	Y	City of Dearborn
Alex	Bryan	Chair	Sustainable Agriculture	Y	Ypsilanti Twp
Lauren	Sargent		Sustainable Energy Producers	Y	City of Ann Arbor
Benjamin	VanGessel		Infrastructure Energy Reduction Issues	Y	Ann Arbor Twp
Brian	Geiringer		Community Groups (MI LCV)	x	x
Annie	Somerville		BOC Liaison	x	x
Yousef	Rabhi		BOC Liaison	x	x
	vacant		BOC Liaison		

III. Land Acknowledgement

A. Chair Alex Bryan read the Land Acknowledgement

IV. Approval of the Agenda

A. Moved: Michelle Deatrick

B. Seconded: Ben VanGessel

C. Motion passed unopposed

V. Approval of the Minutes of the June 23, 2026, Meeting

A. Moved: Liz Ratzloff

B. Seconded: Ben VanGessel

C. Approved: Unopposed

VI. Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)

- Council Responses to Citizen Participation
- None
- Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation
County Farm Park pesticide treatment
 - Lauren Sargent: supports the concern and offered to get a response. mentioned the link between Parkinson's and these chemicals
 - Alex Bryan: noted that WCPRC isolates the application area by spot
 - Ben VanGessel posed whether the chemical applied was a pesticide or an herbicide
 - Michelle Deatrack noted that glyphosate was the chemical applied, a herbicide.
 - Ben VanGessel inquired whether the application was done by park staff or a contractor. Alex Bryan confirmed application is done by staff.

C. Microplastic filters: Can Washtenaw County provide filters?

- Question asked about whether WC has washing machine filters for microplastics.
- Director Beth Gibbons has responded to the resident and identified a few local resources and the conversation ongoing.
- Alex Bryan will share that email chain after the meeting.

VII. Upcoming topics of interest and discussion

- A. Alex Bryan noted that there were no scheduled presentations. For the upcoming meetings, he is working with Director Gibbons to provide RWP progress update and, with Director Fee, provide updates on Solar projects.
- B. Ben VanGessel notes that Senator Sue Shink gave a presentation on microplastics and could be invited to present at the WCEC meeting
- C. Michelle Deatrack would like to hear about extreme heat and wildfire smoke and asks how the County is alerting the community and handling impacts on public health.
- D. Alex Bryan shared that Director Beth Gibbons is preparing information on wildfire smoke.

VIII. Staff Reports

- Acknowledgement of written Staff Reports and Communications
- No comments

- Beatrice Miringu highlighted the Summer Health Day event on August 5, which will include a sustainability tour of the Solar, EV and composting projects at Towner.
- Director Fee is looking forward to sharing updates about these projects with WCEC this fall.
- Staff Reports Q&A
- Alex Bryan asked for the Hazard Mitigation Planning and Climate Vulnerability Assessment RFI timeline. Beatrice Miringu did not have that information, a response will be included in the notes.

IX. Committee and Member Reports

- A. Lauren Sargent noted that she is on the recommendations committee but has never heard anything about it. Wanted to know if they were supposed to meet.
- B. Michelle Deatruck notes that there used to be meetings in the past and draft many resolutions. Also noted that they must do business outside of council meetings at in-person meetings. Previously, they have held a vote and referred items to that committee, such as the pesticide (herbicide) concern.
- C. Alex Bryan shared that he could organize meetings, and they cannot be larger than six people. He encouraged committees to self-organize

X. Chair's Report

- **Finance/Budget Report**
 - None comments
- **August meeting attendance**
 - The chair asked members to communicate their availability for the August meeting.
- **In-Person public Meeting, Sept/Oct**
 - A. The chair shared that October 27 will be at Staebler Farm.
 - Michelle Deatruck will not attend in person.
 - Lauren Sargent suggested they consider whether this meeting will be impacted by the election season and if they should consider another date.
 - Liz Rztloff shared that there is no perfect time.
 - Mark Coryell wanted to consider the availability of the venue on another date in November.
 - Michelle Deatruck noted that another council member might not be available for an in-person meeting in October. Propose approving the meeting with a potential November date.

Motion to provisionally approve the meeting on October 27, 2026, at Staebler while exploring meeting on November 17

Moved: Michelle Deatrick

Seconded: Liz Ratzloff

Approved: Passed unanimously

- B. Alex Bryan asked for members to support Mark Coryell in the outreach committee. The goal is to have a flyer ready at the August meeting. Michelle Deatrick is willing to help in November.
- C. Alex Bryan asked members to review the document with their attendance to date.
- D. Alex Bryan informed members that they are leaning towards an in-person quarterly meeting at LRC, to work on resolutions and requested feedback on meeting time.
 - Andrea Pierce notes she will be late a 5 o'clock start
 - Lauren Sargent suggested a later start time, especially for the Staebler Farm meeting; some members work until 5 p.m.
 - Alex Bryan noted that Staebler Farm is a once-a-year event and LRC will be regular meetings. Hearing that 5 o'clock is too early for both meetings, he will send out a poll.

- **Attendance, committee assignments, and contact info**

- A. The chair asked for members to support Mark Coryell in the outreach committee. Mark's goal is to have a flyer ready at the August meeting. Michelle Deatrick is willing to help in November.

- **In-person meeting cadence and timing survey**

- A. The chair noted that Staebler Farm is a one-time-a-year event and that LRC will have a location for regular meetings. Hearing 5 o'clock is too early for both meetings; he will send a poll.

XI. Old Business

- Tree and Woodland Protection Policies
 - The chair had discussed with Director Gibbons moving this item forward; a council member is needed to convene discussions with staff.
 - Lauren Sargent volunteered to help and wanted to know what is involved
- MMPC Draft Goals
 - No updates

- Upcoming engagement opportunities
 1. Green Fair September 18
 - Looking for volunteers. Alex Bryan will be out of town
 2. Summer Health Days: August 5, 555 Towner St
 - Members are encouraged to attend.
 3. Recess Conference in Detroit Sept. 27- 29
 - Anne Brown encouraged members to attend and shared that it has grown in the last 4 years and features national speakers.
 - The chair noted that there are funds to support a few members to attend.

Motion proposed to approve up to 3 members to attend

- A. Moved: Michelle Deatrick
- B. Seconded: Liz Ratzloff
- C. Motion passed unanimously

XII. New Business

A. Herbicide/Pesticide use concerns:

WCPRC is using glyphosate, and people have concerns. Is the recommendation committee a good place to discuss?

- Lauren Sargent asks if WCPRC has done pilot programs for non-toxic alternatives. The chair does not know. The council could ask.
- Ben VanGessel notes that WCPRC staff are cautious about the application and like to learn more.

B. Microplastics in the Great Lakes is relevant

- Anne Brown noted that there is new legislation.

XIII. Adjourn

- A. Moved: Michelle Deatrick
- B. Seconded: Anne Brown
- C. None opposed
- D. Meeting adjourned at 6:07

Washtenaw County Environmental Council – August 2026

Resiliency Office Report

Beth Gibbons, Washtenaw County Resiliency Office Director

1. Staffing/Support Status

- o New updates. Graham Scholar has ended. Equity Policy Fellows starting for the Fall semester.

Ongoing Activities Supporting Departments & Administration

2. Projects Underway

- Resiliency Office-Draft Metric Report in final stages of develop
- Green Team Newsletter released in August. Spotlight on solar installation at Towner Campus and wildfire smoke. (See attached).
- Ecorse Corridor Climate & Health Project
 - o Presented and collected feedback at five neighborhood meetings in Ypsilanti Township, through social media, and during the Summer Health Day event. Reached over 100 residents.
 - o Community Meeting on September 15, 2026, at Ypsilanti Community Center, 2025 E. Clark, Ypsilanti.
- Sustainability at Towner Campus. A ribbon-cutting for the solar installation and EV charging was held on August 5, 2026. This new solar installation will generate an estimated 100,912.5 kWh and provide four charging ports.
- Eastern Washtenaw Community and Recreation Center- ground breaking anticipated in October 2026. Geothermal feasibility study completed. The project is proceeding with geothermal as primary heating/cooling system.
- Washtenaw County Climate Resilience Network
 - o Next Washtenaw County Resilience Network meeting – October 29 9 -11am, Chelsea, MI.
 - o In October 2025 Network members drafted a vision for Washtenaw County: [*Resilient County, A Living Future*](#)
- Shifting Demographics in a Changing Climate (Climate Migration)
 - o The 1st advisory group meeting was held on August 4, 2026
 - o The Shifting Demographics in a Changing Climate project seeks to equip local leaders and community members with the knowledge, tools, and shared understanding needed to anticipate demographic change, evaluate future scenarios, and identify strategies that strengthen resilience, quality of life, and opportunity across the county
 - o Six community conversations will take place in September/October 2026. These conversations will help the team understand perceptions on climate migration and frame the scenario planning workshop in 2027.
- Hazard Mitigation Planning & Climate Vulnerability Assessment
 - o RFI meeting held on August 12, 2026. We had 14 attendees representing 12 consultants. The goal for the RFI process is for the Resiliency Office to gain

an understanding of the current federal administration FEMA requirements landscape and what work is feasible with our current budget.

- Data Center: Resources with Washtenaw County Municipalities
 - o The Resiliency Office continues to be a resource and convenes regular meetings across County offices on data center development and engagement.
- Renewable Energy Technical Assistance Program
 - o The Resiliency Office and U-M Center for EmPowering Communities will host a workshop on tax and revenue from renewable energy and new industrial land uses (with a focus on data centers).

3. **Grants & Funding Update**

Hazard Mitigation Planning [\(Add info\)](#)

- o Washtenaw County received the grant contract from Michigan State Police for an award to conduct a county-wide hazard mitigation planning process.
- o Total award: \$220,000, grant period February 2026 – June 2029.
- o The County issued an RFI for a hazard mitigation plan and climate vulnerability assessment on July 23, 2026

National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program Grant

- o Washtenaw County is leading a coordinated proposal between an Ypsilanti-based non-profit (The Ypsi), and an EV charging infrastructure contractor to apply for a NEVI award that would pay for a portion of the cost of developing high-speed chargers, at a public site in the City. Proposals are due August 7, 2026

Anticipated EGLE Grants:

- o A new round of Community Energy Management grants are anticipated in late August.
- o A new round of sponsorship grants is anticipated in October 2026

4. **Outreach Updates**

Upcoming Events Hosted by/supported by Resiliency Office

- o U-M Climate Week, U-Mich, Sept. 26 to Oct. 3, 2026
- o Scio Sustainability Fair, October 1
- o Ann Arbor Green Fair, September 18

Conferences and Regional Events

Event	Hosting Organization	Dates	Location
Michigan Sustainability Conference (MISCON)	EGLE	September 9 – 10	Lansing, MI
U-M Climate Week	U-Mich	Sept. 26 to Oct. 3, 2026	Ann Arbor, MI
Scio Sustainability Fair	Scio Township	10/4/2026	Meijer on Jackson Rd

Michigan Municipal League	Traverse City	10/7 – 10/9	
MI Sustainability Conference	EGLE	November 2026	Lansing



WASTENAW COUNTY GREEN TEAM



<https://ewashtenaw.sharepoint.com/sites/WashtenawCountyGreenTeam>

AUGUST 2026 | GREEN TEAM NEWSLETTER

SOLAR POWERED SPOTLIGHT



Human Services Building – 555 Towner Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan

Across the county solar installations are expected to generate renewable electricity for County operations while reducing energy costs and lowering greenhouse gas emissions for decades to come.

This is part of a larger County-wide solar project, totaling nearly one Megawatt of renewable energy across seven sites. As part of the County's comprehensive renewable energy initiative, marking a significant milestone in the County's ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility, environmental stewardship, and long-term sustainability.

Since August of last year, when the first array became operational, the County has realized measurable benefits, including \$45,583.15 in financial savings, 176.12 megawatt-hours (MWh) of renewable energy generated, and 136.2 metric tons (MT) of CO₂ equivalent avoided, equivalent to 15,134 gallons of gasoline being consumed.

Over the life of the project, the County anticipates nearly \$31 million in energy cost savings, more than 34 thousand MWh of clean electricity generation, more than 26 thousand metric MT of CO₂ equivalent avoided, and greater budget stability through reduced exposure to future rate increases.

Collectively, the project demonstrates how public infrastructure investments can deliver both economic and environmental returns.

JOIN THE GREEN TEAM

It's Great to be Green! The Green Team hosted a Lunch & Learn in April, learning about "Everyday Sustainability." Topics included how you can develop more eco-conscious home, lawn, and food habits.

Attendees also received a discount code to use at BYOC, a bulk distribution center. The next Lunch & Learn, how individual actions in the workplace can advance our sustainability goals, is coming up this fall!

The Green Team currently has three working groups you can join: Employee Transportation & Mobility, Employee Behavior Shift, and Outreach & Engagement.

Finally, this year's annual Waste Audit at Towner I & II and are looking for volunteers. The Green Team needs you! Join today using the QR code below!



SCAN HERE

**Waste Audit
Sign Up!**



SCAN HERE

**Green Team
Sign Up!**

Call for submissions: let us highlight the work your office is doing to advance the goals of the RWP! Email resiliency@washtenaw.org to share your projects.

LUNCH & LEARN 1: EVERYDAY SUSTAINABILITY



Sharepoint page



How can we be more sustainable in our day-to-day lives? The Green Team is happy you asked! Hosting quarterly Lunch & Learns, the Green Team educates and engages staff, reduces waste, and promotes sustainability. This April the Green Team discussed everyday sustainability and how you can be part of the solution!

At home, the goal is to limit everyday consumption. Reduce by buying less, reuse by repurposing items in your house, and replace only when necessary. While shopping, look for eco-friendly signals such as minimal or recyclable packaging, refill systems, company transparency, certifications, and labels.



How can you practice low impact lawn care? Ditch the fertilizers, herbicides, and other poisons! Reduce area in traditional lawn grass, add diversity and plant native species, utilize alternative insect habitats to attract pollinators, and maintain healthy soil. Rain gardens minimize runoff and evapotranspiration, while maximizing filtration.

When buying food, make eco-conscious choices! Reduce waste - Americans throw away 40% of the food we grow. Food waste hurts the environment and your wallet. You can eat more sustainably by shopping locally, eating seasonally, growing your own foods, storing foods for longer use, prioritizing organic produce, switching to healthier proteins and plant-based dairy, and eating more fruits and vegetables.

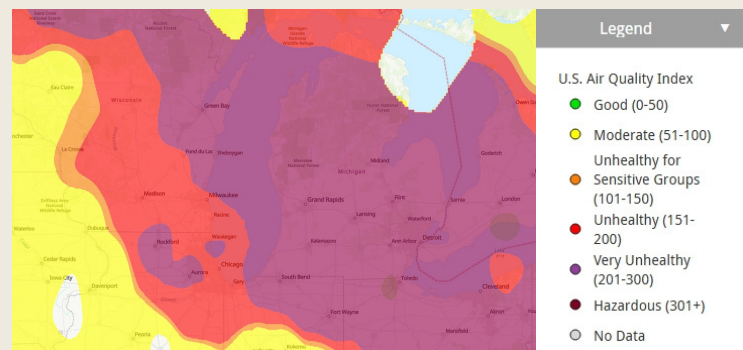
When making the switch to a more sustainable lifestyle beware of false promises: companies selling "low carbon beef" and using earth color schemes may appear more eco-friendly but do your own research and judge whether their products are truly sustainable or just trying to market to you.

HOT AND SMOKEY SUMMER

A sweltering and smoke-filled July notched multiple heat waves and the unhealthiest air quality ever reported for Washtenaw County. The question isn't whether climate change is here. Wildfires threaten our air quality and soaring temperatures sideline summer plans. But how do we recognize these risks and keep ourselves safe during the precious days of summer?

Heat Index and AQI are two tools used by public health and emergency managers to understand the threat that outdoor heat and air quality conditions pose to the wellbeing of residents. Heat Index tells you how hot it feels by combining temperature and humidity. For example, 96F and 65% humidity equals 121 Heat Index or "feels like" temperature. AQI communicates outdoor air quality by evaluating the presence of 5 major air pollutants. AQI includes six color-coded categories that range from 50 (Good) to 300+ (Hazardous). Each of the six categories includes a description of the air quality and what populations might need to take action to protect themselves.

During the month of July, Washtenaw County experienced Heat Index over 150 and AQI scores that soared up to 500 at times. This is the unhealthiest air quality within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s 5-year reporting cycle.



Air Now, "Interactive Map of Air Quality"

Throughout these events Washtenaw County employees worked hard to keep residents' safety a top priority by sending out notices, expanding services at shelters, and distributing masks to the community.

The County also provides a list of resources and actions to stay safe. These include: drinking water, avoiding caffeinated drinks, using cooling sites to stay out of the sun, and remaining on the lowest floor of your residence. Beyond individual safety there are many actions to take to help our family and friends, these include: never leaving children and animals inside a vehicle, checking on family, friends, and neighbors without air conditioning, and frequently checking on pets for signs of heat-related illness.

The best information source for AQI, is Airnow.gov. This site was built and is maintained by EPA. Also, ensuring you are connected to Washtenaw County's alert system is advised, so please sign up with the link below!

<https://www.enviroflash.info/signup.cfm>



resiliency@washtenaw.org



Washtenaw County Resiliency Office



[washtenawresiliency](https://www.washtenawresiliency.org)

ACCOUNT DETAIL HISTORY FOR 2026 01 TO 2026 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						
								REVISED BUDGET			5,000.00
26/05	2025	05/04/26	API	110357		339647			400.00	400.00	
				LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:		400.00		CREDITS:	.00	NET:	400.00
				GRAND TOTAL --- DEBITS:		400.00		CREDITS:	.00	NET:	400.00

1 Records printed

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Beth Gibbons **

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP - appointed in June 2025

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS	
Planning	Alex Bryan	
Planning	Michelle Deatrick	
Planning	Anne Brown	
Planning		
Outreach		
Outreach	Mark Coryell	
Outreach		
Outreach		
Recommendations	Kris Olsson (Chair)	
Recommendations	Andrea Pierce	
Recommendations	Lauren Sargent	
Recommendations	Ben VanGessel	

The Planning Committee is tasked with advising the Chairperson on agendas, agenda materials, long-term planning; Bylaws review; and other matters by request.

The Advisory and Recommendations Committee is tasked with following up on Council meetings and communications at the direction of the Council Chair, including but not limited to public comment, written comment, and presentations, in order to create draft recommendations to the Council and to County government including departments, committees and the BOC on environmental matters; and will submit all draft advisories and recommendations, to the Planning Committee or to the full Council at the direction of the Chair, for discussion, amendment, and consideration of approval by the Council, and will not communicate those draft advisories and recommendations externally, which is the purview of the full Council alone.

The Outreach Committee

WCCD has pulled together some excellent resources for a few townships, which also provide a template of what to search for online. Good work there—it makes everything on this front much easier to navigate.

[Community Trees - Municipality Maps, Profiles, Surveys | Washtenaw County Conservation District](#)

Overwhelmingly, the more common protection is for woodland areas at the point of development. That makes sense as it's more enforceable. Some communities require an inventory that records the size and species of the trees in question and requires mitigation or replacement. The most comprehensive starting point for ordinance language to my eye is Ann Arbor Township. I think it's fair to say that Ann Arbor Township, Pittsfield Township, Northfield Township, Ypsilanti Township, Scio Township, Lodi Township, Superior Township, and York Township all have comprehensive model protections we're interested in. They regulate specific trees using diameter at breast height (DBH) thresholds, designate landmark or heritage trees, require inventories and preservation during development, and/or require mitigation or replacement when removal is approved.

Here's Ann Arbor Township for reference: [Sec. 74-605. - Tree and woodland resource preservation. | Code of Ordinances | Ann Arbor Charter Township, \(Washtenaw Co.\), MI | Municode Library](#)"

Scio Township might have the most comprehensive example for regulating tree removal on residential/private lots greater than 2.5 acres. Lots smaller than that are exempt. The ordinance exempts the "removal of trees that have become a potential danger to human life or property." In my mind, those provisions bracket any reasonable argument against these types of ordinances.

[Township of Scio : Municipal Code](#)

There are some problematic exemptions in there that relate back to state law, such as no oversight for utilities, road commissions, MDOT, or other clearings in right of ways. Another sticky point is protection of trees immediately adjacent to farmland. Obviously, farmers have to be able to manage agricultural lands and clear aged fruit trees, but the way the ordinance is written, even healthy mature trees on parcels designated as farmland but that are actually woodland could be cleared. (Actually as I read it again it is more complicated than that, but to a point of tedium that I can't imagine the Township challenging individual tree removals.)