



AGENDA

Sustainability Commission Meeting

7:00 PM - Monday, February 10, 2020
Council Chambers

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1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Heine
Commissioner Drennen
Commissioner Bayha
Commissioner Foley
Commissioner Greenwald
Commissioner Cannon
Commissioner Gibbons
Commissioner Collins
Commissioner Michalowski
Councilmember Wilcoxon
Director Akers
3. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)
4. AGENDA APPROVAL (5 MINUTES)
5. INTRODUCTIONS
6. PRESENTATIONS
 - 6.1. A Community Approach to Building Resilience in Ypsilanti with Desmond Kirwan (25 MINUTES)
7. CONSENT AGENDA (2 MINUTES)
 - 7.1. Approval of minutes from January 13, 2020 3 - 6
[Sustainability 1-13-2020 Reg Minutes](#)
8. WORK SESSIONS
9. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS
 - 9.1. Sustainability Plan updates (10 MINUTES) 7 - 8
[Sustainability Outline](#)
 - 9.2. EGLE Recycling Grant Update (10 MINUTES) 9
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 - 9.3. A2Zero Partner Update (10 MINUTES) 11 - 12
[A2Zero Partner Update](#)
 - 9.4. GHG Inventory and Report Status Update (10 MINUTES)
 - 9.5. Resolution 2019-02 - Resolution Procedure (10 MINUTES) 13
[Resolution 2019-010](#)

- 9.6. Curbside recycling guidelines/education discussion (10 MINUTES)
- 9.7. Resolution 2020-002 - Support for Native Plants Resolution (10 MINUTES) 15
[Resolution 2020-002 - Support for Native Plants](#)
- 9.8. Ypsilanti Road Diet Update (10 MINUTES)
- 10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS (20 MINUTES)
- 11. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)
- 12. PROPOSED BUSINESS (5 MINUTES)
- 13. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES

City of Ypsilanti
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Monday, January 13, 2020
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Keith Michalowski	Absent	Nancy Heine	Present
Emily Drennen	Present	Julia Bayha	Present
Bryan Foley	Absent	Katy Greenwald	Present
Christian Cannon	Absent	Beth Gibbons	Present
Takunia Collins	Present		

Also Present: Council Liaison Steve Wilcoxon
Staff Liaison Ronald Akers, Public Services Director
Commission Recording Secretary, Nancy Hare-Dickerson

III. PUBLIC COMMENT- none

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

Bayha (Second: Drennen) moved to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

V. INTRODUCTIONS – Council Liaison Wilcoxon introduced his granddaughter, baby Nova, who delighted all with her presence.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. Seed Bomb Demonstration by Commissioner Collins

Commissioner Takunia Collins presented a demonstration on how to make basic seed bombs with different types of flower seeds, including those for pollinators such as hummingbirds, bees, caterpillars and butterflies.

[Commissioner queries answered during and after the demonstration]

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of December 9, 2019 minutes

Greenwald (Second: Bayha) moved to approve the December 9, 2019 Minutes as amended.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

2. Approval of October 14, 2019 minutes
Drennen (Second: Bayha) moved to approve the October 14, 2019 Minutes as submitted.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

VIII. WORK SESSION

1. Recycling Education Discussion

Commissioner Heine: Initiated discussion as to ways to better educate residents about acceptable and non-acceptable recycling materials; e.g., with flyers, workshops. Packet materials were discussed, of which Staff Liaison Akers will further review to check for any language clarifications that may be needed.

Commissioner Collins indicated that he will work on creating a YouTube video that addresses recycling considerations. Staff Liaison Akers asked that coordination be done with the City DPS before the video is published.

[Further discussion ensued as to improving resident access to passes for recycling drop off; drop off event information; store elimination of plastic bag use; stores offering alternative bags for purchase]

IX. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

1. A2 Zero Carbon Neutrality Initiative Update

Council Liaison Wilcoxon: Indicated that Council passed the Resolution to join in the Initiative and he shared highlights of the Washtenaw350 meeting that he recently attended.

Commissioner Drennen provided an Initiative update and shared information on plans to possibly do an educational A2 Zero event with EMU as to carbon neutrality and what it means. She also shared information as to a town hall to be held on February 22nd at Pioneer High School, as well as upcoming sustainability forums.

Commissioner Gibbons spoke to the benefits of the Commission taking and also sending out a survey, such as that discussed in the meeting packet.

[Discussion followed; Commission Drennen will obtain further information]

2. Energy Star Resolution – Resolution 2020-001: Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Commissioner Heine: Read proposed Resolution 2020-001 into the record:

"RESOLVED BY THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION:

WHEREAS, EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager is a no-cost, interactive energy management tool that allows users to securely track and assess energy, water consumption, and greenhouse gas production across a building portfolio; and

WHEREAS, 40 percent of U.S. commercial building space is already benchmarked in Portfolio Manager — making it the industry-leading benchmarking tool; and

WHEREAS, using EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager would allow the City of Ypsilanti to identify under-performing buildings, verify efficiency improvements, and apply for ENERGY STAR certification for superior energy performance; and

WHEREAS, our participation in the Michigan Green Communities' Challenge requires the City to begin tracking building energy use;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission urges City Council to direct staff to begin using EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to benchmark building water and energy use."

[Commissioner comment and discussion followed]

Greenwald (Second: Bayha) moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-001 – Energy Star Portfolio Manager.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

3. Support for Native Plants Resolution - Resolution 2020-002 – Support for Native Plants

Commissioner Heine: Read proposed Resolution 2020-002 into the record:

"RESOLVED BY THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION:

WHEREAS, native plants are localized, well adapted to the local soils and climate, tend to be more insect and disease resistant, and require less watering and fertilizing than non-native plants; and

WHEREAS, wildlife such as birds are more attracted to the Native Plants with which they coevolved, and use such plants for food, cover, and rearing their young; and

WHEREAS, native plants, having evolved in the climate, are extremely hardy and, therefore, have lower maintenance and replacement costs; and

WHEREAS, native plants protect water quality by reducing stormwater runoff and erosion; and

WHEREAS, healthy ecosystems have been shown to provide therapeutic benefits to our mental well-being and physical health; and

WHEREAS, Native Plant usage helps restore the ecological balance we have lost through development and can help maintain, or even increase, property values; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ypsilanti shall make every reasonable effort to use native plants on properties owned by the City, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council will instruct the Planning Commission to update the City Zoning Ordinances to reflect support of native plants, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council will instruct the Administrative Hearings Bureau to disregard native plant blight violations until the Zoning Ordinance is updated, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission will make every effort to educate and empower residents with the goal of transitioning private properties to include native plants."

Drennen (Second: Collins) moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-002 – Support for Native Plants.

[Discussion ensued regarding language that may need to be amended and possibly adding language related to pollinator plants]

[Discussion was had as to the best way to proceed as a result of above query and comments]

Drennen withdrew motion.

4. Recycling Grant Opportunity

Commissioner Heine: Shared information regarding a recycling grant opportunity that the Commission may be interested in, which will be placed on the February agenda for further discussion.

X. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners and Liaison, who wished, shared updates of meetings, events and activities they have been involved with and/or are working on related to sustainability.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrea Wotan, Ann Arbor resident, passed out a handout and spoke regarding the need to reduce animal consumption and the global benefits of a plant-based diet. She urged the Commission to consider policies that would help residents reduce their consumption of meat, dairy, eggs and fish by fifty percent or more.

XII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

Commissioner Heine notated several items for addition to the February agenda.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, February 10, 2020

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: 8:59 p.m.

Greenwald (Second: Gibbons) moved to adjourn the meeting of the Sustainability Commission.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Carried

Full Minutes Prepared by: Nancy Hare-Dickerson, Commission Recording Secretary

Ypsilanti Sustainability Section

This format is based on the scope from the accepted proposal, conversations with Bonnie/Mayor, and the format of the existing document

Introduction to the Topic of Sustainability

1. Why is Ypsilanti focusing on this topic? Why is it important/worth discussing?
 - a. The effects of climate change – what are some localized effects in the region/Michigan (Resiliency Handbook) {BRI to help}
 - b. Cities can adapt to the effects or help mitigate the effects (or both) – Discuss what these two methods mean
2. Why is this section being included in the master plan?
3. Definition of sustainability that we use for this section (EEE)
 - a. This may be a good time to discuss how it's a difficult concept to define, the concept of intersectionality, and the varying ways that residents defined it from the survey results

"Past/Present Policies" (BRI can help with this section)

1. Environmental Challenges {BRI to do}
2. Inventory of what the City has accomplished in the last 5-10 years regarding sustainability and what they are working on now {BRI to help}
 - a. This may be hard to find, I've talked to Bonnie about this. She recommends checking the Sustainability/Housing/Planning Commission minutes
 - b. News Articles
 - c. County/Regional bodies work on sustainability
3. Discussion of 2012 CAP/GHG {WAITING ON RESULTS FROM ECOWORKS}

Public Input/Sustainability Matrices

1. Explain the community input session/survey/installation {BRI to do}
2. Summary of results show these are the 5 main topics {BRI to help}, however, the topics don't have to be solely based on residents. Please use your expertise to add anything you think is missing to be a sustainable community
 - a. Waste management, waste reduction, increased access to recycling and composting
 - b. Communication, education, and outreach about sustainability goals and practices
 - c. Complete streets and neighborhoods
 - d. Increased Energy efficiency and renewable energy – {WAITING ON GHG RESULTS FROM ECOWORKS TO INCLUDE PROGRESS MADE FROM 2012 CAP}
 - e. Disaster preparedness and response to climate change
3. Provide data/context for each major topic – what the trends in Michigan/the region, why is this important for sustainability/how does it help improve the city/resident's lives
4. Then create the matrix with the actions
 - a. There is a lot to include in the matrix so some of the information may need to be presented in a different way, but I think it's at least helpful now to add all of this information into one place
 - b. Key accountable agency can be filled in by the City if we are not sure who to add

Sustainability Alignment/Intersectionality	Action	Source	Adaptation/Mitigation	Key Accountable Agency	Funding/financing source



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



\$1.5M Recycling Quality Improvement Grant Opportunity

Reminder to register for January 16 informational webinar

We are reaching out to let you know about funding opportunities to improve recycling programs in your community.

Together with the national nonprofit [The Recycling Partnership](#), the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is offering a new 2020 grant opportunity totaling \$1.5 million to communities seeking to improve material quality in residential curbside and drop-off recycling programs.

The grant [request for proposals \(RFP\)](#) was released on Monday, Jan. 6. Applications are due **Friday, Feb. 28, 2020**.

Any Michigan municipality, township, county or regional authority representing a group of communities currently operating a curbside and/or drop-off recycling program is eligible for up to \$150,000 per grant application. Funding may be used for cart tagging, education and communication, social media, signage, and other tactics aimed at reducing contamination.

These grants will help build on the success of the award-winning [Know It Before You Throw recycling education campaign](#) that EGLE launched last year to better inform Michiganders on what can – and cannot – be recycled and how to recycle correctly.

To inform stakeholders and answer questions about this grant opportunity, The Recycling Partnership and EGLE staff will host a webinar **Thursday, Jan. 16 from 10 to 11 a.m. EST**.

[Register for the webinar](#)

[View a Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

Please direct questions about the Recycling Quality Improvement Grant to Cassandra Ford at The Recycling Partnership: cford@recyclingpartnership.org or 785-840-4048.

Thank you for your consideration of this opportunity to partner with us.

EGLE Recycling Team
Materials Management Division
Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Dear A²Zero Partners –

Thank you for your continued support of the A²Zero initiative and the Ann Arbor community's climate neutrality work. A launched the second phase of the A²Zero initiative: **Initial Prioritization**, a few weeks ago and we could use your help word out. That said, please share the following three opportunities with your network at your earliest convenience:

1. We have launched the second of three **Public Input Surveys** and appreciate your help to reach as many pe possible. The survey can be found at a2zero.org and [here](#).
2. We are preparing for our second **Ann Arbor Carbon Neutrality Town Hall** at Pioneer High School on Febru 12 pm – 5 pm. We appreciate your help encouraging people to register for the event [here](#).
3. Michigan Environmental Justice Summit 2020 (see below). Please let your network know about this exciting

If you need anything else, have any questions, or if you'd like to schedule a joint event with the Office of Sustainability please let us know. Thanks all and happy 2020 (It's going to be a great decade)!

- Office of Sustainability and Innovations

Missy Stults
Sustainability and Innovations Manager
City of Ann Arbor

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan** <seas-alumni@umich.edu>

Date: Mon, Jan 20, 2020 at 8:53 AM

Subject: Michigan Environmental Justice Summit 2020

To: <amynov@umich.edu>

Thursday, February 13th



- **Rhiana Gunn-Wright**, Policy Director, New Consensus, an architect of the Green New Deal
- **Charles Lee**, Senior Policy Advisor, EPA, EJ pioneer and principal author of the landmark report, *Toxic Wa. Race in the United States*
- **Regina Strong**, Environmental Justice Public Advocate, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lake:

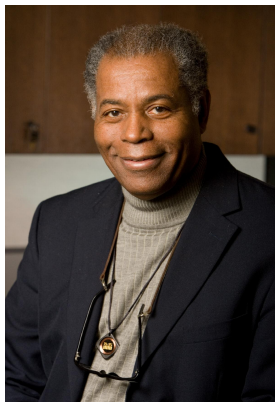
Moderated by:

- **Michelle Martinez (MS '08)**, SEAS Alumna, Coordinator, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, Detroit activist, speaker, writer and mother

Thursday, February 13, 2020
6:00 p.m. at Rackham Auditorium

[Reserve Free Tickets](#)

The 1990 “Michigan Conference on Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards,” organized by Bunyan Brya Mohai, helped to springboard environmental justice as a legitimate academic endeavor, and sparked high-level gov meetings. These meetings contributed to President Bill Clinton signing the Executive Order “Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” and a special task force by the EPA.



Professor Bunyan Bryant



Professor Paul Mohai



School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan | 440 Church St., Samuel T. Dana Building, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1041

[Unsubscribe](#) amynov@umich.edu

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Resolution No. 2019-100

November 11, 2019

WHEREAS, THE Sustainability Commission has not yet adopted a formal resolution procedure; and,
WHEREAS, the absence of a formal procedure has caused confusion for the Commission in the past; and,
WHEREAS, a formal resolution procedure would reduce confusion and improve the communication process; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Commission will adopt the following resolution procedure:

1. An idea is drafted into a formal Resolution by no more than a quorum of Commissioners
2. A Commissioner makes a request to the Chair to add the Resolution to a future meeting agenda
3. The Commissioner provides the Commission with a formal first reading of the Resolution at the next scheduled meeting
4. The Commission will then discuss the Resolution
5. The Commissioner again will request the Resolution be added to a future agenda
6. The Commissioner of Committee will take the necessary time to update the Resolution as needed
7. The Resolution will be circulated for formal review as necessary
8. The Resolution is formally presented by the Commissioner again for a second reading at the next scheduled meeting
9. The Commission will again discuss the Resolution
10. The Commission will then vote on the Resolution and/or choose to return it to the Commissioner or Committee for further changes
11. Once all changes have been made, the Resolution will be presented at the next scheduled meeting
12. A majority vote will result in the Resolution being presented to Council for consideration by a Commission member or our Council liaison
13. If the Resolution does not pass at the Commission it may be considered again in the future if a majority of the Commission is in agreement

Resolution No. 2019-010



Resolution No. 2020-002
December 2020-01-13

RESOLVED BY THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION:

WHEREAS, native plants are localized, well adapted to the local soils and climate, tend to be more insect and disease resistant, and require less watering and fertilizing than non-native plants; and

WHEREAS, wildlife such as birds are more attracted to the Native Plants with which they coevolved, and use such plants for food, cover, and rearing their young; and

WHEREAS, native plants, having evolved in the climate, are extremely hardy and therefore have lower maintenance and replacement costs; and

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ypsilanti shall make every reasonable effort to use native plants on properties owned by the City, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council will instruct the Planning Commission to update the City Zoning Ordinances to reflect support of native plants, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council will instruct the Administrative Hearings Bureau to disregard native plant blight violations until the Zoning Ordinance is updated, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainability Commission will make every effort to educate and empower residents with the goal of transitioning private properties to include native plants.

OFFERED BY: Commissioner Michalowski

SUPPORTED BY: _____

YES:

NO:

ABSENT:

VOTE: