



AGENDA
ATHENS ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024 AT 6:00 PM

- 1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum**
- 2. Disposition of Minutes**
 - July 3, 2024
- 3. Old Business**
 - Compost (review draft resolution)
 - Sustainability resources for the website
 - Council of Governments
- 4. New Business**
- 5. Announcements & Other Business**
 - Next meeting: September 4, 2024
- 6. Adjournment**

The City of Athens supports the Americans with Disabilities Act. Requests for reasonable accommodation may be made with the ADA Coordinator in the City Building or by calling 592-3367.

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

[Environment and Sustainability Commission | Athens, OH - Official Website](#)

Resources // References:

[Climate Emergency Resolution](#)

[Sustainability Action Plan](#)

[Sustainability Action Plan -- 2018 update](#)

3 July, 2024

Solid Waste Contract Services

Attendance:

Members - Aimee Delach, Beth Clodfelter, Daniel Bell Moran, Ed Newman, Molly Jo Stanley, Nichole Mazzone, Shane Benton

Guest: None

Call to order 6:05

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order -**
- 2. Disposition of Minutes** from June meeting
- 3. Old Business –**
 - a. Shade trees**
 - b. Pollinators**
 - c. Sustainability resources for the website**
 - d. Council of Governments**
- 4. New Business**
 - a. Compost**
- 5. Announcements**
- 6. Adjourn**

Motion to approve minutes:

Beth motions; Aimee seconds; all in favor; motion passes

Old Business:

- a. Shade Trees:

Reviewed last month's meeting minutes

Code Amendment requiring to replant if you have a healthy Tree removed

Beth mentioned Sunnyside Shrub removal; wonders about a provision regarding Shrub and other Plants

Is there a provision regarding Native Plant species? Aimee suggests Native to Southeastern Ohio with wider (Southern) range for sourcing southern adapted rootstock

Aimee will follow up with Sam

b. Pollinators:

Reviewed Pollinator Pathways planning

Not supporting “No Mow May”, rather to apply for Pollinator Pathways program, Leave the Lions, Leave the Leaves

c. All E&S Commission members encouraged to add resources to [dropbox](#) for website

d. Council of Governments // Compost

Parcel fee may not pass; option for securing our regional materials recovery and composting facility (AHRC) seems limited. If we lost AHRC facility, City of Athens composting goals severely diminish

Concern over the City of Athens rescinding commitment to compost services

Concerns about Rumpke from community – Rumpke flatbed truck (compost truck?) transferring material into dumpster truck – not sure what was happening but it seemed potentially problematic

Many complaints about Rumpke from the community (especially pertaining to materials meant for recovery – couches, mattresses in great condition sent to landfill “taking away materials from our rural communities who depend on them”)

How is compost being tracked and measured (is Rumpke or AHRC tracking how much organic material is being sent to AHRC?)

Beth said there is an amendment requiring Rumpke to uphold curbside composting program (for life of contract?)

Is there any language to address what happens to composting program if we lose local composting facility?

Who are the primary purchasers of AHRC finished compost (farmers and gardeners)? Does that have sway over City of Athens decisions?

Molly Jo will share draft of resolution with Commission for editing

Announcements:

Solar Power Social Hour 5-7 at Little Fish on August 7th (Aimee speaking)

Next Meeting on August 7th at 6:00 pm

Will move location to Little Fish Brewing

Shane motions to adjourn; Beth seconds; all in favor; meeting adjourned

The Athens Environment & Sustainability Commission urges the City of Athens Administration to renew its commitment to achieving 80% organics landfill diversion through the support and facilitation of city wide composting services as outlined in the Athens Sustainability Action Plan and 2020 Municipal Refuse, Composting and Recycling Collection Agreement.

WHEREAS the City desires to become a Zero Waste community; a sustainability-focused waste management plan is integral to the overall success of the commitment to reducing solid waste and increasing waste diversion

WHEREAS the City defines sustainability as **the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs**

WHEREAS the goal of the (2020 launched) Curbside Composting Program (stated on the City of Athens webpage) "is to divert compostable waste material from the landfill. A typical American family's trash includes up to 30% compostable material. This organic material can be used again, but instead is sent to the landfill where it is no longer usable and contributes to greenhouse gasses such as methane. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States."

WHEREAS, the City [2020 MUNICIPAL REFUSE, COMPOSTING AND RECYCLING COLLECTION AGREEMENT](#) included a robust plan to achieve composting goals.

WHEREAS, the City [2023 Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Agreement](#) eliminated language and plans for achieving composting goals.

WHEREAS, the Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District (AHSWD) elects to be a founding member of a regional council of governments with the core purpose on a regional scale, to implement solid waste collection, reuse, recycling processing and safe disposal related to solid waste, landfill diversion, while creating a more circular economy in order to create a cleaner, safer, and better place to live in the southeast Ohio.

WHEREAS, Athens City Council, [Ordinance 0-53-24](#), authorizes Mayor Steve Patterson to join the Southeast Ohio Recycling Terminal Council of Governments (SORT).

The City of Athens Environment and Sustainability Commission urges the City of Athens Administration to reestablish a long-term plan in partnership with regional programming and infrastructure designed to meet these goals.

The Athens Environment and Sustainability Commission recommends that City Council and Administration ensure that the solid waste contract maintains high standards of waste diversion, sustainability, and the "triple bottom line" [profit, people and the planet], in accordance with Athens' sustainability goals, as outlined in the Athens Sustainability Action Plan and the Climate Emergency Declaration [Athens City Council Resolution R-02-20; WHEREAS Statement reading: "Athens can act as a global leader through initiating an emergency Climate Mobilization **to convert to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative local economy at emergency speed**, as well as advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis." (emphasis added)]