

Agenda
Sustainability Commission
December 9, 2024 – 7:00 P.M.
City Hall - 1 S Huron St, Ypsilanti

Beth Gibbons	P	A
Julia Bayha	P	A
Bryan Foley	P	A
Nancy Heine	P	A
Takunia Collins	P	A
Liz Ratzloff	P	A
Shannon Baer	P	A
Paula Sizemore, Chair	P	A
Erik McCleary	P	A

- **Approval of Minutes**
 - November 2024

- **Audience Participation**
 - *Open for general public comment. Please limit to five minutes.*

- **Community Resilience Hub**
 - Report out
 - *Zines summarizing community needs were gathered Input on resources needed by the unhoused community*
 - Input on resources needed by the unhoused community were gathered
 - More will be done to continue thinking about/acting on how to continue the work
 - We talked about adding things to a Pattern Book
 - Subcommittee Formation on the root cause of these issues
 - Paula will send emails to all commissioners to inquire about ongoing discussions

- **Update to Fleet Policy**
 - Suggested lifting up hybrid vehicles in policy. First responder vehicles will be hybrids and vehicles ordinance,
 - Reviewed policy, clarified reinvestment into fleet for ongoing maintenance.

- **Earth Day April 2025 Updates (EDY/5)**
 - Earth Day Weekend April 26 - 27, 2025
 - 48197/48198
 - High school
 - Willow Run Acres activity at Chapelle
 - Parkridge Event
 - Something at Riverside –??
 - Ypsilanti Pride Board
 - MESS
 - EMU Activity??

- City-wide activities?
 - Growing Hope (?)
 - Office of Engage (EMU) Bright Futures/SEMIS
 - Interfaith Council on Peace and Justice
 - YDL
 - Senior Center in Rec Park with focus on green infrastructure
 - Community-wide Earth Day Programming
 - Notice to Superior, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township
 - Music screening
 - Bee City Materials, other Ypsilanti green infrastructure, native lawns, etc
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 - Earth Day Food Truck -
 - How do we do this as ZERO waste and without exhaust.
 - Music event
 - Potential performers
 - Hosting events out in 48197/48198 - eg Clay Hill
 - If we could find some indigenous Indians around here! We could welcome them too.
- **Actions:**
 - Search for conflicts with surrounding communities
 - Develop event summary
 - Develop a draft budget
 - Create sign-up form for community events
 - Share with Tom
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- **Staff Report/Updates**
 - Green Communities Challenge - reopening in January
 - Submitting a grant to electrify the cities fleet
 - 2025 - 2026 acceleration to action
 - Clean Fuel Policy
- **Filling Commission Seats**
 - Provided approved letter to YCS NHS student groups to fill youth seats
 - Students expect some compensation.
 - Sustainability Commissioner Seat/Nominations
- **Reports (Commissioners & Council Liaison)**
 - Commission members provided updates on activities across the community.
 - Make a budget request to Council as soon as possible for any Earth Day events
 - The Council is trying to improve the process for moving things more quickly.
 - We were going to review ordinances around lawns and stuff like that; Council wants to send guidance to Commission to work on lawn blowers.
- **Nancy Heine**
- City of Ypsilanti must have a court, we need to have a representative; We need to keep public health, CMH, and Court
- Luxwall Company - They develop energy efficient glass for companies; They're right here! We should promote them and talk them up. They're talking about building a huge plant in Detroit; Their corporate offices are right here. Company highlight!

- U-M to open a major research center, building a \$1.2Billion state-of-the-art facility, Los Alamos Lab
- TC Collins query about funding/grant:
- Beth: Grant used to strengthen resilience hub (located outside of City) serves broader Ypsilanti, another grant opportunity Partners to Places, will send Bonnie information about that. From the County desk - grant was hired to be the new racial equity officer for the County.

- End of Year reporting

Notes:

Upcoming Meeting Topics

- Early 2025 - Pollinators, lawn care, ecosystem changes
- *JustTransition or MAJIC (Green Jobs)*
- Ann Arbor 2030 District
- Update on County resources/location
- Michigan Medicine Updates

Alternative Fuel Policy

Effective Date: [Insert Date]

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to promote the use of sustainable energy sources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by integrating electric vehicles and clean diesel fuel into our fleet and operations. This policy outlines the guidelines and objectives for the adoption and management of electric and clean diesel vehicles, ensuring an environmentally responsible and economically viable transition.

Scope:

This policy applies to all departments and employees involved in the procurement, operation, and management of company vehicles and equipment. It covers vehicles operated directly by the city, including cars, trucks, and heavy machinery.

Definitions:

- **Electric Vehicles (EVs):** Vehicles powered entirely by electricity stored in batteries. They produce zero tailpipe emissions.
- **Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEVs):** are fueled with liquid fuels, like gasoline, but use small batteries to recapture energy otherwise lost during braking (ultimately boosting fuel economy)
- **Clean Diesel Fuel:** Diesel fuel that meets or exceeds advanced emission standards and is formulated to produce lower emissions of pollutants compared to conventional diesel fuel.

Policy Objectives:

1. **Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Decrease the city's carbon footprint by increasing the share of electric vehicles and utilizing clean diesel fuel.
2. **Enhance Air Quality:** Minimize air pollution by transitioning to cleaner fuel alternatives.
3. **Promote Energy Efficiency:** Leverage the efficiency of electric and clean diesel vehicles to reduce overall energy consumption.
4. **Support Sustainable Practices:** Encourage practices that align with environmental sustainability.

Guidelines:

1. **Fleet Transition:**
 - **Electric Vehicles:** Gradually increase the percentage of electric vehicles in the city's fleet. Prioritize the replacement of older, less efficient vehicles with EVs during regular fleet renewal cycles.
 - **Hybrid Vehicles:** Where electric vehicles may not be practical or may be unavailable, replace ICE vehicles with hybrids as appropriate for the task.

Alternative Fuel Policy: Electric and Clean Diesel Integration

- **Clean Diesel Vehicles:** When electric or hybrid options are not feasible, opt for vehicles that use clean diesel technology to reduce emissions compared to traditional diesel engines.

2. Procurement:

- **Vehicle Selection:** Evaluate and select vehicles based on their tasks, environmental impact, fuel efficiency, and total cost of ownership. Prefer EVs where suitable and hybrid or clean diesel vehicles for applications where EVs are not practical.
- **Exceptions:** When Clean Diesel and electric vehicle options are not suitable, vehicles will be evaluated for their effective use in the city. This evaluation will include, but is not limited to, Emergency vehicles, and Specialized fleet vehicles. Choice of vehicle will be done to maximize utility, budget, efficiency, and air quality

3. Infrastructure Development:

- **Charging Stations:** Install and maintain electric vehicle charging infrastructure at city facilities to support the adoption and use of EVs.
- **Maintenance and Support:** Develop maintenance procedures for electric and clean diesel vehicles to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

Responsibilities:

- **Fleet Manager:** Oversee the implementation of this policy, including vehicle procurement, infrastructure development, and maintenance.
- **Employees:** Adhere to the guidelines for operating and maintaining electric and clean diesel vehicles and participate in training programs.

Review and Amendments: This policy will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary to reflect changes in technology, regulations, and organizational goals. Feedback from employees and stakeholders will be considered during the review process.

Approval: [Insert Name]

[Insert Title]

[Insert Date]