



## **2025.02.05 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA:**

February 5, 2025

Municipal Building 15 South College Ave. Oxford, Ohio 45056 First Floor Conference Room

7:00 PM

Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Chantel Raghu, Vice-Chair and City Council Representative; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Anna Abey; Jim Vinch; Michael Vanni  
Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator

### **Approval of Agenda**

### **Approval of Minutes**

1. Approval of the December 4th, 2024 Minutes
2. Approval of the December 19th, 2024 Worksession Summary

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

1. Earth Day 2025 Proclamation
2. Arbor Day 2025 Proclamation
3. Member Updates:
  - City Council
  - OPTAB
  - OCASC
  - Planning Commission
4. Staff Updates
  - 2025 Goals and 2026 Areas to Research
  - Recycle with the Redhawks on Feb 11

### **Adjournment**



**MINUTES**  
**OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**MUNICIPAL BUILDING 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE. OXFORD, OHIO 45056**  
**FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024 AT 7:00 PM**

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**Approval of Agenda**

The Environmental Commission members present were Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Anna Abey; Jim Vinch. Staff Liason present was Reena Murphy.

Motion to approve the agenda: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous approval

**Approval of Minutes**

1. Approval of the October 2nd 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Peggy

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Vote: Unanimous approval

**Old Business**

**New Business**

1. Energy Improvement Matters (Bruce Everly + Anna Abey)

Bruce Everly, CEO of Energy Improvement Matters (EIM), spoke to the commission. EIM recently relocated to Oxford and is based out of the College at Elm building. EIM specializes in renewable energy and securing grants for farmers and small and rural businesses from the USDA and Treasury. He mentioned that Oxford is considered Rural by the USDA and distressed by the Treasury, so there are additional funding opportunities for local businesses.

## 2. Next Steps: Closed Landfill

Staff presented ownership models for the closed landfill to the commission. A memo discussing the ownership models and next steps is attached. The commission felt there were too many unknowns to make a recommendation between the models, but would be content with any ownership model, so long as we can maximize the landfill's solar generation capacity. The commission recommended a broad RFP for the landfill, open to all three models.

The commission also had a discussion about renewable energy credits and the nuances of off-site renewable energy and who would get RECs from a project.

## 3. Potential for Hazardous Waste Drop Off

The commission expressed interest in a hazardous waste drop-off day with Butler County in 2025, possibly in conjunction with Sharefest. Staff shared they will explore cost estimates and recommended the commission consider it for the 2026 actions.

## 4. Member Updates:

- City Council
- Planning Commission
- OPTAB
- OCASC

City Council and Planning Commission did not have updates. OPTAB shared that there was a public meeting for planning the Northern Arc of OATS. OPTAB's recommendation will go to council on December 17th. OCASC met with Sam Perry, Director of Community Development, about how to incorporate the CAP goals into the zoning code rewrite and emphasized the vulnerability for flooding and stormwater runoff.

## 5. Staff Updates

- Quarterly Update from the Environmental Division

Staff shared the quarterly update from the Environmental Division, highlighting the emissions reduction of the methane flare. Staff also shared that the City is working with consultants to pursue the Advanced Energy Fund. Lastly, the City received a grant from OKI for the installation of EV chargers.

## Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Bracken

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Vote: Unanimous

The commission adjourned at 8:30pm.



**MINUTES**  
**OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**OXFORD LANE LIBRARY, HAVIGHURST ROOM**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024 AT 9:30 AM**

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**Approval of Agenda**

Members of the Environmental Commission present: Jon Ralinovsky, City Council Representative; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Jim Vinch

Members of the Climate Action Steering Committee present: Sandi Woy Hazelton, David Prytherch, City Council Member; Jason Bracken, City Council Member; Ann Kaufman Webster, Planning Representative; Peggy Branstrator, Environmental Commission Representative; Olivia Herron, Miami University Representative

Staff Present: Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator

Member of Public Present: Areej Mirza, Campus Climate Action Corp Member

A quorum of both committees were present. Mr. Ralinovsky chaired the meeting.

Motion to approve the agenda: Mr. Ralinovsky 2nd: Mr. Prytherch Vote: Unanimous approval

**Approval of Minutes**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

1. Overview of 2023 Local Government Operations GHG Inventory

Ms. Murphy shared a presentation of Oxford's local government operations (LGO) gross emissions. Slides from the presentation are attached. She discussed:

- The goals and guidelines to achieve zero emissions by 2045
- Emissions by sector

- Sites of facilities that were the highest gross emitters
- Current emissions reductions
- Key actions that reduced emissions

## 2. Recommendations for 2026

The commissions participated in a collaborative workshop for identifying and prioritizing actions for 2026. The top 3 recommendations for 2026 include:

1. Installing solar at the Water and/or Wastewater Treatment Plants
2. Installing an additional methane flare at the closed landfill
3. Explore revising the parking fee structure to support multimodal / alternative transportation

Motion to formally recommend the top 3 actions for Council's consideration: Mr. Ralinovsky

Second: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous approval

### Workshop detailed outcomes:

The commissions ideated actions and prioritized ideas for each of the following sectors: Energy, Transportation and Fleet, Resilience, Water and Wastewater, Solid Waste, Carbon Sequestrations/ Ecosystems.

The commission identified a #1 priority per sector and an overall top 3 among all sectors.

### *Energy*

Commit to achieving energy demands with locally generated renewable energy / onsite solar (Sector #1, related to overall #1)

Work on energy efficiency at the police station  
Install solar of waste water plant  
In 2025 analyze solar center capacity of city owned lands (GIS analysis)  
Solarize city buildings and properties  
Join SOPEC  
Install solar at city hall, Library, WWT plant, Seniors center, Police station.  
Regional aggregation agreements

### *Transportation and Fleet*

Parking Changes, i.e. limit the number of permits per resident (Sector #1, overall #3)

Expand city transportation bus/more vans

Electrify fleet

Change parking requirements in zoning code

Work toward no storage of private vehicles on public properties

Improve bike/pedestrian access

Parking fees into carbon offsets

### *Resilience*

Create stormwater Utility and eval best way to in stormwater fee (Sector #1)

Increase use of rain gardens on city property to reduce run-off from rain events

Develop and enforce policies to require maintenance of retention/ detention basins to make sure they continue to function effectively

Encourage use of rain gardens on private property to reduce flooding  
Launch stormwater action plan

### *Solid Waste*

More Flares + Improve methane flare at the landfill (Sector #1 and overall #2)  
Hazardous waste disposal/ pickup  
Ordinance for apartment/ multi-unit recycling  
Adopt ordinance requiring apartment or multi-family recycling

#### *Water and Wastewater*

Solarize WW and WT facilities (Sector and overall #1)  
Green infrastructure with long term goal of stormwater/ rain tax  
Study of Increased energy load from water softening  
Study energy use at wastewater plant  
Better use of methane at WTP

#### *Carbon Sequestration / Ecosystems*

Native plantings instead of turf on city properties (sector #1)  
Launch a robust street tree planting plan

#### Discussions included:

The commission clarified what lens (emissions reduction, general sustainability, cultural) to prioritize actions. Staff recommended prioritizing actions based on their potential to reduce emissions and make progress towards the 2030 emission reduction targets.

The commission discussed the future of Oxford's electric aggregation program and the big picture goal to have the program supplied by locally generated renewable energy. Staff shared that SOPEC shares the same long term goal and Oxford will reconsider joining in Q1 2025.

Ms. Heron shared an idea modeled after OSU's parking legislation in order to create parking permits to reduce the amount of cars in each house to 2. Mr Bracken discussed the potential political pushback of the idea and the unlikelihood of the proposal being implemented. However, by increasing costs of parking there is a potential avenue where these funds can be redirected to supporting alternative modes of transportation.

Mr. Ralinovsky asked if there were plans for more EV purchases in order to reduce vehicle fleet emissions. Ms. Murphy shared that the Engineering Division recently purchased an EV and that purchasing EVs is generally the city's preference. However, EVs are not included in the state purchasing contract. So, Oxford has run into supply chain issues that have prevented EV purchases in the past.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: Mrs. Kaufman Webster  
2nd: Mr. Bracken  
Vote: Unanimous approval

The workshop adjourned at 11:15am.

Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas: On April 22, 1970, United States Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin and Denis Hayes organized the first nation-wide day devoted to environmental awareness and education that was celebrated by an estimated 20 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, this day of environmental awareness and education is celebrated world-wide in some 180 countries, with the participation of over 4,000 separate organizations; and

WHEREAS, individuals and institutions have a mutual responsibility to seek ecological, economical and ethical choices that enable the world, as well as our individual communities, to establish and maintain sustainable societies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Snively, Mayor of the City of Oxford, Ohio, do hereby proclaim that on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, the City of Oxford will recognize and participate in the national and international celebration of:

“EARTH DAY”

I urge all citizens to celebrate Earth Day and to remind each person of their right and responsibility to the wise use of this global home, to heal, preserve and improve the Earth and the quality of life for this and future generations, and to approach every day as an Earth Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Oxford to be affixed this *XX day of March/April, 2025.*

(NOTE: appropriate date will be added above by the Clerk of Council)

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WILLIAM SNAVELY, MAYOR

Office of the Mayor

## Proclamation

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than one million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, trees can produce oxygen, provide habitat for wildlife, reduce the erosion of our precious top-soil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperatures, clean the air, and help to absorb rainwater and slow the velocity of storm water runoff; and

WHEREAS, trees are a resource providing us with wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, paper, and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS, associated with the management of the some 3,640 street, park, and public trees in the community, the City of Oxford has fulfilled the national Arbor Day Foundation's requirements for "Tree City USA" for twenty nine consecutive years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Snavelly, Mayor of the City of Oxford, Ohio, Tree City USA, do hereby proclaim that on April 25, 2025, the last Friday of the month, the City of Oxford will recognize and participate in the national and international celebration of:

### "ARBOR DAY"

I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Oxford to be affixed this **XXth day of March/April, 2025.**

(NOTE: Clerk of Council will insert appropriate date above)

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WILLIAM SNAVELLY, MAYOR