



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA:

August 6, 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; Jim Vinch; Michael Vanni; Ken Vincent

Reena Murphy

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

1. June 4th Meeting Minutes
2. June 17th Meeting Minutes
3. Summary of the July 2nd 2025 Meeting

Old Business

New Business

1. 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator)
2. Green Umbrella Climate Action Fellowship Presentation (Kate Kozak, Climate Action Fellow)
3. Member Updates:
City Council
OPTAB
Planning Commission
OCASC
4. Staff Updates

Adjournment



MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Municipal Building 15 South College Ave. Oxford, Ohio 45056 First Floor Conference Room
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Environmental Commission members present were Chantel Raghu, Jason Bracken, Peggy Branstrator, Anna Abey, Jim Vinch, and Michael Vanni. A quorum was present. Staff member liaison present was Reena Murphy. Members of the public present were Green Umbrella Fellows Kate Kozak and Oluwaseun Olubodun, and Kethan Babu with the Oxford Free Press.

Motion to Approve the Agenda: Ms. Branstrator
2nd: Mr. Vinch
Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the May 7th Meeting Minutes

Motion: Ms. Branstrator
2nd: Mr. Vinch
Vote: Unanimous approval

2. Approval of the May 13th Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. Vinch
2nd: Ms. Raghu
Vote: Unanimous approval

Old Business

New Business

1. 2025 Goals YTD Update

Staff provided an update on the YTD progress on the 2025 goals. The powerpoint with detailed updates is attached. There was some discussion regarding requiring all events using city properties to be zero waste, just city lead events, or events that reach a certain threshold. There was not consensus among the commission regarding a zero waste requirement, however, the commission supports the city continuing to try to make their own events zero waste. The commission also supports the city continuing to work on the solarizing the closed landfill.

2. 2026 Areas to Research

Staff presented the research conducted on the 2026 Areas to Research, adopted by Council. The powerpoint with detailed research is attached. In December of 2024, during a joint session of EC and OCASC, the commissions voted on the following priorities for research:

1. Solarizing WTP and WWTP
2. Additional flare(s) at the closed landfill
3. Revising Parking Fee to support Alt. Transit

At the end of the presentation, staff requested the commission identify their top 2-3 projects for 2026 to recommend to City Council for implementation. Ultimately, the commission voted to recommend the 2026 priorities for implementation to be:

1. Solarizing our water and wastewater infrastructure. Specifically looking at the Seven Mile Well Field.
2. Adding an additional methane flare to the closed landfill
3. Implementing a hazardous waste drop day in Oxford.

Motion to recommend the above project priorities to council: Mr. Bracken

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Vote: 4-2

There was discussion among the commission if the third project should be a hazardous waste drop day or a grant to incentivize furnished apartments. Specifically, there was a discussion of furnishing mattresses, as they are difficult to divert from the landfill. Revising the parking fee is not recommended by staff at this time, as the parking garage will not be paid off until 2029.

3. Member Updates

- City Council
- OPTAB
- Planning Commission
- OCASC

Ms. Raghu shared that City Council has approved funding for the next segment of the OATS trail. Mr. Bracken shared that Planning Commission had a work session regarding the code rewrite. Ms. Branstrator shared that OCASC had a work session regarding Oxford's updated GHG Inventory.

Mr. Vinch shared a complaint he received from a community member regarding litter at fast food establishments in Oxford.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous approval

The commission adjourned at 8:30pm.



**MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025 AT 12:00 PM**

Approval of Agenda

Environmental Commission members present were Jon Ralinovsky, Chantel Raghu, Jason Bracken, Jim Vinch, and Michael Vanni. A quorum was present. Members of the public in attendance were Phil Leppla, Jennifer O'Donnell, and Ken Vincent. City staff present were Reena Murphy and Heather Barbour.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm.

Motion to approve the agenda: Ms. Raghu

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

Old Business

New Business

1. Public Hearing- Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council

Motion to open a public hearing: Ms. Raghu

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous approval

Phil Leppla, Deputy Director for Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC), presented SOPEC's Electric Aggregation Plan of Operation and shared about SOPEC as an organization.

SOPEC is a council of governments and membership is free to the City. SOPEC provides an alternative to private brokers for aggregation pricing and acts as a "shared energy office". Membership would provide Oxford with annual community grants, opportunities to collaborate with other municipalities for federal grant applications, legal assistance for energy projects, and

a vote on the council of governments.

He shared that SOPEC's aggregation program has a non-compete with AEP Energy. SOPEC and AEP Energy's Government Aggregation Master Retail Electric Supply Agreement requires AEP Energy to provide SOPEC with three market representative price quotes when providing new pricing for member communities to ensure transparency and competitiveness. SOPEC shared that they have negotiated full transparency from AEP Energy on price components.

SOPEC also has a call center with AEP Energy exclusively for SOPEC communities, improving customer service. Additionally, they work with AEP Energy to do quarterly "refreshes" of the aggregation program.

SOPEC uses 100% renewable energy through renewable energy credits but have a long term goal to spur renewable energy generation in Ohio/our region.

Mr. Vinch asked about terms of aggregation contracts and if there is an advantage to entering into a 3 year agreement over a 1 year agreement. Mr. Leppla shared that historically longer terms provide a lower rate, however, that is not happening in the current market due to the volatility of energy prices. This volatility is industry wide, not unique to AEP or SOPEC.

Mr. Vincent also asked if the library would be included in the aggregation program. Mr. Leppla shared that small commercial accounts would be included in the aggregation program, but that the libraries and other public entities could participate in SOPEC's Public Pricing Program.

Mr. Vincent also asked when SOPEC was established. Mr. Leppla replied 2014.

Motion to close the public hearing: Ms. Raghu

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Vote: Unanimous approval

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Ms. Raghu

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous approval



MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE. OXFORD, OHIO 45056
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Members of the Environmental Commission present were: Jon Ralinovsky, Jim Vinch, and Michael Vanni. There was not quorum.
Staff present was Reena Murphy.
Members of the public present were Kate Kozak, Oluwaseun Olubodun, and Councilmember David Prytherch.

Approval of Minutes

1. June 4th Meeting Minutes

2. June 17th Meeting Minutes

Old Business

New Business

1. Exploration of recycling mandate for multi-family and commercial properties
Staff presented the research conducted on multi-family and commercial recycling mandates. Staff shared concerns with contamination and the ability to enforce a recycling mandate. Staff also relayed concerns from stakeholders regarding contamination and the space needed for recycling. Staff recommended pursuing a dumpster sharing ordinance to create the space needed for recycling, but to wait to implement a mandate until contamination and enforcement concerns could be addressed.

The commission supported a dumpster sharing ordinance in addition to a recycling mandate. The commission felt that a mandate would reduce contamination, as additional pick-up fees for contaminated recycling are an economic incentive to reduce contamination.

The commission expressed interest in a tiered approach to a multifamily recycling mandate, starting with large complexes and gradually requiring smaller complexes to provide recycling.

2. Member Updates

- City Council
- OPTAB
- Planning
- OCASC

3. Staff Updates

Staff provided a brief summary of the 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory results.

Adjournment