



**MINUTES**  
**OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**MUNICIPAL BUILDING 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE. OXFORD, OHIO 45056**  
**FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 AT 7:00 PM**

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**Approval of Agenda**

Members present were: Jon Ralinovsky, Chair; Jason Bracken, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Jim Vinch; Michael Vanni; Ken Vincent. A quorum was present.

Members of the public present were: David Prytherch, City Council Member; Annie Swift with Republic Services, and Aidan Cornue with Oxford Free Press.

Staff members present: Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator.

Motion to approve the agenda: Mr. Bracken  
2nd: Mr. Vanni  
Vote: unanimous approval

**Approval of Minutes**

1. Approval of the August 6th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes: Mrs. Branstrator  
2nd: Mr. Vincent  
Vote: Unanimous approval

**Old Business**

1. Commercial Recycling Mandate

Staff presented potential approaches to achieving City Council's goal of a commercial recycling mandate. Slides are attached.

The commission discussed the impact of recycling on the City's carbon neutrality goals. There was a split among the commission regarding matching resources to the mitigation potential.

Some felt that because recycling does not significantly reduce our emissions, we should focus on high-impact sectors. Others acknowledged that despite the emissions impact, recycling is a sustainable action, is frequently requested by the residents, and is something people can regularly engage with.

There were concerns from the commission that if the city pursued a pilot program, mandates would not be implemented later. Some members felt the pilot should be a voluntary phase and that there would be a scheduled mandate to take effect in a few years. Others felt the pilot was necessary to see what works and if the anti-contamination tactics could be scaled.

Recommendations to Council:

Motion to recommend dumpster sharing to City Council: Mr. Vanni

2nd: Mr. Vinch

Vote: Unanimous approval

#### Commercial and Mixed Use

Motion to recommend Approach 1: City-Wide Recycling Mandate with New Staff Support to Ensure Waste Diversion (Waste Czar): Mr. Vinch

2nd: Mr. Vanni

Vote: 0-6

Motion to recommend Approach 2: Blanket Mandate with No New Staff: Mr. Vinch

2nd: Mr. Vanni

Vote: 2-4

**Motion to recommend Approach 3: Pilot City Lead Shared Recycling (3 Locations) with No New Staff: Mr. Vincent**

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: 4-2

#### Multifamily Housing

Motion to recommend Approach 1: Tiered Approach with Current Staffing: Mr. Vinch

2nd: Mr. Vanni

Vote: 5-1

There was also a motion to recommend a pilot with a phased approach, ending with a requirement to implement a commercial recycling mandate in the future. Moved by: Mr. Vinch

2nd: Mr. Vanni

Vote: 5-1

## **New Business**

1. Member Updates:  
City Council  
Planning Commission

OPTAB  
Climate Action Steering Committee

Mr. Bracken shared that council had a work session on the city's solar projects. Mr. Ralinovski shared that OPTAB is hosting a Bike and Pedestrian Safety Engagement Session on September 17th. Ms. Branstrator shared that OCASC had a successful event with OKI and had 24 people in attendance. She also shared about a solar tour she is organizing on October 4-5th. No update from Planning Commission.

2. Staff Updates

Staff shared that there are two relevant class projects happening this semester:

- 1) A GIS analysis for walkability to public green spaces and OATS.
- 2) Revising Oxford's street tree list for trees native to North America and resilient to the projected climate.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Bracken

2nd: Ms. Branstator

Vote: Unanimous approval

The commission adjourned at 8:25pm.



Recycling Mandate Work Session

City Council

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025



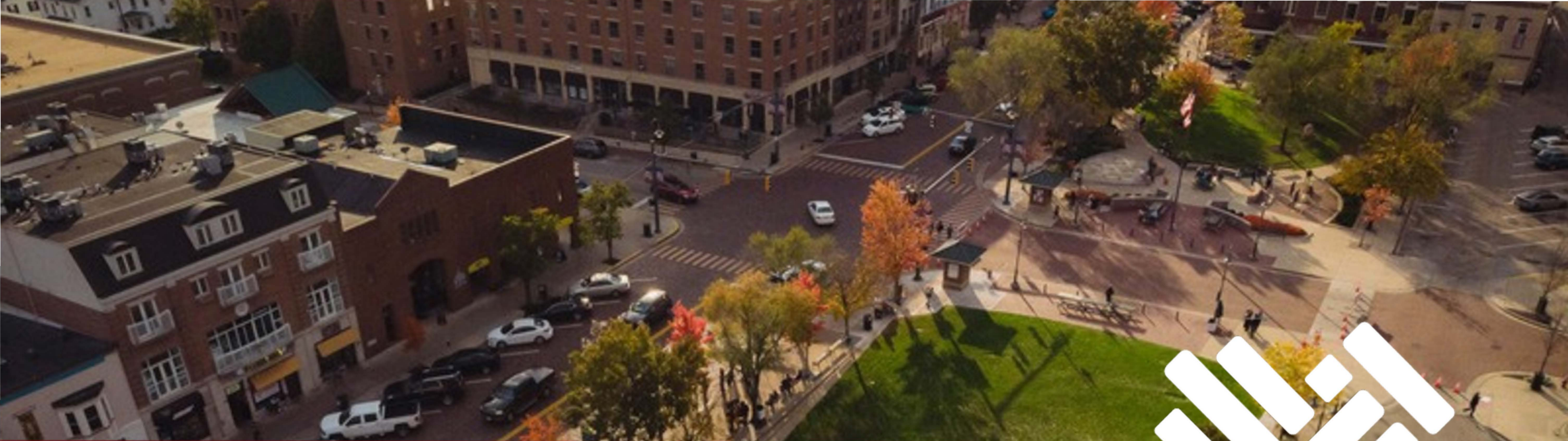
By June 2025 Staff and the Environmental Commission will review recycling mandate legislation for multi-family and commercial properties and make a recommendation to City Council.



# Agenda

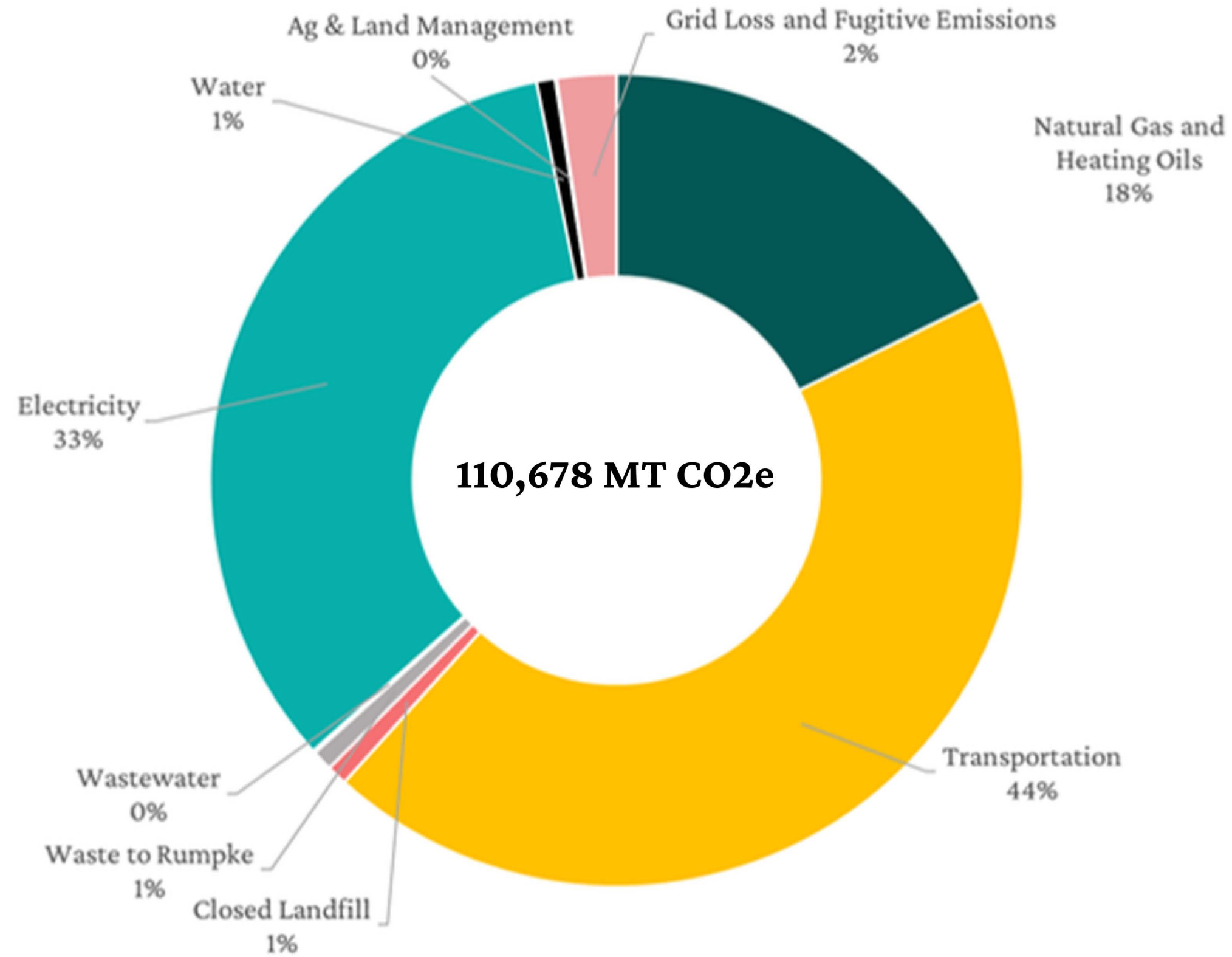
- Review of Current Conditions and Concerns
- Making Space for Recycling
- Commercial and Mixed-Use Approaches
- Multifamily Approaches
- Decisions and Recommendations





# CURRENT CONDITIONS AND CONCERNS

# 2023 Community Wide Emissions (Non-Technical Terms)



# Research

- 2022 Uptown Shared Recycling Study: Found not financially viable
- 2023 Graduate Student Project (PSP) for Multifamily Recycling: Recommended a tiered approach, starting with large complexes, once enforcement and anticontamination measures could be addressed
- 2025 Alley Capstone Class : Took a comprehensive view of our Alleys and made recommendations for waste management
- Discussions with peer communities: Kent, Bowling Green, Bexley
- Testimonials from property managers: Recycling was provided in the past but service stopped due to contamination (multiple property managers have shared a similar story)



# Current Conditions | Recycling, Trash, and Litter

## Recycling

- Residential buildings with <5 units have curbside recycling
- Free drop off recycling provided by the county at Ditmer and MU Culinary Support
- Limited recycling occurring Uptown
- Limited recycling occurring at apartment complexes

## Trash

- Some shared trash dumpsters / compactors are occurring Uptown
  - Skippers & the Den, A+ no issues
  - Other locations require more city involvement

## Litter

- City is utilizing community service for litter pick up, requires coordination



# Current Conditions | New Developments

Since 2014, new developments are required to have space for recycling and trash. However, that space often ends up gets used for electric meters, etc. leading to inadequate space for waste management.



Regular



Move In

# Current Conditions | Staff Who Work with Solid Waste

## **Service**

Environmental Specialist

## **Finance**

Utility Specialist

Utility Specialist

## **Community Development**

Code Enforcement Officer

Code Enforcement Officer

## **City Management**

Engagement Specialist (PT)

Sustainability Coordinator



# Current Conditions



Behind The Woods



Alley behind CJ's



Recycling contamination



# Current Service Rates, Monthly

## 2 Cubic yards

- 1x week:
  - Trash: \$54.95
  - Recycling: \$48.25
  - Extra pick up: \$46.88
- 5x week:
  - Trash: \$245.53
  - Recycling: \$221.97
  - Extra pick up: \$46.88

## 8 Cubic yards

- 1x week:
  - Trash: \$180.36
  - Recycling: \$132.72
  - Extra pick up: \$69.67
- 5x week:
  - Trash: \$807.54
  - Recycling: \$610.52
  - Extra pick up: \$69.67



# Challenges for Recycling Mandate Implementation

- Space for recycling
- Contamination
- Enforcement





**MAKING SPACE  
FOR RECYCLING**

# Recommendation: Require Building Level Trash Dumpster Sharing

- Require dumpster sharing for structures with 5+ units (commercial or residential), in order to consolidate totes and make space for recycling.
- Build in exceptions if Rumpke cannot physically service a dumpster at specific locations.
- Billing would be based on a ratio of the current service. Generally, dumpster sharing leads to savings for businesses.
- Addresses Council Goal of alley beautification
- Staff impacts:
  - Finance Staff Time: Establishing split billing
  - Code Enforcement Staff Time: Limited impact
  - Education and Outreach: Communicating new requirement



# Recommendation: Require Building Level Trash Dumpster Sharing



Bella Place

# Discussion

## **Building Level Dumpster Sharing**

- Support
- Do not support

**Environmental Commission Recommendation:** Support (6-0)

**Staff Recommendation:** Support





# COMMERCIAL AND MIXED USE RECYCLING

# Property Impacts, Regardless of the Approach

- Space for a recycling container
- Knowledgeable staff regarding recycling / education of tenants
- Anti-contamination measures (optional, but highly encouraged)
  - I.e. locked recycling dumpsters
- Additional service fee for recycling
- Potential additional fees if recycling is contaminated



# Approach 1: City Wide Recycling Mandate with New Staff

## Support to Ensure Waste Diversion

- Utilize locked dumpsters to prevent contamination
- Ticket for litter, contamination, etc.
- Confirm recycling is available, right size, etc.
- Staff impact:
  - Finance Staff Time: 50 hrs to establish recycling accounts, 20 hrs for QC, and 20hrs monthly of customer support ~700 **unique** commercial accounts
  - Code Enforcement Staff Time: New part time position (Waste Czar) would be 20 hrs/week (~\$40k annually)
  - Education and Outreach: Communicating new requirement and anti-contamination education. Time unknown.
- Estimated costs:
  - \$40k annually for PT Waste Czar
  - \$5K annually for education and outreach

# Approach 2: Blanket Mandate with No New Staff

- Pass a blanket commercial recycling mandate and leave it to the businesses to figure out
- No contamination or enforcement mechanisms
- Staff impacts without account enrollment:
  - Finance Staff Time: Establishing accounts and customer support at current levels
  - Code Enforcement Staff Time: Ticket writing for overflow and litter at current levels
  - Education and Outreach: Communicating new requirements and anti-contamination education at current levels
- Staff impacts with account enrollment:
  - Finance Staff Time: 50 hrs to establish recycling accounts, 20 hrs for QC, and 20hrs monthly of customer support, ~700 **unique** commercial accounts
  - Code Enforcement Staff Time: Ticket writing for overflow and litter at current levels
  - Education and Outreach: Communicating new requirements and anti-contamination education at current levels
- Estimated costs:
  - Can be done within current city operations, but:
    - Tracking and enforcement will be limited
    - Responses will be complaint driven

# Approach 3: Pilot City Lead Shared Recycling (3 Locations) with No New Staff

- Would require agreements with private property owners
- Utilize locked dumpsters to prevent contamination
- Staff impact:
  - Finance Staff Time: Customer support
  - Code Enforcement Staff Time: Ensuring no dumping/ contamination
  - Education and Outreach: City Lead Partner coordination, anti-contamination education
- Estimated Cost:
  - Can be done within the current staffing levels



# Pilot Sites

- Would work with receptive businesses and property owners.
- **Rumpke will still need to access the locations for service availability**
  - **Anticipated obstacles: Powerlines, access, etc.**
- All Pilots would need a private-public agreement for trash and recycling
  - City would be the lease holder on the dumpsterd and split the billing
  - City would be responsible for site clean up, dumping, and contamination



# Discussion

## **Commercial and Mixed Use**

- Approach 1: City-Wide Recycling Mandate with New Staff Support to Ensure Waste Diversion (Waste Czar)
- Approach 2: Blanket Mandate with No New Staff
- Approach 3: Pilot City Lead Shared Recycling (3 Locations) with No New Staff

**Environmental Commission Recommendation:** Approach 3: Pilot (4-2)

**Staff Recommendation:** Approach 3: Pilot





# MULTI-FAMILY RECYCLING



# Approach 1: Tiered Approach with Current Staffing

- Do a multi-year rollout for recycling at multi-family properties. Example roll out could be:
  - Year 1: properties with 50 or more units
  - Year 2: properties with 14-49 units
  - Year 3: properties below 14 units
- A 2023 PSP Project recommended a tiered approach to multi-family recycling
- Staff impact:
  - Finance Staff Time: Customer support
  - Code Enforcement Staff Time: Ensuring no dumping/ contamination, right size recycling
  - Education and Outreach: Communicating new requirement and anti-contamination education
- Property Management Impact:
  - Key Distribution
  - Education and Outreach



# Approach 1: Tiered Approach

Address	Complex Name	Number of Units
615 Ogden Court	Oxford West Apartments	305
610 Oxford Commons	Oxford Commons	224
3770 Southpointe Parkway	Level 27	216
1562 Magnolia Dr.	Annex	202
5262 Brown Rd	Hawk's Landing	170
5081 Red Cloud Ct	Prime at Oxford	160
612/616/712 S. College Ave	Oxford Square Apartments	132
945 Arrowhead Dr.	The Verge	129
215/325 Foxfire Dr.	Fox & Hounds Apartments	108
5032 College Corner Pike	Parkview Arms	86
125 W. Spring St. (Billing address)	Gaslight Ave at Stewart Square	82
271 Reagan Place, Ste 103	Miami Preserve	70
5 E. Central Ave	Courtyards of Miami	62
201 E. Chesnut St.	Chestnut Place	46
701 W. Chestnut St.		42
305 S. Locust St.		40
5412/5422 College Corner Pike	Wintergreen Apartments	36
215 N. Beech St.	Robert's Apartments	34
518 S. Main St.	Village Green Apartments	32
5279 College Corner Pike		27
300-304 Brookview Court		24
125 W. Spring St. (Billing address)	Stewart Square	23
218 N. Poplar St.		23
141 W. High St.	Caroline Harrison	22

13 Complexes above 50 units



# Approach 2: Blanket Mandate With No New Staff

- Pass a blanket commercial recycling mandate and leave it to the multi-family properties to figure out
- No contamination or enforcement mechanisms
- Staff impacts:
  - Finance Staff Time: Establishing accounts and customer support at current levels
  - Code Enforcement Staff Time: Ticket writing for overflow and litter at current levels
  - Education and Outreach: Communicating new requirement and anti-contamination education at current levels
- Estimated costs:
  - Can be done within current city operations, but:
    - Tracking and enforcement will be limited
    - Responses will be complaint-driven



# Discussion

## **Multi-Family**

- Approach 1: Tiered Approach with Current Staffing
- Approach 2: Blanket Mandate With No New Staff

**Environmental Commission Recommendation:** Approach 1: Tiered (5-1)

**Staff Recommendation:** No action due to <1% carbon mitigation potential. Recommend focusing staff time and resources on high-impact sectors (Energy and Transportation)





**DISCUSSION  
AND DECISIONS**

# Summary

- **Building Level Dumpster Sharing**
  - **Support – Staff and EC Recommended**
  - Do not support
- **Commercial and Mixed Use**
  - Approach 1: City-Wide Recycling Mandate with New Staff Support to Ensure Waste Diversion (Waste Czar)
  - Approach 2: Blanket Mandate with No New Staff
  - **Approach 3: Pilot City Lead Shared Recycling (3 Locations) with No New Staff – Staff and EC Recommended**
- **Multi-Family**
  - **Approach 1: Tiered Approach with Current Staffing – EC Recommended**
  - Approach 2: Blanket Mandate With No New Staff
  - **No Action – Staff Recommended**

