



## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA:**

February 4, 2026

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

7:00 PM

Jason Bracken, Chair, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Jim Vinch, Vice-Chair and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Michael Vanni; Ken Vincent; Becky Mathers; Barbara Smyth  
Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator

### **Approval of Agenda**

### **Approval of Minutes**

1. Minutes from the December 3rd 2025 Environmental Commission meeting
2. Minutes from the January 16th Work Session with OCASC

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

1. Appointment of representatives to other boards:
  - OPTAB
  - OCASC
2. Electric Aggregation Program
3. Member Updates
  - City Council
  - Planning Commission
  - OPTAB
  - OCASC
4. Staff Update
  - Deer Program
  - Tree City USA
  - Callery Pear Tree Replacements



## Adjournment



**MINUTES**  
**OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**COLLEGE @ ELM BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025 AT 7:00 PM**

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**Approval of Agenda**

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

Staff present was Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator.

Members of the public present were: Barbra Smyth; Sandi Hoy Hazelton; David Gorchov; Wendi VanBuren, ODNR Urban Forester; J.D. Wulforst, Director of Institute for the Environment and Sustainability

Student project team members present were: Olive Abram, August Daugherty, Devante Harris, Kimmy Kasarcik, Jules Swope, and Sarah Dumyahn, Professor.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

Approval of the agenda: Mr. Backen

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Vote: Unanimous approval

**Approval of Minutes**

1. Approval of the November 5th 2026 Minutes

Motion: Mr. Vanni

2nd: Mr. Bracken

Vote: Unanimous approval

**Old Business**

**New Business**

1. Student Presentation: Recommended Changes to Oxford's Street Tree List

The student group shared their research and recommendations for changes to Oxford's Street Tree List. Following the presentation, key questions and discussion points included:

- Selecting a variety of trees with differing blooming windows for aesthetic purposes.
- Elm varieties, such as Pioneer Elm, are resistant but not immune to Dutch Elm Disease. It is still wise to follow the 10/20/30 rule and not plant Elms in clusters to prevent future issues.
- Climate projections included 40 and 80 years in the future.
- Utilizing the newly approved list as an opportunity for community education.
- Not every tree on the recommended list is Native to North America because many native trees are not projected to do well in future climate and urban environments.
- Pollination methods of the trees and if the City should be concerned about the pollination of fruit bearing trees.
- Deer resistance: if the recommended species grew quickly and were resistant to deer rubbing.

2. Appointment of Environmental Commission Chair and Vice Chair

The commission unanimously appointed Mr. Bracken as Chair and Mr. Vinch as Vice-Chair. Both Mr. Bracken and Mr. Vinch accepted the nominations.

Nomination of Mr. Bracken as Chair: Ms. Branstrator

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Mr. Bracken accepted the nomination.

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Nomination of Mr. Vinch as Vice-Chair: Mr. Vanni

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Mr. Vinch accepted the nomination.

Vote: Unanimous approval.

3. Member Updates

- City Council
- OPTAB
- Planning Commission
- OCASC

City Council shared updates regarding the solar array at the WWTP and the electric aggregation program. OPTAB shared they are anticipating a recommendation to City Council regarding bike and pedestrian safety plan in 2026. No updates from Planning Commission. OCASC received an update of 2025 Council Goals.

4. Staff Updates

Staff shared the final presentation times for another student presentation for access to public green spaces.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Bracken

2nd: Ms. Branstrator

Vote: Unanimous approval

The commission adjourned at 8:14pm.



**MINUTES**  
**OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**OXFORD LANE LIBRARY 441 S LOCUST ST. OXFORD OH 45056,**  
**HAVIGHURST ROOM**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026 AT 2:30 PM**

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**Approval of Agenda**

Environmental Commission members present were: Jason Bracken, Chair, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Peggy Branstrator; Michael Vanni; Ken Vincent; Becky Mathers; Barbara Smyth

Climate Action Steering Committee members present were: Sandi Woy Hazelton, Vice Chair; Jason Bracken, City Council Member; Ann Kaufman Webster, Planning Representative; Peggy Branstrator, Environmental Commission Representative; Olivia Herron, Miami University Representative.

A quorum of both boards was present.

Approval of the agenda

Motion: Mr. Vincent

2nd: Ms. Mathers

Vote: Unanimous approval

**Approval of Minutes**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

1. Review of 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventories

Staff provided a brief summary of the 2023 greenhouse gas inventory. Main takeaways are:

- Energy and transportation make up 95% of Oxford's community-wide emissions

- While we have seen a reduction in our community-wide emissions, Oxford is not on track to meet our 2030 reduction goals.
- Oxford is on track to reach it's 2030 emissions reduction goals for city operations.

## 2. Recommendations for 2027

For 2027, the boards participated in a brainstorming and prioritization activity. Itemized ideas are included below. The top 2 priorities identified were:

- 1) Develop incentives or frameworks for clean energy and energy efficiency for residential, non-profit, and commercial adoption (i.e. grants/rebates for energy upgrades, purchasing CO-OPs, etc.)
- 2) Increasing the number of electric and hybrid vehicles in the city's fleet

Motion to recommend energy incentives and fleet electrification to City Council for consideration in the 2027 areas to research: Mr. Vincent

2nd: Mrs. Woy-Hazelton

Vote: Unanimous approval

Ideas from the activity

### **Energy**

#### Energy incentives cluster (7 votes)

- City managed bulk solar purchase program -- public, commercial, gov/schools
- Develop a program of incentives for households to reduce carbon emissions. Possible projects: rooftop solar, geothermal, heat pumps, insulation, etc.
- Opportunities for solar within schools

#### Geothermal cluster (0 votes)

- Municipal District geothermal
- Geothermal -- Uptown geothermal district to balance system?
- Create a district geothermal project as feasible

#### Other (0 votes)

- Reduce city gas lawn equipment and transition to battery equipment as much as possible
- Begin researching microgrids in Oxford

Energy ideas not included in prioritization because they are in the 2026 project pipeline

- More EV Charging stations in town
- Public Fast Charging

## **Transportation**

### Car and Bike Share cluster (0 votes)

- Shared EV rental "zip-car"
- E-bike rentals
- Increase incentives for public transit and/or bikeshare

### Public transit cluster (0 votes)

- Rail-with-trail bike path to connect across OATS loop once complete for quicker bike transit
- Expand small van routes to all neighborhoods
- Work with BCRTA to increase public transit options to Cincinnati

## **Waste**

### Composting cluster (1 vote)

- Composting for schools
- High St. business composting
- Discounts for businesses who want to have compost pick up or drop off location w/ city hauler
- Compost bin incentive for residents to compost at their home (i.e. discount/rebate/etc)
- Require composting for large footprint residences
- Curbside compost collection

### Single Use Plastic cluster (0 votes)

- Single use plastic tax
- Plastic bag fee
- Create better pathways to get single-use bags to stakeholders (such as TOPSS) who need them
- Reduce plastic bag use
- Alternative ways to climate Styrofoam / plastic from restaurants

## **Water Systems**

### Stormwater cluster (1 vote)

- Promote stormwater management to reduce flood impacts in new and existing development
- Rethink curb installations
- Develop better stormwater management city-wide
- create a stormwater management master plan

Road salt cluster (1 vote)

- Reduce the use of road salt
- Explore eco-friendly road salt alternatives

## **Ecosystems / Carbon Sequestration**

Deer cluster (0 votes)

- Reduce deer population to protect forest / plant resources that sequester carbon
- Long standing internship @ city to monitor math, and focus on deer population

Native plants cluster (0 votes)

- Establish native riparian zones along creeks, rivers
- Encourage native plants at businesses / houses

Other (0 votes)

- Outlaw the use of neonicotinoids
- Bradford pear removal program - Pay property owners to remove and replace trees

Ideas not included in prioritization because they are in the 2026 project pipeline

- Include native species and trees projected for zone 7 on the approved tree list

## **Resilience**

- Require native plant types for all new construction (0 votes)
- Public education programming focused on sustainability (0 votes)
- Resilience hub for climate based impacts (0 votes)

## **Local Government Operations**

EV / Hybrid fleet cluster (6 votes)

- All hybrid gov vehicle fleet
- Electrify police fleet or require hybrids

Other (0 votes)

- Advocate for alternative use of tar & black sulfates in city repaving projects
- Start implementing zero waste in city departments

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Ms. Smyth

2nd: Mr. Vincent

Vote: Unanimous approval

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm