



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

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 reduce 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