



MINUTES
OXFORD ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING 15 SOUTH COLLEGE AVE. OXFORD, OHIO 45056
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026 AT 7:00 PM

Approval of Agenda

Members present include: Jason Bracken, Chair, Planning Commission Representative and City Council Member; Jim Vinch, Vice-Chair and City Council Representative; Peggy Branstrator; Ken Vincent; Barbara Smyth
Staff present include: Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator

Members of the public include: Shannon Mahoney, Oxford Free Press; Taylor O'Rourke, Green Umbrella Climate Action Fellow

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.
Motion to approve the agenda: Mr. Vincent
2nd: Ms. Smyth
Vote: Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the May 6th, 2026 Minutes
Motion: Mr. Vincent
2nd: Mrs. Branstrator
Vote: Unanimous approval

Old Business

New Business

1. Council 2027 Areas to Research

Staff provided a presentation regarding the 2027 areas to research. Slides are attached.

Key discussion outcomes include:

- The commission is equally happy with hybrid vs fully electric vehicles for municipal fleet conversion
- Councilor Bracken would like to wait to do a residential solar grant until there is regulatory guidance on balcony solar modules from the statehouse
- Councilor Vinch noted the impact of community-scale vs local government operations. He encouraged the commission to consider community scale actions, noting that while community emissions are harder to reduce, they have a bigger impact.
- Mrs. Branstrator advocated to include more than solar installations in a possible residential grant / rebate (i.e. lawn mowers, geothermal, etc). Not all commissioners agreed, noting the directive from City Council was to explore a solar grant. Staff noted that including multiple actions for rebate in the same grant cycle would be significantly more difficult to administer. Staff recommended that if the commission would like to support multiple actions, to do so year by year (i.e. focusing on solar in year 1, geothermal in year 2, etc.).
- The commission would like to see the landfill solar development to continue to be a priority for 2027

Ms. Smyth moved to recommend the following priorities to City Council for 2027, noting that the commission supports solar grants for future years beyond 2027:

1. Additional Landfill Flare
2. EV/Hybrid Adoption
3. Developing Communications with large energy users

2nd: Mr. Vincent

Vote: 4-1; Yeas: Counselor Bracken, Ms.Smyth, Mr. Vincent, Mrs. Branstator; Nays: Mr. Vinch

2. Member Updates

- City Council
- Planning Commission
- Parking and Transportation Advisory Board
- Climate Action Steering Committee

Counselor Vinch shared that City Council authorized the city to move forward with the Water Softening Project. Counselor Bracken shared that Planning Commission has a working group for the zoning code update. OPTAB and OCASC had not met since the last EC meeting.

3. Staff Updates

- Solar Projects
- Quarterly Report from Environmental Division

Staff shared that the WWTP solar project is delayed and that we are waiting for the System Impact Study from Duke. Staff shared that they anticipate having a vendor selected by the next City Council meeting. The Environmental Division provided a report noting that 6 trees along US 27 were replaced in May and 4 memorial trees were planted in April. Other highlights include that the 2026 food scrap weekly averages are on par with 2025 and that the flare on gas vent 17 should be installed soon.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Vincent

2nd: Mrs. Branstrator

Vote: Unanimous approval

The commission adjourned at 8:25pm.