



# Kane County

## KC Energy and Environmental Committee

### Meeting Minutes

BATES, Tarver, Allan, Kious, Penesis, Strathmann, D. Young, ex-officios Roth (County Vice Chair) and Pierog (County Chair)

**Friday, February 20, 2026**

**9:00 AM**

**County Board Room**

**1. Call To Order**

Chairman Bates called today's meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**2. Roll Call**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Board Member Mavis Bates Board Member Bill Tarver Board Member Deborah Allan Board Member Chris Kious Board Member Ted Penesis Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
<b>REMOTE</b>	Board Member David Young
<b>ABSENT</b>	Board Member Cheryl Strathmann Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Gripe\*, Juby\*, Iqbal\*, Molina\*, K. Young; Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; KDSWCD Admin. Gerdts; Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw and staff Powel; PIO Mann; ASA Frank, Spec. ASA Shepro; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public.

**3. Remote Attendance Requests**

Chairman Bates announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. She asked if there were any objections to Committee Member Young attending remotely. There were no objections.

**4. Approval of Minutes: January 16, 2026**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Chris Kious

**5. Public Comment**

Committee Member, David Young, explained the substantial damages caused by first amendment retaliation. He stated that in the U.S. Constitution, the first amendment provides that Congress shall make no law of bridging the freedom of speech. This means that the Government is prohibited from punishing or censoring individuals for what they say. He noted that first amendment retaliation refers to adverse actions taken by a government official in response to an individuals' exercise of their first amendment rights. Lastly, Young warned Board Members about committing first amendment retaliation when communicating through email to make a call-to-action against a public official or a private citizen.

**6. Environmental (J.Wollnik)**

**A. Presentation of the Thomas Weisner Memorial Award from the Conservation Foundation (not attached)**

Conservation Foundation Program Dir., Jessica Mino, presented and awarded Chairman Mavis Bates the Thomas Weisner Memorial Award.

**B. Overview of Residential Energy Audits**

Environ. & Water Res. Dir., Wollnik, stated that energy audits should be compliant with the federal definition in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act and the 2025 Big Beautiful Bill. She noted that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax credit defined within the bills provides the guidelines, definitions, and certifications required to qualify. Wollnik added that the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) provides an extensive guideline on performing energy audits to comply with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) requirements. She explained that Building Performance Institute (BPI) are the Home Energy Audit Standards utilized in the industry and required to be used by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The standards provide a comprehensive list of how energy audits are to be provided for single family homes. Wollnik provided an overview of the building performance institute audits and what is required through the program. Evaluations are conducted for health and safety, cost-benefit analysis and prioritization, combustion appliance and fuel distribution, indoor air quality and ventilation, moisture control, building enclosure, heating, cooling, and domestic water, and base load energy efficiency. Wollnik stated that the next steps for the Kane County Energy Audit Program next month will be to provide the Energy and Environmental Committee a review of various levels of energy audits offered by ComEd, Nicor, and HVAC companies. Additional data supporting the importance of meeting IRS requirements to complete professional energy audits will be provided to the Committee, and a revision of the Resolution to only include energy audit cost. Discussion ensued.

**7. Recycling/Solid Waste (C. Ryan)**

**A. 2026 Kane County Green Guide**

Recycling Coordinator, Ryan, presented the new 2026 Kane County Green Guide. She highlighted the recycling cart mascot, Loop, who is featured in the Feed the Cart campaign. Feed the Cart is the largest recycling information campaign in Illinois history. Ryan noted that within the pages of the guide readers will find information on what to feed your recycling cart, and opportunities to recycle items that should not go in curbside recycling carts. She added that the new statewide programs for recycling house paint and batteries will provide network locations collecting these items at no cost. The guide includes lists of materials accepted and not accepted for recycling. Ryan stated that the County works with its contracted collection partner, eWorks, to operate two recycling centers open five days a week. Several QR codes are provided throughout the guide for residents to access recycling location sites, recycling fees, and events on the county website. Further discussion ensued.

**B. Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant Project Update (not attached)**

Recycling Coordinator, Ryan, reminded the Committee that the goals of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant include piloting food waste composting at multiple large institutions, pilot a public food scrap drop-off at Fabyan in the off-season, grow a culture of composting in Kane County through outreach and education, and improve small grower access to finished compost. She added that the overall outcome goals will be to divert 2.1M pounds of food that would otherwise be land filled, divert 898K pounds of food between March and November, help normalize food scrap separation and overcome obstacles, help municipalities improve online information about existing seasonal programs, and develop a "how-to" guide for large facilities. Lastly, Ryan announced that there will be a recycling event called "The Big One" on Saturday, February 28 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Courthouse in St. Charles.

**C. Supporting HB5112 to Reduce the Use of Non-Reusable Carryout Bags**

An amendment was made for the resolution to be moved forward to the Special Legislative Committee meeting on motion made by Kious, seconded by Penesis. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Amendment passed.

KC Legislative Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Legislative Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Chris Kious
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ted Penesis
<b>AYE:</b>	Mavis Bates, Bill Tarver, Deborah Allan, Chris Kious, and Ted Penesis

<b>NAY:</b>	David Young
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Cherryl Strathmann, and Corinne M. Pierog

**D. Supporting SB2852 to Improve Management of Wasted Food**

An amendment was made for the resolution to be moved forward to the Special Legislative Committee meeting on motion made by Penesis, seconded by Kious. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Amendment passed.

KC Legislative Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Legislative Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ted Penesis
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Chris Kious
<b>AYE:</b>	Mavis Bates, Bill Tarver, Deborah Allan, Chris Kious, Ted Penesis, and David Young
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Cherryl Strathmann, and Corinne M. Pierog

**8. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)**

**A. Available Incentives and Rebates**

This presentation was rescheduled to next month's meeting.

**9. New Business**

None.

**10. Chair's Comments**

Chairman Bates thanked her team for all the hard work they do.

**11. Reports Placed On File**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Chris Kious

**12. Executive Session (if needed)**

None.

13. Adjournment

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ted Penesis
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mavis Bates

This meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Rachel Santora  
Recording Secretary