



Kane County

KC Energy and Environmental Committee

Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

Meeting Minutes

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

Friday, May 16, 2025

9:00 AM

County Board Room

2025 Committee Goals

- Pursue funding to improve energy efficiency in Kane County Government-owned buildings
 - Upon passage of the Tree Protection Ordinance, develop budget and implementation strategy for the Ordinance and an educational program to promote Tree Protection
 - Develop Client Action Implementation teams and assist team in prioritizing action items and development strategies
 - Increase education and improve overall recycling in Kane County buildings
 - Community outreach to education about the CAIP
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1. Call To Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

Also present: Co. Bd. members Gripe, Juby*; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw* and staff Powell; KCFB Mgr. Arnold; ASA Frank; ITD staff Kash; and members of the press and public including Progressive Energy Group Mgr. Arnie Schramel.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

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

4. Approval of Minutes: April 11, 2025

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| RESULT: | APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT |
| MOVER: | Chris Kious |

5. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

None.

6. Environmental (J.Wollnik)

No report was made.

7. Recycling/Solid Waste (C. Ryan)

Recycling Coordinator Ryan stated that the resolutions from last month's meeting authorizing subaward agreements with Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIU), Advocate Sherman Hospital, and the Kane County Cougars were passed through County Board. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 9:07 a.m.) However, it was discovered that the funds associated with the agreement and federal awards system cannot be accessed. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been contacted numerous times on this delay. Depending on when and if the funds become available, the project may or may not be pursued. An update on these resolutions will be reported at next month's meeting. Lastly, Ryan announced that a recycling event will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Circuit Clerk's Office. There will be recycling stations for shredding confidential documents, and collecting any clothing, shoes, textiles, small decorative home goods, latex paints, bicycles, and books to be recycled or re-used. Further discussion took place.

8. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)

A. Solar Savings and Opportunities for Kane County

Progressive Energy Group Mgr. Arnie Schramel provided information on the electric spend estimates, and green attributes for Kane County's Solar Field at the Judicial Center. The projected cost for the solar fields to produce energy is \$4M. Schramel explained the transmission and capacity aspects of solar energy. Schramel noted that transmission capacity is crucial for integrating solar into the broader electricity grid, especially as solar's share of the energy mix increases. He indicated that with electricity prices increasing, the cost savings of solar energy will benefit the county in the long run. Schramel reviewed the average annual electric load growths. Current forecasts anticipate 3% growth which would mean six times the planning and construction of new generation and transmission capacity. Schramel provided information on the solar opportunities for residents, businesses, and governmental. Incentives will pay for 50%-65% of the solar project for residents. The payback for installing solar on rooftops for residents is almost always less than 7 years. Purchase Price Agreements (PPA) and Lease Arrangements are available to allow residents to have solar with no upfront money. For business, governmental and non-profit organizations, the payback on solar is less than 5 years. Schramel stated that Progressive Business Solutions is currently working with Kane County to combine ComEd accounts into a bid package for Community Solar subscriptions for the County. These five to ten megawatt fields are available to residents and businesses who are unable to install solar on their property. The savings are guaranteed to be 10%-15% less than the ComEd Energy Supply rate. With these subscriptions, it is projected that Kane County could save \$100K per year. Schramel addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

B. Cost Savings for Clean Energy

Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw provided information on the electricity cost savings for the parking lot lights at the Judicial Center, the newly installed heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. She also provided an update on the electrical vehicle and charging infrastructure rebates. The total cost of the indoor and outdoor lights at the Judicial Center was \$2M. The cost of the parking lot lights was \$233K. There were a total of 275 lights replaced, 182K kilowatts were removed, and a total of \$21K in annual cost savings. Additionally, 7 new rooftop HVAC units were replaced in the County Court and Jail. She explained the Seasonal, Energy, Efficiency, and rating (SEER) for the new systems. The potential savings for the new HVAC systems will be \$33K over a fifteen year period. More accurate savings will be provided after installation. Lastly, Hinshaw stated that clean energy tax credits were applied for two fully electric cargo vans, and two hybrids, as well as a new charger and infrastructure. The ComEd rebates have been distributed, and tax credits were submitted and accepted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The total cost savings was \$59K, which resulted in a 26% return. Hinshaw addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Further discussion took place.

C. Approving a Weatherization Rebate Program for Kane County Farmers

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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| RESULT: | MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE |
| TO: | KC Finance and Budget Committee |
| MOVER: | Chris Kious |
| SECONDER: | Ted Penesis |
| AYE: | Mavis Bates, Deborah Allan, Chris Kious, Ted Penesis, and Bill Roth |
| ABSENT: | Cherryl Strathmann, and Corinne M. Pierog |
| AWAY: | Bill Tarver, and David Young |

9. New Business

Committee Member Kious announced that rejuvenation of the Geneva Creek was completed, and is now open for tourism.

10. Chairs Comments

Chairman Bates thanked her staff for all the hard work they do, and for always striving to find ways to save the county money through sustainability.

11. Reports Placed On File

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| RESULT: | APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT |
| MOVER: | Chris Kious |

12. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

13. Adjournment

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| RESULT: | APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE |
| MOVER: | Ted Penesis |
| SECONDER: | Bill Roth |

This meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary