



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, February 21, 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
-

1. Call To Order

Co-Chairman Tarver called today's meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Roll Call

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

Also present: Co. Bd. members Gripe, Lewis; Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw and staff Powell; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

There were no remote attendance requests for today's meeting.

4. **Approval of Minutes: January 17, 2025**

RESULT: **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

MOVER: Chris Kious

5. **Public Comment (Agenda Items)**

Committee Member and Kane County resident David Young referenced the National Clean Investment Fund. He stated that the fund was announced on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website in April 2024. He indicated that this fund is \$20B for clean energy solutions. He mentioned that three days ago, on February 19, the Department of Government Efficiency (D.O.G.E.) discovered that the Biden EPA awarded \$2B to a firm linked to Georgia Democrat Staci Abrahams. The \$2B award was given to a company called "Power Forward Communities," in the same month it was founded which was October 2023. Young expressed his concerns on the coincidental timeline the company was founded and the same month the company was awarded the \$2B grant from the EPA.

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

A. Kane County Monitoring Well Network

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik provided an update on the Kane County Monitoring Well Network. The project is establishing and monitoring well networks throughout Kane County. This allows drought monitoring for the shallow aquifer systems to track and analyze water level data within the county. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 9:06 a.m.). Once the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding is complete, there will be a total of fifteen monitoring wells as of December 2026. Wollnik addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

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

A. Supporting State Legislation Amending and Reauthorizing the Consumer Electronics Recycling Act

KC Executive Committee

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

TO: KC Executive Committee

MOVER: Chris Kious

SECONDER: Cherryl Strathmann

AYE: Bill Tarver, Deborah Allan, Chris Kious, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann, and David Young

ABSENT: Mavis Bates, and Corinne M. Pierog

B. 2024 in Review, Part 1

Recycling Coordinator Ryan provided an update on the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program. She highlighted that these materials are unwanted residuals of chemical-containing products purchased for household use. These products fall under the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) household exemption. Ryan highlighted the three household hazardous waste outlets for Kane County residents. One is located in Naperville with a drop-off facility. The second outlet is the Home Pick-Up Program that is managed by Kane County Recycles department. The third outlet is the Hauler and Municipal Services, which is an on-call pick up site available through waste haulers in Elgin and Maple Park. Ryan stated that there were 2,386 Naperville drop-offs by Kane County residents in 2024. There were a total of 135,524 pounds of material was disposed, which is the equivalent weight of four large school buses. There were 468 program uses at the Kane County Home Pick-up facility, which is a 44 percent increase from 2023. There was over 30K pounds of material collected, 37 percent of the material was recycled, and 63 percent was incinerated. Ryan addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

8. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)

A. Supporting State Legislation Incentivizing the Use of Finished Compost and Digestate on Commercial and Specialty Farm Operations

KC Executive Committee

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

B. CEJA Workforce Hub Updates

Sustainability Coordinator Powell provided an update on the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Workforce Hub. The goal of the CEJA Workforce Hub is to transition to a 100% carbon-free power sector by 2050. He highlighted a key feature that was created called the Clean Jobs Workforce Hub that will prepare people for entry-level clean energy jobs. There are thirteen workforce hubs across the state, with one located in Aurora. Aurora's Workforce Hub starts on Monday, March 3, 2025. The program is 176 hours of Bridge Training, including an introduction to sustainable and clean energy practices, basic safety and first aid certifications, core construction certification, electrical basics, and essential skills. Participants are paid \$13 an hour, and are offered access to childcare, transportation assistance, food support and more. There are currently three job positions for students interested at the Aurora location, available positions include a Solar PV Associate, Weatherization Specialist, and a HVAC Technician. Much discussion ensued.

9. New Business

None.

10. Chairs Comments

None.

11. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Ted Penesis

12. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

13. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Cherryl Strathmann
SECONDER:	David Young

This meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary