



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, June 13, 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

PRESENT	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
REMOTE	Board Member David Young
ABSENT	Board Member Cheryl Strathmann Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Juby*, Molina*; Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw* and staff Powell; 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 Member Young attending remotely. There were no objections.

4. **Approval of Minutes: May 16, 2025**

RESULT: **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

MOVER: Chris Kious

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

Committee Member and Kane County resident Young spoke on the poor air quality due to the wildfires in Canada. He stated that in 2023, Canada's wildfires released a record-breaking amount of Co2, potentially exceeding the emissions of coal-fired power plants. While not a direct cause, Canada's coal-fired power plants contribute to climate change, which in turn exacerbates the conditions that lead to more frequent and intense wildfires. He stated that this has been an ongoing natural disaster, with over 8M acres burned so far in 2025. Young explained that there are 233 coal-fired plants in the United States. From these Canada wildfires, there is an equivalent of 600 co2 emissions coal-fired power plants. Young expressed his concerns with the county's lack of urgency to prevent wildfires and the increasing Co2 levels.

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

A. **Environmental & Water Resources Mandates and Budgeting**

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik presented the Environmental and Water Resources mandates and budgeting. As the 2026 budget is being evaluated, Wollnik highlighted the Environmental & Water Resources total salary and over time. Department salaries did not increase between 2014 and 2023 due to elimination of the Assistant Director position, and a part-time Administrator, which offset cost of living increases. In 2024, an equity adjustment was made. Wollnik stated that potential fee increases and additional fees are being pursued to help support salaries. The sub-department is averaging \$250K in electrical savings at the Judicial Center due to the installed solar field for the next 25 years. A total of \$60K in rebates were collected for hybrid and building management vans and chargers in 2024. The LED conversion savings to the county are anticipated to be \$100K in total with an annual savings of \$50K. The General Fund for contracts and commodities have been reduced by 30% over the past ten years. This partially reduced the conferences and meetings, as well as eliminating the mileage paid out to employees. Wollnik stated that the Kane County Board reduced the 650 Fund minimum balance to \$3M to free up funds for the construction of the Cross Country Course. The department is recommending a resolution to increase the minimum fund balance to \$4M to ensure sufficient funds are available post-closure. By maintaining the fund balance in 650, the Department is able to use the interest earned on the fund to pay for salary, contractual services, and commodities for mandated Recycling & Water Recovery programs, which reduces the Department budget in the General Fund. Further discussion ensued.

7. Recycling/Solid Waste (C. Ryan)

Recycling Coordinator Ryan announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant Funds have now been released. She thanked the Committee for all their support. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 9:32 a.m.) The first shredding and recycling collection event was held at the Circuit Clerk's Office on Saturday, June 7. A total of 725 cars participated.

8. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)

A. Electrical Aggregation Civic Contribution Program Review

Progressive Energy Group Mgr. Arnie Schramel provided information on the Electrical Aggregation Civic Contribution Program. The county's current aggregation electric supplier is Mc2 Energy. The contract will end in December 2025. There are 8,920 unincorporated houses that are a part of the program. The county receives \$80K per year of unrestricted Civic Contribution. Residents are able to leave the program at anytime with zero cancellation fees. The county's aggregation program is only available for residents and small business in unincorporated Kane County. This does not include Aurora and Dundee Townships as they have their own aggregation program. Schramel stated that the goal for the month of July will be to have the County Board review the program recommendations made by the Energy and Environmental Committee, and approve the renewal contract. The County Chairwoman will then approve the contract by the last week in July 2025. Mc2 Energy and the County will send out letters explaining the new program to eligible county residents by September 2025. ComEd will then send out notification of the supplier change to impacted residents by October 2025. Residents will start the new program by December 2025. Schramel addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion took place.

B. Midwest Climate Summit Conference

Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw provided information on the Midwest Climate Summit Conference she attended. She stated that the Midwest Climate Collaboration envisions a carbon neutral, climate resilient, interconnected Midwest region. The mission is to facilitate the development of a coherent Midwestern response to the climate crisis through acceleration of climate action, knowledge generation, and leader development led by a cross-sector collaboration of key organizations throughout the Midwest. She introduced the Director of the Collaboration, Heather Navarro, who started the organization three years ago. Hinshaw highlighted a few of the sessions she attended at the conference including Engaging Businesses in Climate Action, Making Clean Energy Work, Midwest Climate Change, and Making the most of Clean Energy Funding Opportunities. She visited the Henry Vilas Zoo and the Madison Children's Museum. Both locations are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified, which is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement in building and construction. The zoo contains geothermal heating, composting, and a large underground water storage saving 2M gallons a year. The children's museum was awarded a LEED Gold certification for an existing building in 2014.

Sustainability Coordinator Powell stated that he visited two locations outside Madison, Wisconsin. He visited Forest Edge Elementary School and the Village of McFarland Public Safety Center. The McFarland Safety Center has an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station for the police vehicles. The safety center also has heat pumps, and a radiant floor heating system. Forest Edge Elementary has solar panels installed on the roof, and it is the first all-electric building in the U.S. Further discussion took place.

C. Authorizing Signature on the Master Power Supply Agreement for the Kane County Electrical Aggregation Program

KC Executive Committee

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

9. New Business

None.

10. Chairs Comments

Chairman Bates announced to the Committee that requests for approval for the Electrical Aggregation Civic Contribution Program will be submitted soon. She thanked her staff for all the work they do.

11. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Chris Kious

12. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

13. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Ted Penesis
SECONDER:	Chris Kious

This meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary