



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, April 11, 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 Deborah Allan Board Member Chris Kious Board Member Ted Penesis Board Member David Young Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
ABSENT	Board Member Bill Tarver Board Member Cheryl Strathmann Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Gumz*, Gripe, Juby*, Lewis, 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.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

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

4. Approval of Minutes: March 14, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Chris Kious

5. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

Committee Member and Kane County resident David Young spoke on the establishment of the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. He stated that it was founded by Democrat Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin. He noted that his religion is listed as Unitarianism, which focuses on individualism and humanism. Unitarianism rejects the core Christian doctrine of the trinity. Young explained that Unitarian Universalism, which started in 1961, emphasizes environmentalism and environmental justice. This was Gaylord Nelson's belief. He stated that this is important to know because it provides guidance. The current environmental movement is more than just activism. For some it is based on their religion. Young believes that the movement embraces the worshiping of the creation, and not the creator.

6. Environmental (J.Wollnik)

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik announced that the Geneva Creek Project is underway, and will be completed within the next two weeks. Several slopes are now stabilized, and with spring rains coming, pollution at the Fox River will be reduced. Upon completion, Wollnik stated that this project will also be a beautiful location for Kane County employees and visitors. She hopes to conduct a tour of the area, once the project is complete. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 9:05 a.m.) The Groundwater Study continues its process with the assistance from municipal partners. There will be a meeting next month to discuss the next steps. A draft report for their findings will be presented at next month's meeting. Wollnik noted that Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is currently assisting to produce a water sustainability plan for Kane County. Lastly, she announced that Energy Consultant Arnie Schramel will attend next month's meeting to report on the solar field at the Judicial Center. Wollnik addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

7. Recycling/Solid Waste (C. Ryan)

- A. Authorizing Subaward Agreement with Northern Illinois Food Bank for Partnership and Utilization of Composting and Food Waste Reduction Funds

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

- B. Authorizing Subaward Agreement with Advocate Sherman Hospital for Partnership and Utilization of Composting and Food Waste Reduction Funds

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

- C. Authorizing Subaward Agreement with the Kane County Cougars for Partnership and Utilization of Composting and Food Waste Reduction Funds

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

D. 2024 in Review, Part 2

Recycling Coordinator Ryan presented the Kane County Recycles 2024 Curbside, Centers and Events Review. She provided information on the amount of residential curbside material collected. Ryan noted that this data is reported by licensed waste haulers in the county. It was reported that there are 191,900 households with a curbside hauling service. Over 96% of collected data reflects franchised hauling agreements. The total household output from 2024 was 258,379 tons. Ryan stated that materials either recycled or composted, versus what was distributed in the landfill, the county diversion rate was 30.8%. The total amount of trash collected was 178,780 tons. There was 60,317 tons collected for trash, and 19,282 tons of organic material was collected. She stated that there has been a steady increase in the amount of trash produced every year. Ryan highlighted that Pingree Grove had the highest diversion rate for recycling of 35.6% for the second year in a row. East Dundee took second place for a 33.8% diversion rate. She proceeded to review the commercial contract materials collected. The total commercial discards in 2024 was 170,312 tons. There were 8,164 commercial accounts reported. The total impact in 2024 for household waste products collected amounted to 626 tons. Ryan announced that a mini-worm bin at STEAM Night at Munhall Elementary in St. Charles is tonight from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. If anyone has campaign signs they would like to discard, there will be a table at the Government Center through Sunday, April 13. There will be Pop-Up Recycling event at the Geneva Park District Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 19 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Peck Farm Park. A demo webinar for Recycle Coach will be on Wednesday, April 23 from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Much discussion ensued.

8. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)

Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw stated that the Powering Safe Community Grant was recently applied for. The goal of this grant is to install a flood warning sign at areas of the county that often flood. The sign will have a rain gauge that detects high water levels, which activates a flashing light feature. She highlighted that the sign is solar powered therefore it will be beneficial for clean transportation, resiliency, and sustainability. Hinshaw noted that there were discussions within the Greenspace and Ecosystem group on how to increase tree population. She stated that an Environmental Stewardship Grant was applied for. This grant is available for \$5K for advocacy of greenspace, clean air, and conservation. Hinshaw will provide more updates on these grants at next month's meeting.

9. New Business

Committee Member Kious announced that the Forest Preserve will celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 26 at 10:00 a.m. at Camp Tomo-Chi-Chil Knolls in Gilberts, Illinois for a shrub planting extravaganza.

10. Chairs Comments

Chairman Bates wished everyone a Happy Earth Day and Earth Month.

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:	David Young
SECONDER:	Ted Penesis

This meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary