



# Kane County

## KC Energy and Environmental Committee

### Meeting Minutes

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

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

**Friday, October 11, 2024**

**9:00 AM**

**County Board Room**

#### 1. Call To Order

Chairman Bates called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

#### 2. Roll Call

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>PRESENT</b> | Board Member Mavis Bates<br>Board Member Bill Tarver<br>Board Member Bill Roth<br>Board Member Cherryl Strathmann<br>Board Member David Young |
| <b>REMOTE</b>  | Board Member Chris Kious  |
| <b>ABSENT</b>  | Board Member Deborah Allan<br>Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog<br>Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Vern Tepe                 |

Also present: Co. Bd. Member Lewis; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw and staff Powell; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public, including Recycle Coach Revenue Operating Mgr. Lauren Webb.

#### 3. Remote Attendance Requests

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

#### 4. Approval of Minutes: September 13, 2024

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|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>  | Cherryl Strathmann                   |

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

Kane County resident and Committee Member, Young, recited a prayer that was shared at St. Patrick's Parish, pertaining to this year's election.

#### 6. Environmental (J.Wollnik)

No report was made.

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

### A. Recycle Coach Web & Mobile Tools: Coming Soon to Kane County

Recycle Coach Revenue Operations Mgr., Lauren Webb, shared a video providing information on the software company. She stated that the website is a platform to help residents understand their municipal and local recycling programs and options. The company is based out of Toronto, Canada. Recycle Coach is partnered with 1,500+ municipalities across North America, as well as some in Australia and New Zealand. This software allows residents to immediately have access to their collections schedule, how to dispose of items properly, and recycling education. The mobile platform provides blogs, lessons, and interactive features to keep residents excited about recycling, sustainability, and circular economy. The app will provide hyper-local collections schedule, information, and recycling and community events. The purpose of Recycle Coach is to change behavior through education to decrease contamination for residents. Webb spoke on her successful visit to Illinois to conduct training sessions with partner municipalities and agencies to learn on-board with Recycle Coach. There are eight locations in Kane County that have started their on boarding process, and over 60 municipalities across five different county agencies in Illinois who have also started their on boarding process. Webb addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

### B. Timing of Next County Solid Waste Plan Update

Recycling Coordinator, Ryan, provided an update on the timing of the Kane County Solid Waste Management Plan. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 9:30 a.m.) She noted that all counties in Illinois are required by state law to update their solid waste management plan every five years. She indicated that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is willing to extend the update timeline for any county. Ryan noted that Kane County and other counties struggle to provide accurate and complete data to characterize waste. The reason for this issue is that the data is held by private companies. Ryan recommended to request IEPA to extend Kane County's Solid Waste Management Plan Update timeline by two or three years, and asked for a consensus from the Committee. The Committee provided their consensus. Much discussion ensued.

## 8. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)

### A. Climate Action Implementation Plan: Aligning Strategic Goals

Sustainability Coordinator, Powell, provided an update on the Climate Action Implementation Plan (CAIP) and the aligning strategic goals. He indicated that he has been reviewing and comparing the advocacy agenda called "Transit is the Answer," and the main CAIP strategic goals through the Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Powell identified four specific actions within the climate action plan that are related to their advocacy agenda. The long-term substantive changes to the regional transit system include secure increased funding for transit operations, develop a funding structure that is less reliant on rider fares, secure increased funding for transit infrastructure, and partner with roadway agencies to build more transit-friendly streets. The goals of CAIP will be to increase public transit commuter ridership from 2.24% to 6.5% by 2030, and invest in infrastructure that supports bus operations and more comfortable and welcoming bus stop environments. The Bus-Rapid Transit (BRT) is a dedicated bus-transit system that provides a fast and efficient service from one location to another. This system may include dedicated lanes, traffic signal priority, and elevated platforms and enhanced stations. Powell highlighted a potential idea, which is for BRT to partner with Pace to implement a Pulse route along Randal Road. This would connect Aurora to Elgin with one route. The next steps for CAIP will be to set up meetings with Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT) staff, Mayor Schielke of Batavia, and Pace Board of Directors to discuss the feasibility of BRT. Powell indicated that additional steps will include reviewing existing planning grants to fund an updated BRT feasibility study, and continue research on existing BRT case studies, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) improvements such as transit signal priority, and the cost of a covered bus stops and Pulse bus stops.

**B. Climate Action Implementation Plan Progress Update**

Sustainability Mgr., Hinshaw, briefly announced that the charging station at KDOT is now available to use. She highlighted each action and progress of each sustainability group. The goal for transportation will include decreasing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 5% by 2030. To achieve this goal, sidewalk and bikeway construction and education projects that promote active transportation in alignment with the 2023 Kane County Bike and Pedestrian Plan will continue. The second goal is to increase battery electric vehicle (BEV) use to 15% of vehicles on the road by 2030. This will include collaborating with partners such as businesses, school districts, fleet operators, and transit providers, including taxi fleets within community to work towards a goal that buses and fleets based and operating in the community be 50% electric by 2030, and 100% by 2035. The goals for buildings and energy will be to improve total community-wide residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial building energy efficiency by 12% for electricity and natural gas by 2030, and achieve 10% residential and commercial and industrial building "fuel switching" from on-site fossil fuel combustion to electrification by 2030. For water and wastewater, the goals will be to promote increased water conservation and wastewater generation community-wide with a targeted reduction of 5% by 2030, and educate, engage and empower the public on water quality and conservation. The waste management and the goals include decreasing the total municipal solid waste handled 2.5% by 2030, and decrease municipal solid waste from government operations 15% by 2030. Hinshaw noted that by collaborating with partners to explore options for expanding or establishing local facilities capable of accepting and processing organics will help meet the goals of this plan. The goals for local food and agriculture will be to increase share of farms using low emission or regenerative agriculture practices. The goals for greenspace and ecosystems will be to increase tree cover and diversity by 6.5% by 2030, and 15% by 2040, and reduce the heat island effect through community-wide neighborhoods with higher heat island impacts by 10% by 2030, and 23% by 2040. The goals for health and safety include assisting climate vulnerable populations throughout the community in preparing for and mitigating climate change impacts, and educate the public on health and safety risks of climate change impacts. Lastly, the goals for climate and economy are to capture economic value of each climate action goal in the Kane County CAIP, support equitable workforce development and entrepreneur opportunities of climate action in the local economy, and communicate climate action economic and development opportunities to stakeholder groups. Hinshaw noted that this will include collaborating with partners to create a market for certified compost, promote workforce development in partnership with local schools, colleges, and universities to implement a curriculum for green skills, and strengthen communications in support of business and economic climate resilience.

**9. New Business**

Recycling Coordinator, Ryan, stated that campaign signs will now be recycled. There will be a container for dropping off signs located on the Kane County Government campus near the grotto area. This will remain in place from November 8-17, 2024.

**10. Chairs Comments**

Chairman Bates thanked her staff for their continuing hard work.

**11. Reports Placed On File**

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|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>  | Bill Roth                            |

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

None.

**13. Adjournment**

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE</b> |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Bill Roth                     |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Bill Tarver                   |

This meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Rachel Santora  
Recording Secretary