



Kane County

KC Energy and Environmental Committee

Meeting Minutes

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

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

Friday, December 12, 2025

9:00 AM

County Board Room

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

Also present: Co. Bd. members Juby*, Molina*; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; Sustainability Mgr. Hinsahw and staff Powell; Spec. ASA & Local Historian Shepro; ITD staff Peters and Kash; and members of the press and public including KDSWCD Admin. Gerdts and Solid Waste Agency of Lake County Exec. Dir. Walter Willis.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

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

4. Approval of Minutes: November 14, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Chris Kious

5. Public Comment

Kane County resident Steve Lefler stated that he is a member of the St. Charles Natural Resources Commission. He stated that he has been having discussions about re-modifying the county dam. He stated that if the dam was removed, many unincorporated homeowners and government properties would be affected.

6. Environmental (J.Wollnik)

A. Evolution of S.B. 1398 - Amending IL Environmental Laws to Divert Food Waste from Large Generators

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County Exec. Dir., Walter Willis, stated that Senate Bill 1398 was filed by Senator Adrian Johnson from Lake County. He highlighted that the bill would require large generators, like stores or restaurants, to divert food scraps from the landfill areas to donations, animal feed, or composting, in order to cut landfill waste and methane. Currently, the Solid Waste Agency in Lake County and the Lake County government support this bill, including fifty organizations supporting the legislation. Willis noted that the goal of this bill is to combat food insecurity and climate change by reducing food waste. Willis provided a handout featuring a QR code for access to the Feed and Conserve Illinois website, and additional information about the bill. He hopes that Kane County will provide their support of the bill. He stated that landfills are the third-largest source of methane emissions from human activities. Starting in 2028, large counties with over 240K residents, with an establishment of 30K to 40K feet, will be required to follow the hierarchy. This bill will be essential for the economy to expand markets for food recovery, create new jobs, and reduce landfill dependence while fostering sustainable business practices. Willis addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Further discussion ensued.

B. 2026 Energy and Environmental SMART Goals

Sustainability Coordinator, Powell, highlighted that the SMART Committee goal for notifying the Kane County Board of any relevant or emerging trends was added to the list. The purpose of this goal is to stay in line with previous discussions on new occurring topics such as data centers. Powell noted that the attention for next year would be to bring in four new guest speakers to present current topics at meetings in order to maintain the committees' awareness.

Recycling Coordinator, Ryan, noted that the goal to increase education and improve overall recycling in Kane County buildings will ensure all County-owned facilities have a commercial recycling container, and that janitorial staff uses those containers to consolidate generated recyclables. She stated that the second part of the goal will be to implement an educational campaign across all departments by distributing yes/no recycling posters, short videos on common recyclables encountered in the workplace, and training on how to reduce contamination.

Sustainability Mgr., Hinshaw, stated that her team will continue community outreach on education about the Climate Action Implementation Plan (CAIP) using social media, and will continue their efforts to collaborate with all sustainability initiatives including "Switch Together." Discussion ensued.

7. Recycling/Solid Waste (C. Ryan)

Recycling Coordinator, Ryan, announced that the statewide law with a recycling collection program called the Paint Law went into effect on December 1, 2025. There is more information available about this law on the county website.

8. Sustainability (S. Hinshaw)

A. Sustainability Updates

Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw announced that there will be an event held on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at Emerald Acres in Maple Park starting at 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to connect with local farmers dedicated to supporting soil health and sustainable farming practices. The event will also feature Farmer and Independent Research Agronomist, Jim Stute, to speak about rural myths and explain why conservation practices can have a positive return on investment (ROI). There will be a Wildly Local Nature by Design event on Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. held at the Elgin Math and Science Academy. The event will feature four speakers discussing several topics including landscape design, turf grass alternatives, benefits of native landscape, how to design your lawn, and gardens for apartments. Hinshaw announced that the Community Days event date has not been determined at this time. There will be an update on a date for the event soon. She announced that the Kane County Animal Control facility is planning to develop a "smell" garden for resident dogs and include native landscaping on the front and side of the building. The design is currently being developed and the project is projected to be completed in April 2026. Hinshaw provided an update on the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant that was awarded last year. The proposed infrastructure is to add one to four EV charging ports at ten mostly rural locations including Waubonsee Community College, Kaneville, South Elburn, Burlington, and Sugar Grove. This proposal will potentially bridge-the-gap in distance for EV chargers. Lastly, Hinshaw stated that on November 17, the Driving a Cleaner Illinois Grant will cover the cost of all infrastructure and charger up to eighty percent. Further discussion ensued.

B. Accepting the Low-Income Energy Efficiency Outreach and Engagement Grant

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

9. New Business

None.

10. Chairs Comments

Chairman Bates thanked her staff for all the hard work they continue to do. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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:	Cherryl Strathmann

This meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary