



Kane County

KC Energy and Environmental Committee

Meeting Minutes

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

Friday, January 16, 2026

9:00 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman, Mavis Bates, called today's meeting to order 9:00 AM.

2. Roll Call

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

Also present: Co. Bd. Members Gripe, Lewis; Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; KDSWCD Admin. Gerdts; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw and staff Powell; Spec. ASA Shepro; ITD staff Kash; and members of the press and public including Citizen Utility Board (CUB) Solar Outreach Coordinator Grace Concialdi; IChooser Program Admin. Fred Wu; Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) Outreach Dir. Yvonne Rychwa.

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 Kious, Penesis, Strathmann attending remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: December 12, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Deborah Allan

5. Public Comment

Kane County resident and Board Member, David Young, stated that on January 8, 2026, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed Senate Bill (SB) 25 Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act (CRGA) into law. He highlighted that this bill lifts a moratorium on new large scale nuclear reactors. He hopes to have further conversations on this topic at future meetings.

6. Environmental (J.Wollnik)

A. Grace Concialdi, Solar Outreach Coordinator from Citizens Utility Board. Presentation on Kane County’s progress in the Switch Together Program and Heat Pump Group Buy Pilot Program

Citizens Utility Board (CUB) Solar Outreach Coordinator, Grace Concialdi, stated that Switch Together Chicagoland Program is led by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA). This association promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration. She added that MREA created Grow Solar, which is a program that has run over 60 solar group buys across the Midwest since 2013. Concialdi also highlighted that the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) represents Illinois utility ratepayers and advocates for cheaper and cleaner energy. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 9:30 a.m.) At total of 84 solar installs have been completed, 7 batteries, and 4 electric vehicle (EV) fast chargers were installed. She explained the Switch Together Heat Pumps program process. Registration for this program is free, and individuals will receive and review a personal recommendation. If the offer is accepted, a \$150 program reservation fee will need to be paid. She noted that 80 households received an install out of approximately 500 households registered. Lastly, Concialdi announced that Heat Pump Information Sessions will be held in April. A Solar Celebration will be held the week of April 27. Solar Power Hours will be held on the weeks of May 4, June 1, and July 6. A final Heat Pump Information Session will be held in October. Much discussion ensued.

B. Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District 2026 Update

KDSWCD Admin., Kat Gerdts, stated that districts within Illinois are mandated by law to do natural resource inventory on any property that is changing land use. A natural resource inventory includes assessing the site's soil, water, wildlife, and flora, followed by a thirty page report that is generated. Gerdts announced that the 23rd Annual Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Seminar will be held on Wednesday, January 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event will be held at Elgin Community college. The main focus will be on green infrastructure. KDSWCD offers scholarship opportunities for students enrolled full-time at an accredited two or four-year college, community college, or university. The deadline for scholarship applications to be submitted is February 15. Gerdts highlighted that Well Water Testing is offered once a year including a collaborative event with the Kane County Farm Bureau. Individuals can purchase a well water kit between March 2-6. The water samples will be collected on March 9 only, and returned to the District. Results are sent directly to participants. She added that KDSWCD offers for sale a variety of fish that can be used for stocking ponds. The deadline to pre-order triploid carp is Thursday, March 19, and the deadline for any other fish orders is Thursday, March 26. KDSWCD offers a Native Plant & Tree Sale twice in the spring and once in the fall. Gerdts noted that the native trees and plants are all intended for environmental improvement and conservation purposes only. She stated that KDSWCD organizes an annual event each spring called the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon. The event will be held at the Morton Arboretum on March 18, 2026. Regional teams of five high school students prepare with a teacher or coach to compete in the areas of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current issue in natural resources. For 2026, Envirothon has chosen the issue topic of non-point source pollution, where students will learn about non-point source (NPS) pollution and identify its origins in both urban and rural settings. Lastly, Gerdts reminded the Committee that Election Day is Tuesday, February 10. Candidates must submit petitions by January 21. She noted that there are three seats up for election, and petitions are available at the KDSWCD office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Further discussion took place.

C. 2026 Energy and Environmental SMART Goals

Environ. & Water Res. Dir., Jodie Wollnik, stated that final changes were made to the 2026 Committee SMART Goals. She requested for a voice approval of the final goals to be included on next month's agenda. The Committee provided consensus to include the 2026 Committee Goals on next month's agenda.

D. Fabyan Property Solar Field Discussion

Environ. & Water Res. Dir., Jodie Wollnik, reminded the Committee about the recommendation to include the Fabyan Property Solar Field Discussion as a line item on the E&E agenda. There was great feedback received at the Committee of the Whole meeting in December on the solar presentation. She noted that one of the concerns was the extent of the potential contamination issues on the site. She added that ITD/BLG Management Dir., Roger Fahnestock, reached out to Wight and Company to conduct a site visit to identify potentially contaminated areas, and a better understanding of what potential impacts future property improvements would have. More updates will be provided at next month's meeting.

7. Recycling/Solid Waste (C. Ryan)

Recycling Coordinator, Clair Ryan, stated that she was notified by the manager of EWorks that the Fabyan Recycling Center had a historic number of consumer electronics that were collected. She announced that the Call2Recycle organization started implementing the Battery Stewardship Act on January 1, 2026. There will be a Shred n' Recycling event for battery collections held at the Circuit Clerk's Office on Saturday, February 28.

8. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)

Recycling Coordinator, Clair Ryan,

A. Authorizing a Contract with Sustained Ability Construction for Professional Services Related to Kane County Energy Audit and Rebate Program

KC Executive Committee

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

B. Farmer Weatherization Rebate Program - 2025 Update

This report was rescheduled to next month's meeting.

9. New Business

None.

10. Chair's Comments

Chairman, Mavis Bates, stated that she would like to have a discussion on battery backups at the next committee meeting. She thanked staff for all the hard work they continue to do for the county's environment and sustainability.

11. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Bill Roth

12. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

13. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Cherryl Strathmann

This meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary