



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, October 17, 2025

9:00 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Co-Chairman Kious called today's meeting to order at 9:25 AM.

2. Roll Call

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

Also present: Co. Bd. members Gripe*, Gumz*, Juby*, Lewis; Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; Sustainability Coordinator Powell; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public Progressive Energy Group Founder and Partner Arnie Schramel.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

Co-Chairman Kious announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. He asked the Committee if there were any objections to Committee Members Strathmann and Tarver attending remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: September 12, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Deborah Allan

5. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

Kane County resident Steve Lefler stated that renewables for this year have surpassed coal and electricity production worldwide. He noted that the cost of solar and battery combined, including the technology innovations that have occurred are increasing at exponential rates.

6. Environmental (J. Wollnik)

A. Discussion of Opportunities for Community Solar on the Fabyan Property

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik stated reminded the Committee that a potential solar revenue source for Kane County coming from the Fabyan property is currently being assessed. The purchasing department issued a request for approval (RFP) to find out if there was any interest in developing community solar on the Fabyan property. With assistance from the purchasing department, and Founder and Partner of Progressive Energy Group, Arnie Schramel, as the consultant, along with environmental and water resources staff, they would make up the team that reviews the proposals that were received. A recommendation would then be made to the Energy and Environmental Committee to move forward with the community solar project on the property.

Founder and Partner of Progressive Energy Group, Arnie Schramel, presented information on Community Solar on the Fabyan Property. He stated that the guiding principals are to find alternative revenue for vacant county land, return state mandated renewable energy investments to Kane County, and lower ComEd Electric costs. (Committee Member Tarver* left at 10:00 a.m.) By lowering the ComEd costs, it would save money for county residents and businesses, low income qualified families, and county-owned facilities. Schramel noted that in order to install community solar, you need a special license from the Illinois Commerce Commission, and be registered with the State of Illinois Solar Program. According to the RFP, the solar unit must be owned and operated by the winning bidder, with a direct land lease paid to Kane County. Typically a lease option ranges from 25 to 35 years, with the solar company assuming the tax obligation property. The Illinois tax law is based on the size of the systems and the local tax rates. The size of the proposals varied anywhere from eleven to twenty-five acres. The county is projected to have annual lease payments between \$100K to \$130K per year, with property taxes paid by the developer for the first year ranging between \$20K to \$40K. Schramel stated that all three developers agreed to conduct a community-driven solar field, giving preference to the county's facilities, and residents, to be the off-takers of the solar production. Developers have committed to ComEd a range of \$1.5M for infrastructure improvements, and interconnection charges. Schramel added that in order to qualify for the 30 percent federal tax credit, the projects have to start by July 4, 2026, and be in production by December 2027. The next steps will be for the county staff to review and recommend the best proposal, get feedback from the Energy and Environmental Committee on any additions, changes, or recommendations, schedule a Board meeting for a presentation and voting, and obtain a legal review of the developer's contract terms. Further discussion ensued. The Committee provided their consensus to proceed with preparations and recommendations for the project.

B. 2026 Energy and Environmental Committee Goals

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik reviewed the Committee Goals. She suggested to remove the tree protection ordinance goal from the list. She recommended Committee Members submit any new goal suggestions to her.

7. Recycling/Solid Waste (C. Ryan)

Recycling Coordinator Ryan reminded the Committee about a press conference for the Regional Recycling Education Outreach Campaign that will be held on Monday, October 20 at a recycling facility in Chicago from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

8. Sustainability (S. Hinshaw)

A. Accepting the ComEd Powering Safe Communities Program Grant

Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw/Powell

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

B. Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding Between Kane County and the Conservation Foundation for the 'New Trees for New Homeowners' Nicor Charitable Giving Grant

KC Finance and Budget Committee

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

9. New Business

None.

10. Chairs Comments

None.

11. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Deborah Allan

12. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

13. Adjournment

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

This meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary