



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, January 17, 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

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 Board Member David Young Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
REMOTE	Board Member Bill Tarver
ABSENT	Board Member Deborah Allan Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Gripe, Juby*; Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; Sustainability Coordinator Powell; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public, including Solar Programs Coordinator Marina Minic*.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

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

4. Approval of Minute: November 15, 2024

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Chris Kious

5. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

Committee Member and Kane County resident Young spoke on the Climate Action Plan. He stated that Pale Blue Dot was the consultant that conducted a report for the Energy & Environmental Committee. The report showed there were 825 respondents who said yes to wanting a Kane County Climate Action Plan. Young went on to state his concerns on the Co2 levels of greenhouse gas emissions in Kane County.

6. Environmental (J.Wollnik)

A. Presentation from Marina Minic from the Citizens Utility Board on the progress of SolarSwitch Chicagoland

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik referenced a photo showing a drainage, water, and heat recovery system within her house. She explained that with this system you are able to see a 40 degree temperature increase from the electrical water heater to the outside vertical sewer pipes. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 9:14 a.m.)

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik introduced Kane County intern, Abby Wells. She is a senior at Wheaton College. She is currently working with Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw on research and data compilations to potentially obtain a Lead Certificate for Kane County.

Marina Minic is the Solar Programs Coordinator for the Citizens Utility Board (CUB). She helps coordinate the CUB's solar group-buy program and educates consumers about clean and affordable energy. Residents can register on the website by answering a few basic questions with no cost or obligations. Minic explained that Solar Switch Chicagoland is a solar group buy program that gives residents an easier and more affordable path to on-site solar. The original nonprofit partners are CUB, and Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA). County partners help share the program with their residents, and the program prioritizes education, affordability, and consumer protections. She noted that in 2023, a company named IChooser was added to help scale up the program more effectively to residents. The Solar Switch program is open to anyone in the Chicagoland area, including Cook, DuPage, Will, Lake, McHenry, and Kendall County residents. The program has a website where residents can register online. Lastly, Minic indicated that there will be a re-branding to Switch Together Solar, which allows the program to grow and adapt to the products offered. The launch of the new brand will take place on February 14, 2025. Minic addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

7. Recycling/Solid Waste (C. Ryan)

A. Recycling Program Updates

Recycling Coordinator Ryan stated that the application for \$396,109 for federal funds were submitted on September 3, 2024. She noted that the project concept was presented to the Energy and Environment Committee on September 13, 2024. The grant was received and approved on December 16, 2024. The grant start date will be on March 1, 2025. Ryan noted that the two-year project's first goal will be to pilot food waste separation and collection at multiple large institutions, including the Kane County Adult Justice Center, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Kane County Cougars (Medicine Field), and Sherman Hospital (Advocate Health). The additional goals will be to pilot a public food scrap drop-off at Fabyan in the off season, grow a culture of composting in Kane County through outreach and education, and improve small grower and community garden access to finished composts. Ryan announced that the Recycle Coach "What Goes Where" tool is now available online to residents. The tool is an interactive database showing residents all local reuse, recycling and disposal options for the materials listed. Lastly, Ryan announced there will be a Pop-up & Shred Event at Geneva Commons Saturday, January 18, 2025 from 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Kane County and E-Works will be collecting electronics, clothing and textile, books and paper at the site. Representatives will be answering resident's questions, and handing out Recycle Coach flyers. She addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

8. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)

A. Climate Action Implementation Plan Updates on Transportation and Land Use

Chairman Bates recommended to the Committee that due to lack of time before the next meeting, the Sustainability presentation will be moved to next month's meeting.

9. New Business

None.

10. Chairs Comments: Our Future Home: Clean and Healthy Buildings

Chairman Bates shared an upcoming event that will be held at the Batavia Public Library on Monday, January 27, 2025 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. sponsored by the Sierra Club-Valley of the Fox. There will be discussions on how switching to electric appliances can reduce carbon, lower energy costs, and protect your health. There will be discussions on the Clean and Healthy Buildings Act and its upcoming bill in the Illinois State legislature, which would create a plan to reduce building emissions in Illinois.

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 10:30 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary