



Kane County

KC Energy and Environmental Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

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

Friday, July 11, 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 Bill Tarver Board Member Deborah Allan Board Member Cherryl Strathmann Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
REMOTE	Board Member Chris Kious Board Member Ted Penesis
ABSENT	Board Member David Young Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Gripe*,Juby*, Lewis, Molina*; Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw and staff Powell; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public.

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 Members Kious and Penesis attending remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: June 13, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Cherryl Strathmann

5. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

None.

6. Environmental (J.Wollnik)

A. Authorizing Kane County to Enter Into Community Solar Subscriptions

KC Executive Committee

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

7. Recycling/Solid Waste (C. Ryan)

A. Internal Recycling Program & EEC Goal Progress

Recycling Coordinator Ryan provided information on the Internal Recycling Program. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 9:36 a.m.) She reviewed the materials that are difficult to recycle, and how each department can divert them. Ryan explained the single stream recycling roles of each department. All county employees and visitors know what is and what is not accepted as recyclable. All recyclables need to be clean and empty. Custodial staff consolidate recycling from each bin separately from trash and deposit it in the correct outdoor receptacle. Kane County's waste hauler company, Waste Management (WM), specifies what is and is not accepted as recyclable based on sorting and equipment and markets. Ryan stated that there is almost no recycling at the Judicial Campus. The Juvenile Justice Center is the only building on that campus with a recycling dumpster. The recycling container was removed in January 2022. Building management staff has expressed reservations and concerns about the contamination fees. However, Ryan noted that the Kane County Recycling Department is not in compliance with the Countywide Recycling Ordinance, which requires all commercial and institutional entities that generate recyclables to recycle. There have been indications that when contamination fees are incurred, custodial staff are being directed to either stop recycling, or to only recycle certain material. Waste Management frequently suggests to commercial customers with contamination fees to reduce recycling efforts to only cardboard. Lastly, Ryan reminded the Committee that the Recycling Extravaganza will take place on Saturday, July 19, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Randall Road in St. Charles. There will be collections of several items including electronics, books, bikes, paint, and aerosols. Further discussion ensued.

8. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)

A. Illinois EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Updates

Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw provided information on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The IEPA was awarded \$430M to implement the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Plan (CPRG). She reminded the Committee that this grant provides funding for states to develop and implement climate action plans that aim to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This grant will also fund several projects in five priority areas. This will reduce more than 57M tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the next twenty-five years. Hinshaw noted that most of the clean transportation for the CPRG focuses on freight and have duty electrical vehicle (EV) chargers. Clean building concierge identify opportunities for large-scale clean buildings projects, and work with building owners to implement them. At this time, it is unclear who is eligible for the upcoming grants. Lastly, Hinshaw stated that programs have started a Navigator program for technical assistance for clean buildings. It is currently unlikely local government will be eligible for all funding. Hinshaw anticipates funding for some programs will continue after funds run out. Much discussion ensued.

B. Smart Irrigation Systems - Pilot Project

Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw provided information on the Smart Irrigation Systems Pilot Project. The plans strategy is to promote increased water conservation and wastewater generation community-wide with a targeted reduction of 5% by 2030. Hinshaw stated that an established program will be promoted to support installation of low-flow water fixtures in residential homes and commercial businesses. This action will help customers better understand and reduce their water and energy consumption. The goal will be to achieve 500 households and 40 businesses upgraded annually. Hinshaw explained that a smart irrigation system uses technology to optimize water usage in irrigation systems. Sensors and controllers are used to automatically adjust watering schedules based on real-time data, such as weather conditions and soil moisture levels. She reached out to B-Hyve Technology and met with Orbit for information on watering decisions based on ecological needs. To date, B-Hyve has helped conserve over 100B gallons of water around the world. B-Hyve offers an XR Smart Indoor and Outdoor Sprinkler Timer which features set up parameters for types of landscapes in each zone such as turf, flowers, root depth, soil type, and shade. It was estimated that using a smart controller can eliminate 47% of watering's and save over 100K gallons each year.

C. Climate Action Implementation Plan Team Updates

Sustainability Coordinator Powell shared information on the Climate Action Implementation Plan (CAIP) Team. (Committee Member Tarver left at 10:25 a.m.) These teams are lead by participating citizens in the different sectors listed in the CAIP. The first cycle started in August 2024 and ended in November. The second cycle was conducted in March 2025 and ended in June. Throughout the two cycles, there were 30 actions, 42 total participants, and three to four people attending. Powell reviewed the actions of each sector from the second cycle. The next steps for the CAIP will be to review and refine all research collected from cycle #2, and meet with internal staff members to review actions and strategize next steps. Further discussion took place.

9. New Business

None.

10. Chairs Comments

Chairman Bates thanked her staff for all the work they continue to do.

11. Reports Placed On File

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

12. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

13. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Deborah Allan

This meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary