



# DU PAGE COUNTY

## Environmental Committee

### Final Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD  
WHEATON, IL 60187  
www.dupagecounty.gov

**Tuesday, July 1, 2025**

**8:30 AM**

**Room 3500A**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

8:30 AM meeting was called to order by Chair Sheila Rutledge at 8:30 AM.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Member Haider arrived at 8:47 A.M.

Additional Board Members: Member Paula Deacon Garcia and Member Yeena Yoo.

Guest Speaker: Kay McKeen

Staff present: Joy Hinz, Geoffrey Matteson, Myles Barnes, Catherine Figlewski, Joan Olson, Evan Shields.

<b>PRESENT</b>	Cronin Cahill, Evans, Honig, LaPlante, and Rutledge
<b>LATE</b>	Haider

**3. CHAIRWOMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR RUTLEDGE**

Chair Rutledge shared a comment to enjoy our summer and our gardens harvest this year. Chair Rutledge also reminded the committee to not put down any harmful pesticides as you spray for bugs and pests in your yards during this season.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5.A. [25-1613](#)**

Environmental Committee Minutes - Regular meeting - Tuesday, May 6, 2025

**Attachments:** [May Minutes Environmental](#)

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Lynn LaPlante

**6. PRESENTATIONS**

**6.A. SCARCE - DuPage County Projects**

Kay McKeen - Founder and Executive Director of SCARCE highlighted SCARCE's initiatives from April to June 2025, including the 19th Annual Sustainable Design Challenge, where teams from Lake Park and Glenbard East High Schools were recognized for their innovative designs.

She commended the recertification of Forest Glen Elementary's Earth Flag on April 22, emphasizing the dedication of a library aide who spearheaded environmental projects at the school. The 'Growin' Green Garden Market' held on May 3 offered organic seedlings and native plants to promote sustainable gardening practices. SCARCE also conducted compost workshops on May 8 and June 26, educating 49 participants on composting techniques, with volunteer John crafting wooden compost bin covers from scrap lumber. Additional efforts included hosting 35 municipal engineers to discuss litter reduction and recycling initiatives, conducting teacher training on solar energy and STEM education, recycling 39.4 tons of paper, culminating in the service of 226 vehicles and the shredding of 5.4 tons of paper in collaboration with West Chicago. SCARCE also supported recycling initiatives with state senators and partner municipalities and previewed upcoming events, including STEM-A-Palooza at the DuPage County Fair. Kay closed by expressing pride in SCARCE's sustainability accomplishments this year, outlining future goals, and responding to questions from members.

## 7. STAFF REPORTS

### 7.A. [25-1610](#)

#### Campus Tree Planting Event with Chicago Region Tree Initiative

Jennifer Boyer - Campus Natural Resources and Grounds Services Supervisor spoke about the Chicago Region Tree initiative by detailing the results of the planting of 38 trees. A video recap reel of the planting event was on display for all members in attendance. Jennifer concluded that the DuPage County Campus is an accredited level one arboretum through The Morton Arboretum, which sets the County apart from other arboretums, and that most of our new trees planted within the last 10 years are native trees.

**Attachments:**     [CRTI tree planting](#)

### 7.B. [25-1611](#)

#### Illinois Battery Recycling

Joy Hinz - DuPage Environmental & Sustainability Programs Manager shared about new legislation titled the 'Illinois Battery Stewardship Act' that goes into effect January 1, 2026. This legislation will soon add more primary battery locations to the already existing rechargeable drop-off locations. Joy mentioned further that the State of Illinois has grant funding available that the county will be talking with the local communities about and how they're working on finding more drop-off points this fall.

**Attachments:**     [Battery Stewardship Act Memo 7-1-25](#)

### 7.C. [25-1612](#)

#### Switch Together Summer 2025 Campaign

Joy Hinz - DuPage Environmental & Sustainability Programs Manager spoke on the success the County has seen since partnering with iChoosr's - Switch Together Solar Group Buy Summer Campaign. 93 households accepted their solar offers and since the start of the program there have been 111 installations which equals 1,107 kilowatts that were added solar capacity. In closing, Joy reminded the committee of the upcoming iChoosr campaign happening later this summer and that committee members should watch for calls with questions about the program.

**Attachments:**     [Solar Switch Spring Summer 2025 Memo](#)

**8.     OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed.

**9.     NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

**10.   ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 A.M.



## Minutes

421 N. COUNTY FARM  
ROAD  
WHEATON, IL 60187  
[www.dupagecounty.gov](http://www.dupagecounty.gov)

---

**File #:** 25-1613

**Agenda Date:** 7/1/2025

**Agenda #:** 5.A.

---



# DU PAGE COUNTY

## Environmental Committee

### Final Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD  
WHEATON, IL 60187  
www.dupagecounty.gov

---

**Tuesday, May 6, 2025**

**8:30 AM**

**Room 3500A**

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

8:30 A.M. meeting was called to order by Chair Sheila Rutledge at 8:30 A.M.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Other Members Present: Paula Deacon Garcia, Yeena Yoo

<b>PRESENT</b>	Cronin Cahill, Evans, Haider, Honig, LaPlante, and Rutledge
----------------	---

**3. CHAIRWOMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR RUTLEDGE**

**3.A. 2025 Sign Event Recap**

The 2025 campaign sign recycle event was highly successful, with an overwhelming number of signs collected, especially from the municipal elections -so much that the dumpster overflowed. This effort helped keep a significant amount of plastic out of landfills.

**3.B. International Compost Awareness Week**

This week is International Compost Awareness Week, the largest educational initiative in the compost and waste industries. This year's theme, "Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost," emphasizes the impact of composting at all levels-from backyard to community efforts that help contribute to healthier soils. Sheila mentioned an article in the "Chicago Tribune" about a large-scale composting company, Green Era that accepts even packaged goods for composting.

Joy responded that Green Era's customer base is mostly commercial and not as much residential. She also stated that **Choose DuPage** had a webinar with Green Era and offered to send the webinar recording out to whomever is interested.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kay McKeen, founder and Executive Director of SCARCE - This week is International Compost Awareness Week, and two composting workshops are scheduled for Thursday. The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry is partnering with the People's Resource Center to initiate food scrap composting. Recently, a group of students successfully lobbied their school board to eliminate toxic black plastic from their district's lunch packaging. April saw eight recycling events, including a large event in Wheaton where one woman dropped off 500 campaign signs. At the Garden Market event, attendance was the highest yet. During a Wheaton event, 30,000 pounds of food were collected, filling three trucks, and there was a record collection of syringes, EpiPens, and

medicine. May brings more composting workshops and garden markets, with many items preordered. Appreciation was shared for everyone's efforts in environmental care, along with thanks for community support in projects like composting and recycling.

## 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 5.A. [25-1122](#)

Environmental Committee Minutes - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, April 1, 2025

<b>RESULT:</b> APPROVED
-------------------------

## 6. PRESENTATIONS

### 6.A. Showcasing the Illinois Green Business Assessment & Planning Tool - Sustainable DuPage

Cassie Carroll - Marketing & Communications Director, SEDAC

Cassandra's slideshow explained how SEDAC (Smart Energy Design Assistance Center), which is based out of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, focuses on empowering organizations with practical solutions for climate, energy, and sustainability. One of its major initiatives is the Illinois Green Business Program, established in 2008 to help businesses go green, reduce costs, and support community sustainability.

Since 2023, SEDAC has partnered with Sustainable DuPage and Choose DuPage, working with 20 facilities to implement cost-saving and environmentally friendly measures, achieving significant energy savings and reduced carbon emissions. SEDAC also connects businesses with utility incentives and funding opportunities to support these changes.

To aid businesses in sustainability efforts, SEDAC developed a Green Business Assessment and Planning Tool. This tool helps businesses-whether new to sustainability or experienced-identify inefficiencies, create sustainability plans, track progress, and engage employees in sustainable practices. It also guides proactive maintenance and connects businesses to funding for sustainable upgrades.

The tool is structured around four steps:

1. Launch a Green Team and develop a mission.
2. Conduct a facility assessment to identify areas for improvement.
3. Identify areas for improvement and prioritize sustainability practices.
4. Develop a sustainability plan by identifying key steps, timelines, funding and communication with staff

SEDAC is committed to supporting businesses in using this tool to foster long-term sustainability and efficiency across Illinois.

Robert Schlorff, Energy Engineer at SEDAC presented a detailed, live demonstration of the Green Business Assessment and Planning Tool. He explained how the SEDAC Green Business Assessment and Planning Tool is a structured, spreadsheet-based system designed to help businesses assess sustainability opportunities, identify waste, prioritize improvements, and create

actionable sustainability plans. It is part of SEDAC's mission to empower organizations with climate, energy, and sustainability solutions.

**Tool Overview:****1. How to use:**

- The first tab provides information on usage, version details, contact information, and basic guidelines for input.

**2. Step 1 - Launch a Green Team:**

- Businesses list the departments and individuals involved in sustainability efforts.
- Mission, vision, goals, and support structures are outlined.
- Initial ideas, success measurements, alignment with company values, and budgeting considerations are captured.

**3. Step 2 - Conduct a Facility Assessment:**

- The tool is divided within four groups in five key areas
- Office Space, Restrooms and Kitchens, Production spaces, Loading Docks
  - **Lighting**
  - **Envelope**
  - **Waste**
  - **Equipment**
  - **HVAC**
- For each area, businesses evaluate sustainability aspects (e.g., LED lighting, water usage, equipment conditions).
- Responses are color-coded for clarity.

**4. Step 3 - Identify Areas for Improvement:**

- Information from facility assessments is compiled to identify and prioritize action areas.
- Green Teams can select which opportunities to pursue based on assessment results.

**5. Step 4 - Sustainability Plan:**

- Goals and priority strategies are developed based on assessment findings.
- Implementation steps, success measurements, timelines, responsible departments, and resource needs are outlined.
- Up to four main goals can be structured, with strategies for execution and milestones for tracking.

**6. Utility Data Tracking:**

- Tabs for **Electricity** and **Gas Data** allow businesses to input usage and analyze consumption patterns.
- A benchmarking tab visualizes energy use, cost intensity, and carbon impact over time.

**7. Equipment Tracking:**

- Includes templates for HVAC and other production equipment, helping businesses monitor condition and efficiency.

**8. Illinois Green Business Checklist:**

- A final tab with color-coded responses helps companies quickly assess alignment with Illinois Green Business standards.

**Support and Guidance:**

- The tool is accompanied by a written step-by-step guide to simplify its use.
- SEDAC offers support to help businesses implement the tool and develop their sustainability plans.

The tool is designed to make sustainability planning practical and straightforward, empowering companies to identify inefficiencies, prioritize changes, and implement long-term solutions.

Vice chair Saba Haider responded with how great the presentation was and if there are any limitations on the size of business (square footage, number of employees, etc.) and usefulness of the tool. Cassandra stated that there is no limit - organizations of all sizes can utilize the tool.

Member Cahill inquired about a fee for downloading the tool. There is no fee. All that is needed is to fill out a contact form on the Choose DuPage website.

In closing, Cassandra mentioned The **DuPage County Sustainable Business Collaborative is coming soon**. It is a networking platform for municipal staff and committee members to share ideas, successes, and strategies for engaging local businesses in sustainability. Open to all municipal representatives, the collaborative meets quarterly to explore ways communities can support business sustainability, connect with local programs, and align business efforts with community sustainability goals.

**7. STAFF REPORTS****7.A. [25-1158](#)****2025 Propane Tank Recycling Partnership**

Joy Hinz announced that DuPage County is continuing its partnership with the **Forest Preserve District** to collect **1-pound propane tanks** at Blackwell Family Campground through October. Last year's program cost the county less than \$300, and this year's costs are expected to be under \$500.

**7.B. [25-1157](#)****Food Waste Prevention Week Recap**

She also highlighted **Food Waste Prevention Week**, praising Myles Barnes for his effective social media efforts, which have noticeably increased traffic and awareness.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 A.M.





## Staff Report

421 N. COUNTY FARM  
ROAD  
WHEATON, IL 60187  
[www.dupagecounty.gov](http://www.dupagecounty.gov)

---

**File #:** 25-1610

**Agenda Date:** 7/1/2025

**Agenda #:** 7.A.

---



## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

630-407-5700  
fax: 630-407-5701

[www.dupagecounty.gov/facilities](http://www.dupagecounty.gov/facilities)

TO Sheila Rutledge, Chair  
Environmental Committee Members

FROM Jennifer Boyer, Manager of Campus Natural Resources and Grounds

DATE June 23, 2025

SUBJECT Campus tree planting event with Chicago Region Tree Initiative (CRTI)

Last fall, the Chicago Region Tree Initiative (CRTI) reached out to Facilities Management with an offer to supply and plant trees to improve canopy cover in the region. Ten native species were selected in keeping with the policy to prioritize native vegetation on campus. On May 6, the CRTI joined the campus grounds crew and Facilities Staff to plant thirty-eight total trees on the DuPage County Government Campus in Wheaton. Most of the trees were situated just west of Animal Services and at the southwestern corner of County Farm Road and Manchester, with one placed in a parking lot island at the Care center and three planted around the Family Center. Morton Arboretum staff provided a training demonstration and CRTI supplied all trees, mulch and a group of volunteers.

The new trees enhance species diversity, improving the resilience of our campus tree inventory against disease and insect threats. The campus, which is an ArbNet accredited Level I Arboretum, is home to forty-five species of trees and shrubs, the majority of which are native. Like native flowers and grasses, native trees and shrubs support native insects, and birds while supporting human health and well-being and counteracting the heat island effect.

### **Tree species added during this event**

**\*Indicates a new species added to arboretum inventory**

Ironwood  
River Birch  
Kentucky coffeetree  
London plane tree\*  
Red buckeye\*  
White pine  
Yellowwood\*  
Bur oak  
Bald cypress  
Shingle oak



## Staff Report

421 N. COUNTY FARM  
ROAD  
WHEATON, IL 60187  
[www.dupagecounty.gov](http://www.dupagecounty.gov)

---

**File #:** 25-1611

**Agenda Date:** 7/1/2025

**Agenda #:** 7.B.

---



**DUPAGE  
COUNTY**

## ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

630-407-6767

[www.dupagecounty.gov/environmental](http://www.dupagecounty.gov/environmental)

### MEMORANDUM

To: Sheila Rutledge, Chair  
Environmental Committee Members

From: Joy Hinz, Environmental & Sustainability Programs Manager

Date: June 23, 2025

Re: Illinois Battery Recycling

---

The Illinois Battery Stewardship Act (“Act”) was signed into law August 9, 2024. The Act requires battery manufacturers to participate in and fund a battery collection and recycling stewardship program. Upon effective date of January 1, 2026, the program includes portable batteries and then expands to include medium-format batteries January 1, 2028. Covered batteries do not include embedded batteries, batteries within medical devices, batteries containing an electrolyte as a free liquid, a lead-acid battery weighting greater than 11 pounds, and batteries subject to other provisions of the Environmental Protection Act. Portable batteries include both “Primary” (those that cannot be recharged) no more than 4.4 pounds and “Rechargeable” up to 11 pounds.

Cal2Recycle has been hired to serve as the Battery stewardship organization and is finalizing its plan to implement the program. The Act has convenience standards and is designed to ensure that that entire State has reasonable access to recycle batteries. As such, the County has facilitated conversations with eWorks, the County’s electronics recycler, about collecting at DuPage County locations that are compatible with collection requirements. Staff will provide more information once locations and launch dates are finalized.



## Staff Report

421 N. COUNTY FARM  
ROAD  
WHEATON, IL 60187  
[www.dupagecounty.gov](http://www.dupagecounty.gov)

---

**File #:** 25-1612

**Agenda Date:** 7/1/2025

**Agenda #:** 7.C.

---



**DUPAGE  
COUNTY**

## ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

630-407-6767

[www.dupagecounty.gov/environmental](http://www.dupagecounty.gov/environmental)

### MEMORANDUM

To: Sheila Rutledge, Chair  
Environmental Committee Members

From: Joy Hinz, Environmental & Sustainability Programs Manager

Date: July 1, 2025

Re: 2025 Switch Together Update

---

The County has been working with the Citizens Utility Board, Midwest Renewable Energy Association, iChoosr and other northeastern Illinois local governments on the Switch Together program. The spring/early summer program launched in April with decisions due by the end of June. During this session, 93 households accepted their offers. Installations are ongoing and to date, the program has resulted in 111 installations, or 1,107 kW added solar capacity in DuPage County.

The Fall 2025 cohort will launch July 3<sup>rd</sup> with the goal of contracts being finalized by September 30<sup>th</sup> and installations by December 31<sup>st</sup> to maximize eligibility for tax credits.