



DU PAGE COUNTY

Environmental Committee

Final Regular Meeting Agenda

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

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

8:30 AM

Room 3500A

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. CHAIRWOMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR RUTLEDGE
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - 5.A. [25-0554](#)
Environmental Committee Minutes - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, February 4, 2025
6. DISCUSSION
 - 6.A. Dining Services Plastics Alternatives
7. PRESENTATIONS
 - 7.A. SCARCE
8. STAFF REPORTS
 - 8.A. [25-0621](#)
Switch Together Solar: Northern Illinois 2025
 - 8.B. [25-0622](#)
Waste Hauler Survey
9. OLD BUSINESS
10. NEW BUSINESS
11. ADJOURNMENT



Minutes

421 N. COUNTY FARM
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File #: 25-0554

Agenda Date: 3/4/2025

Agenda #: 5.A.



DU PAGE COUNTY

Environmental Committee

Final Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
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Tuesday, February 4, 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: Yeena Yoo, Paula Deacon Garcia

PRESENT	Cronin Cahill, Evans, Haider, Honig, and Rutledge
ABSENT	LaPlante

3. CHAIRWOMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR RUTLEDGE

Chair Rutledge cites an article in *Business Insider*, which found a spoon's worth of nano plastics accumulating in human's brains, raising concerns about their impact on health. In addition, Chair Rutledge highlights the broader issue of plastic pollution and expresses a desire to reduce plastic use, particularly by eliminating plastic shopping bags. She also suggests that addressing plastic waste is an ongoing discussion and an important environmental goal.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals made public comment:

David L. Barcus from Dark Sky International

The Dark Sky Initiative will be presented at the Mayor's Caucus along with the Environmental Committee on Tuesday, February 18th, from 9:30 to 11 AM via Zoom. Representatives from Homer Glen, Glen Ellyn, and Westmont will discuss their efforts in implementing better lighting choices. Progress is slow and steady but building and David believes change is coming.

Hawthorne Woods is an example of success, people are starting to make good decisions on lighting that they have chosen.

The meeting is expected to have 40-50 attendees, but the goal is to increase participation, ideally to 100-225 people, to encourage broader adoption. The presentation will cover key issues, benefits, municipal actions, and technical lighting options. The invitation was sent by Kevin Burns, Mayor of Geneva.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.A. [25-0411](#)

Environmental Committee Minutes - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, January 7, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
SECONDER:	Andrew Honig

6. PARENT COMMITTEE APPROVAL

6.A. [EN-R-0002-25](#)

Resolution EN-R-0002-25 DuPage County Electronics Recycling Program 2026 Notice of Participation

Joy explained how the county needs to complete and submit a form to qualify for the state's electronics recycling program for 2026. The program operates at no cost to the county, except for an annual \$6,000 reimbursement for trailers at two collection sites. Submitting the form ensures continued participation in the program.

RESULT:	APPROVED AT COMMITTEE
MOVER:	Saba Haider
SECONDER:	Lucy Evans

7. DISCUSSION

7.A. Arbor Day Program 2025

Joy explained how this initiative began with distributing 500 bare root seedlings. In 2024, the County worked with West Chicago's Environmental Commission to further support tree planting efforts. West Chicago was chosen because it has the lowest tree canopy coverage in DuPage County, according to the Chicago Regional Trees Initiative. This effort aimed to support tree planting in an area with significant room for improvement.

West Chicago has expressed interest in continuing the seedling distribution program this year. However, with only \$1,000 in funding, expanding it to all communities isn't feasible. Looking ahead to 2026, there is potential to develop a broader program, possibly modeled after the document shredding initiative. The committee's input is needed to determine preferences and future direction.

The seedling distribution could be offered to employees again, but this isn't ideal since individuals can only plant so many trees and shrubs in their yards. The committee's input and ideas are needed to determine the best approach moving forward. Additionally, Member Lucy Evans was informed by Chair Rutledge about discussions regarding some seedlings being allocated for Hinsdale/Willowbrook.

Lucy suggested a potential idea to involve Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts in the seedling distribution program. This could help ensure that more trees are properly planted and cared for, rather than relying on individuals who may not have the means or opportunity to plant them. Lucy stated she wants to make sure these trees get homes.

Joy offered to get in touch with Girl Scouts but adds that education on the care and planting of trees is necessary as part of our arboretum standards.

Shelia stated the benefits of having a higher tree canopy, which contributes to lower costs in heating and air conditioning. Bolingbrook, Wooddale, Bensenville, Bartlett and Addison are mentioned as next on the list of having lower tree canopies. Cindy suggested that the effort spreads out to these communities and specifically mentioned Bensenville. Joy agreed to reach out to Bensenville to see if they have a mechanism to distribute the trees.

8. PRESENTATIONS

8.A. Sustainability Initiatives Update

Ian Johnstone gave a summary of updates on campus solar and EV projects:

The rooftop solar array has been operational since October 2023, generating energy for 25-30 homes worth of electricity.

Additional solar panel installation is planned to complete the rooftop array with grant funding. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) of \$500,000 was awarded for:

- EV charging at the courthouse
- Solar panel installation on the Administration building
- Workforce gap analysis and training program
- LED lighting retrofit in tunnels

The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant (CFI) of \$350,000 was awarded for:

- Additional EV charging stations at the Care Center
- Animal Services & 421 Administration Building
- Expanding public EV charging access

At the Courthouse there are plans for 2 Dual-port Level 2 chargers, but progress has been delayed due to zoning changes, installer challenges, and compliance with federal/state/local requirements. Also adding an extra layer of requirement for our installer was a ComEd rebate program that could provide up to \$20,000 in additional funding.

At the Care Center, as part of the sidewalk project, we installed Level 3 spot-fast charger and we would be drawing electricity from the SWAP building.

Public charging at 421 Administration Building currently has one charger, with space for another. Options include a fast charger or dual-port Level 2 charger. Animal Services has pre-installed piping for future free EV chargers Care Center has Level 3 (fast) charger planned, with some infrastructure already installed.

The south solar array on the 421 building is exceeding manufacturer efficiency ratings, producing more energy than expected on sunny days. Conditions on our rooftops are very optimal. Factors contributing to high efficiency include cool rooftop temperatures, optimal panel tilt, and reflective white roof coating.

With the EECBG dollars, Facilities Management included finishing the additional rooftop areas like the auditorium. When new sealant is applied, solar panels/inverters that have been previously installed will be ready for future array, which is an estimated 25 homes worth. The auditorium would be another 64kW. \$200,000 has been allocated from the EECBG for this installation. Design documents are complete and ready to issue an RFP.

8.B. SCARCE

Kay McKeen from SCARCE was scheduled to present but time did not allow. SCARCE presentation rescheduled for upcoming Environmental Committee Meeting.

8.C. Recycle Coach Demonstration

Joy added that the state of Illinois, EPA has contracted with a company called Recycle Coach to provide all counties and all municipalities. Joy demonstrates a the Recycle Coach app which offers several helpful features to improve recycling and sustainability efforts where a user can enter their exact address to receive a customized recycling schedule The app supports multiple languages, using the county's top languages, ensuring accessibility for all residents.

One of the app's features is the What Goes Where tool, which allows you to type in items like electronics, old appliances, or medications, and it will tell you how to properly dispose of or recycle them, especially useful for e-waste and unusual items.

This tool provides users with immediate, easy-to-understand guidance to ensure they recycle or dispose of items correctly, reducing contamination and improving overall recycling efficiency. There are a few communities on boarded. Bensenville, Downers Grove & Naperville. Lombard opted out because they are contracting with waste management, and they just didn't want they didn't want to invest the time and into the app.

9. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

10. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 A.M.



Informational

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File #: 25-0621

Agenda Date: 3/4/2025

Agenda #: 8.A.



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Sheila Rutledge, Chair
Environmental Committee Members

FROM: Joy Hinz, Environmental & Sustainability Programs Manager

DATE: February 24, 2025

RE: Switch Together Solar: Northern Illinois 2025

The County has been partnering with the Citizens Utility Board, Midwest Renewable Energy Association and iChoosr to offer a group buy and solar education program since 2023. Since that time, more than 1,300 residents have participated in a Solar Power Hour and/or signed on to receive a group buy quote. As of February, there have been 80 installations in DuPage and 329 in the Chicagoland region.

For 2025, the program name has changed to Switch Together Solar: Northern Illinois and will launch in March when an auction will be held to identify the best price from qualified installers. A bi-lingual direct mailer will be sent to the next round of residents that have not previously received a letter. The Division will be sending out the opportunity to Cool DuPage email subscribers and placing information on the website and social media platforms.



Informational

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File #: 25-0622

Agenda Date: 3/4/2025

Agenda #: 8.B.



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Sheila Rutledge, Chair
Environmental Committee Members

FROM: Joy Hinz, Environmental & Sustainability Programs Manager

DATE: February 24, 2025

RE: Waste & Recycling Hauler Survey

In support of DuPage County’s Solid Waste Management Plan, the County Board adopted EN-O-0001-24 which requires waste haulers operating in the County to annually report waste and recycling data. The information below summarizes the information that was collected from the 14 surveys submitted for the 2024 operating year.

<i>Source of Waste</i>	<i>Municipal Waste</i>	<i>Recyclables</i>	<i>Food Scrap</i>	<i>Landscape Waste</i>
<i>Industrial</i>	20.69%	8.6%	15.79%	1.89%
<i>Commercial</i>	37.48%	18.9%	84.21%	0.28%
<i>Residential</i>	41.82%	72.5%	-	97.83%

This data will help the County measure more accurately a recycling rate and plan for future solid waste management.