



DU PAGE COUNTY

Environmental Committee

Final Summary

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

Tuesday, January 7, 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, LaPlante, and Rutledge
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3. CHAIRWOMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR RUTLEDGE

Chair Rutledge welcomes new Vice Chair Saba Haider and Member Andrew Honig.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals made public comment:

Kay McKeen from SCARCE:

Kay thanked everyone for their participation in the plastic bread tags collection. She also commented on how the food pantry would appreciate reusable bags rather than paper bags. The goal is to encourage the use of reusable bags for donations which are collected and donated to food pantries, but many people still use paper grocery bags. Grocery bags with handles are particularly needed by food pantries, as they are strong and useful for carrying food. The bags must be clean, dry, and not ripped to ensure they can be reused effectively. The food pantries receiving the bags include: Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, Elmhurst Food Pantry, People's Resource Center (both locations), Bartlett Neighborhood Food Pantries.

In January, three open houses are planned to showcase various programs and items available for borrowing. The Green Your Gig program, which promotes dish reuse, is expanding, with Glen Ellyn recently receiving a grant from the DuPage Foundation for residents to buy dishes at the library. Additionally, a repair fair on January 25th including Elmhurst and Carol Stream, have begun offering sharpening services for tools like shovels and pruning shears.

Other upcoming events include a sustainable professionals meeting on January 31st, a visit to the hazardous waste site in Naperville on February 28th, and the High School Sustainable Design Challenge on April 15th. A list of local programs for tree mulching and holiday light recycling is also available. There's a lot of things coming up in a lot of different ways to educate people and reach people. Interested individuals can attend an open house or schedule a tour at SCARCE to learn more.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.A. [25-0002](#)

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MOVER:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
SECONDER:	Lynn LaPlante

6. PARENT COMMITTEE APPROVAL

6.A. [25-0003](#)

Recommendation of the approval to support local government hosted document shredding events providing all DuPage County residents access to document shredding services through November 30, 2025, for a total expenditure amount not to exceed \$8,500.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
MOVER:	Saba Haider
SECONDER:	Lynn LaPlante

6.B. [25-0004](#)

Recommendation for the approval of an Agreement between the County of DuPage, Illinois, eWorks Electronics Services, Inc. and Reverse Logistics Group Americas, Inc. to provide electronics recycling to residents of DuPage County, for the period January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$6,000, for Environmental.

Yeena Yoo inquired about how e-Works was chosen for electronics recycling, specifically whether the selection process was open for bidding. The answer explains that e-Works was selected because they are part of the state's Illinois Manufacturers Recycling Association, which is established by state legislation. The county is assigned a recycler through this program, and in this case, e-Works was chosen due to their existing relationship with RLG, the assigned recycler. Additionally, e-Works is the only company that charges residents a fee rather than charging the county.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
MOVER:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
SECONDER:	Lynn LaPlante

6.C. [EN-R-0001-25](#)

Recommendation for the approval of a grant agreement between the County of DuPage and Choose DuPage for Choose DuPage to manage Sustainable DuPage, for the period of January 14, 2025 to November 30, 2025, for a total amount not to exceed \$60,000.

Greg Bedalov, President/CEO of Choose DuPage commented:
In 2024, 17 assessments were conducted for businesses in DuPage County, aimed at supporting sustainability initiatives. 7 webinars on sustainability practices were hosted, attracting 332 businesses, and were held in collaboration with the Environmental Department and the University of Illinois. Additionally, 10 case studies were developed for businesses, all set to be published this year. A website was created featuring over 70 resources, including a Green Building Business Assessment Checklist. The website saw

800 unique visits from businesses with 15,000 impressions.

A Sustainability Plan workbook and template were also developed for local businesses to use. Looking ahead to 2025, the goal is to extend these efforts to municipalities. Plans include creating a webinar series in partnership with municipalities, focusing on building electrification, renewable energy (in line with new Springfield legislation), water conservation, and assisting municipalities in securing grant funding for sustainability initiatives.

Member Cahill asked about light pollution and how does Choose DuPage address this issue because Elmhurst doesn't have any initiatives towards light pollution. Joy commented that Greg did a webinar with Dark Skies that addresses this issue for businesses and we are still looking for an ordinance for that. Cahill clarified that she is focused on educating municipalities and asked Choose DuPage to incorporate light pollution into the outreach.

RESULT:	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
MOVER:	Cynthia Cronin Cahill
SECONDER:	Saba Haider

7. OLD BUSINESS

Member Lucy Evans is advocating for the removal of plastic bottles from vending machines and the cafeteria, emphasizing the need to move towards more sustainable options like aluminum cans. She stresses that while she doesn't want to fully ban plastic bottles on campus, she believes it's time to stop selling them, as alternatives are available.

Nick Kottmeyer mentions that during a meeting with food services, they explored the option of switching to aluminum cans. However, he notes that the final decision will be up to the board, as aluminum cans are more expensive than plastic bottles.

Tim Harbaugh suggests discussing the issue further in March when more information is available. He also highlighted the importance of keeping everything under one contract for food services.

8. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 A.M.