



Commissioner Chris Trubac
Barbara Andersen
Nichole Biber
Fred Cowles
Sarah Mullkoff
Joel Murr
Andrew Nowicki
Matthew Lincoln

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION WILL MEET ON MARCH 23, 2022 AT 5:30 PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM D & E OF THE HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING, 5303 S. CEDAR, LANSING.

<https://ingham.zoom.us/j/83886111156>

Agenda

Call to Order
Approval of Draft Minutes
Additions to the Agenda
Limited Public Comment

1. Lansing Environmental Action Team (LEAT) (*Presentation/Discussion*)

Announcements
Public Comment
Adjournment

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

February 23, 2022

Draft Minutes

Members Present: Trubac, Nowicki, Mulkoff (Virtual)

Members Present Later in the Meeting: Biber, Andersen, Cowles (Virtual)

Members Absent: Murr, Lincoln,

Others Present: Jared Cypher, Jim Hudgins, Elaine Fischhoff, Rick Terrill (Virtual)

There was no quorum present. The gathering began at 5:36 p.m. in Conference Room D/E of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing Michigan.

Approval of Draft Minutes

This item was skipped due to a lack of quorum.

Additions to the Agenda

Limited Public Comment

None.

1. Bureau Veritas Energy Audit Contract (Discussion)

Bureau Veritas gave a presentation detailing their plans to move forward with the energy audit and meet the goals outlined in the RFP.

2. Environmental Tools and Mapping (Presentation)

Andrew Nowicki gave a presentation on environmental justice mapping tools produced by the state and federal government. Links to these tools and further information are included below:

EPA EJ Screen - <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool -
<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/cejst#10.26/42.6706/-84.5361>

Information on MiEJScreen –
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/egle/Presentation-AAC-MiEJScreen-2021-09-22_736899_7.pdf

University of Michigan Screening tool -
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=dc4f0647dda34959963488d3f519fd24>

Announcements

Nichole Biber mentioned that the upcoming GM plant sounds open to renewable energy.

Barbara Andersen mentioned a pamphlet from Consumers Energy that mentions only 10% of energy produced is renewable, and the commission could explore options to assist in expanding renewables.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm.

INGHAM COUNTY 2021

CLIMATE, JOBS, AND JUSTICE PLATFORM

Following Ingham County's adoption of resolutions 20-301 (declaring a climate emergency), 21-195 (reconstituting the Environmental Affairs Commission), and 21-210 (declaring a commitment to climate justice), we encourage Ingham County to adopt the platform below. As state and federal efforts ramp up to address the intertwined problems of climate change and social justice, Ingham County should align with state goals while being prepared to leverage funds and opportunities to meet this challenge.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Ingham County will create a sustainability office to work with the Environmental Affairs Commission; it will conduct a greenhouse gas audit from both County-run facilities and operations and from all sources within the county by 2022.

Ingham County will commit to 1) net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from County facilities and operations by 2030, 2) reducing 2019 total greenhouse gas emissions from all sources within the County by 50% by 2030 and 3) achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from all sources within the County by 2050. The County will work with other governments, utilities, businesses, and residents to achieve this goal. The County will work to replace all fossil fuels with renewable energy sources, and use energy conservation, demand response programs, and energy storage to meet energy demand.

The County will establish a climate resilience plan to counter the effects of climate change, including provision of affordable clean water, heat relief such as cooling centers during summer heat waves, and prevention of stormwater flooding.

The County will advocate for the adoption of revised building codes that focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy infrastructure. The County will encourage financing structures for residents who wish to retrofit existing housing stock to make them more energy efficient, including utilities offering on-bill financing.

The County will adopt a provision requiring energy audits as part of the home sale and rental inspection processes for all homes. Further, the County will investigate the possibility of adopting a home energy rating system for all homes in the County.

TRANSIT & TRANSPORTATION

Ingham County will work to expand and fully fund public transportation, bike trails, and other low-carbon mobility with a goal of providing everyone in the county affordable and equitable access to sustainable mobility options.

Ingham County will develop grant and incentive programs in conjunction with State policy, government agencies, and major private industrial, retail, and other businesses to help enable more shared use mobility.

Ingham County will work with other government agencies, private businesses, and key community institutions to develop a sufficient network of electric vehicle charging stations, especially, but not limited to, along major highway arteries in the county and at multi-family housing.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE & GREEN JOBS

The County's energy justice efforts will ensure that all citizens of the county benefit equally in the low-emission economy (environmentally and economically) and have the opportunity and resources available to them so that no worker or community is left behind as a result of these goals and policies.

The County will lead efforts to increase energy efficiency, distributed renewable energy, and home health/safety/weatherization programs in low-income neighborhoods.

The County will establish a plan to support the equitable development of green businesses, green jobs, and green job training. The sustainability office will consult with labor unions, advocates, low-income communities, and businesses to equitably manage the transition to net-zero greenhouse gases, and to develop policies to maximize the quality, quantity, and access to new low-carbon and green jobs, including retraining and transition strategies for workers in the fossil fuel economy. Additionally, the County will advocate for federal and/or Michigan civilian conservation corps programs and opportunities.

Further, Ingham County will work to ensure that past injustices (caused by red-lining and other inequitable policies) are ameliorated through work in the energy, building, and transportation sectors, focused on public health outcomes and the availability of green jobs. Ingham County will work with stakeholders to increase participation of low-income neighborhoods in energy efficiency, home weatherization, and energy transformation (renewable energy installation) programs.

Ingham County will advocate at the state level for policies that compel utilities, specifically Consumers Energy and Lansing Board of Water and Light (LBWL), to increase their investments in low-income neighborhoods. The sustainability office will seek concrete and measurable commitments from Consumers and LBWL, and will work with the Michigan Public Services Commission (MPSC) and LBWL to ensure low-income households benefit from energy policies.

WATER & FOOD SECURITY

Ingham County will coordinate the development of transparency from water utilities regarding water rates and assistance for low-income residents, throughout the County. The County will lead efforts to ban water shut-offs.

The County will promote access to healthy and sustainably grown food through support for regenerative farming, community and neighborhood gardens, and farmers' markets.

Ingham County will lead the work of all cities and townships within the Grand River and Red Cedar River watersheds both to separate storm water from sewer discharges and to reduce nonpoint source pollution in stormwater. The heaviest water users will be required to pay a fair rate for their usage. The utilities will be conscious of vulnerable constituencies and design their operation to minimize impacts on those users.

Ingham County will require government properties to avoid the planting of invasive non-native plants and encourage maximal use of native plants. The County will provide incentives to homeowners who use native plantings in green infrastructure projects, facilitating the development of urban wildlife corridors and maximizing tree canopy.

Ingham County will continue to press the State to pass a statewide sanitary code that would require regular inspections of septic systems, and equitable financing for low-income homeowners with needed repairs, replacements, or sewer hookups.

Ingham County will advocate for adequate funding to ensure inspection and cleanup of toxic sites. The County will work with the state to identify toxic sites and to clean up and redevelop brownfields, utilizing local firms wherever possible.

Signatories