



Village of Winnetka

Environmental and Forestry Commission Meeting

January 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Winnetka Village Hall Council Chambers - 510
Green Bay Road

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction & Chair's Remarks**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Review and Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Approval of the December 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- 4. Old Business Updates**
 - a. Review of Communications Items Proposed by Commissioner Kunkle
 - b. SolSmart Update
 - c. Winnetka 2040 Futures Drafting Update
- 5. New Business**
 - a. Winnetka Sustainability Coordinator Proposal Discussion
 - b. Draft Communications Content Discussion
- 6. Communications**
 - a. February Communications Items
 - b. March Communications Items
- 7. Committee/Staff Reports**
- 8. Open Forum**
- 9. Adjournment**

NOTICE

All agenda materials are available at villageofwinnetka.org (**Government > Council Information > Agenda Packets & Minutes**); the Reference Desk at the Winnetka Library; or in the Manager's Office at Village Hall (2nd floor). The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that all persons with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, contact the Village ADA Coordinator, at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, 847-716-3543; T.D.D. 847-501-6041.

WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2022

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois, Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Hanley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.; Voting Members present: Commissioners Patrick Hanley, Rosann Park-Jones, Ted Wynnychenko, and Liz Kunkle. Voting Members absent: David Varca and Peter Eck. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: Andrew Cripe. Student Representatives Present: Scarlett Harper. Student Representatives absent: Marcus Buccellato. Staff Liaison present: Diana Puga, Public Works Analyst. Public present: one.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chairperson Hanley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members. Staff Representative Puga took roll call for attendance.

2) Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes:

a) Approval of the November Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Wynnychenko made a motion to approve the November 9, 2022, minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones.

AYES:	HANLEY, PARK-JONES WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE
ABSENT:	VARCA, ECK
NAYS:	NONE

4) Old Business Updates:

a) 2023 1H Planning & Priorities

The Commission reviewed a working calendar of projects and initiatives for 2024 to better plan and benchmark these projects and initiatives.

b) Sustainability Plan Revisited

The Commissioners discussed the Sustainability Plan that was introduced Summer 2021. The Commission discussed that items that are not included in the 2040 Winnetka Comprehensive Plan should be included in the Sustainability Plan.

Commissioner Kunkle provided an update regarding the review of the 2040 Winnetka Comprehensive Plan. The Plan Commission has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 21st.

The Plan Commission regularly meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, however, will also be meeting on January 18, 2023, and February 15, 2023, to draft or outline the next plan for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The meetings will commence at 6:00 PM.

The Commission briefly discussed tailoring the Climate Action Plan to Winnetka.

5) New Business:

a) Sustainable Materials Management

i) Comparative Recycling Guidelines

The Commission reviewed two recycling guides, one by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) and the other by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the need for more specific information regarding what can be recycled and less focus on the numbers on recyclable materials; the resin codes do not equal the recycling codes.

The Village recently contracted a new graphic designer; Public Works and Commissioner Kunkle are working on updating Winnetka's guidelines and publications. Student Representative Harper suggested the guides be shared with businesses.

Commissioner Kunkle also provided an update regarding the residential composting drop-off program. Effective 2023, Greeley School will be a new composting site. District 36 is expected to resume classes on January 9, 2023, the program will be available beginning that date. Beginning February 1, 2023, Winnetka Congregational Church will also be a drop off site. The church would service a part of town that is not already serviced and is not a school site. Additionally, Winnetka Public Schools passed a referendum to build structures for the public drop off program.

ii) Broader Materials Discussion & Greenpeace Report

The Commission discussed an article regarding the Greenpeace Report. The Commission discussed the recycling of plastics, will compile recommendations for future contracts regarding plastics, and future messages to residents that include limiting the use of certain items.

Commissioner Kunkle shared she attended a senate hearing on a bill that was introduced regarding plastics; she reports this is the first time plastic has been the subject of a senate hearing.

b) CMAP Readout & VC Presentation

Chairperson Hanley would like the Commission to prepare a presentation for Village Council regarding goals and initiatives they would like to pursue.

The Commission was provided with data from a 2019 Municipal Emissions Report by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). The summary was for Winnetka's emissions inventory; The Commission would like to see comparables from surrounding communities like the Village of Wilmette, Village of Kenilworth, and Village of Northfield.

1) Communications:

a) Approval of the January Communication Items

The Commissioners approved the January Communication Items, which included Christmas Tree Pick-Up, EFC Green Awards Application Reminder, Reducing Energy Use and Costs in your Home and Business, Making the Switch from Incandescent Bulbs to LED, and Ways to Avoid Using Poisonous Mouse Bait. Commissioner Kunkle motioned to approve the January Communication Items and Commissioner Park-Jones seconded the motion.

AYES: HANLEY, PARK-JONES WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE

ABSENT: VARCA, ECK

NAYS: NONE

b) Discussion of the February Communication Items

The Commissioners reviewed the February Communication Items, which included EFC Green Awards Application Reminder, EFC Tip: Think Before You Buy and Think Before You.

2) Commission/Staff Reports:

No reports.

3) Open Forum:

No reports.

4) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairperson Hanley asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Park-Jones. The motion passed; the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

DRAFT

New proposed recycling-related content for EFC review for Village e-blasts

Plastic bags and film can be recycled into composite lumber used in outdoor furniture, decking, and playground equipment, but not curbside! Many local grocers and retailers, including Mariano's, Jewel-Osco, and Target, have free drop off recycling programs for #2 and #4 soft plastic bags and film. Sunset/ Grand Foods is looking for a solution. No plastic bags in recycling bins (even to hold your recyclables).

Food scraps and other organics can be combined with landscape waste and recycled into a valuable soil amendment. In Winnetka, there are many options for composting food scraps and other organics, including backyard; container swap services for residents, organizations, and events; cart-based programs for businesses; and a free drop off program for Winnetka residents. Composting services offered by Collective Resource Compost, WasteNot Compost, and Lakeshore Recycling Systems. Compost everything that was once alive. If it grows, it goes.

Polystyrene (aka styrofoam) can be recycled into hard plastic for crown moldings, picture frames, and park benches. But it is lightweight and requires specialized equipment to compress it into a denser material. Winnetka residents may drop off blockstyle and clean food service polystyrene at the Public Works Building, 1390 Willow Road, between 1 and 3 pm on Mondays, weather permitting. Abt Electronics in Glenview accepts block-style polystyrene during regular business hours. No peanuts or other foam.

Got questions about recycling? [This video](#) from the Solid Waste Agency of North Cook County (SWANCC, Winnetka's waste and recycling transfer station) called "Recycling Right Matters," may have the answers.



Linked here are SWANCC's Curbside Recycling Guidelines - <https://swancc.org/resources/educational-resources/handouts/499-curbside-recycling-guidelines-in-english/file>

Here is the info in text form (with some elaboration from me) –

Do Put In Recycling Cart LOOSE • empty • clean	Don't Put in Recycling Cart
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Glass bottles and jars	No batteries, electronics, or sharps • Look for special collections
Plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, and jars • Leave caps on • No bags, film, or foam	No plastic bags or wrap • Not even to hold recyclables • Recyclable at some grocery stores
Metal – steel and aluminum • Empty/depressurize aerosol cans	No food, liquids, or shredded paper • Compost these materials
Mixed Paper and boxes • Flatten boxes	No clothing or shoes • Look for special collections
	No hoses, wires, or cords • Small electronics are collected year-round at Public Works • Other electronics are collected seasonally at PW (Apr – Nov) • Electronics and appliances always collected at Abt Electronics

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, these are the Top Ten materials accepted in curbside recycling programs nationwide:

- Cardboard (corrugated)
- Paper
- Food boxes (pressboard)
- Mail
- Aluminum beverage cans
- Steel food cans
- Glass bottles
- Glass and hard plastic jars and caps
- Hard plastic jugs and caps
- Hard plastic bottles and caps

Many materials are recyclable but not in curbside programs because they require special processing equipment, such as:

- Plastic bags and film
- Food waste and organics
- Electronics
- Textiles

February 2023 EFC Communications Content

1. EFC Green Awards Application Reminder

Weekly E-Newsletter

The Village of Winnetka's Environmental and Forestry Commission invites nominations for the fifth-annual Green Awards Program. The purpose of the program is to recognize properties and households within Winnetka that demonstrate exceptional commitment to sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices. Residents, businesses and other organizations are encouraged to nominate their house, property, building or project that has been completed within the past five years. The award categories include: Green Building, Recycling/Waste Reduction, Land, Air, Water/Stormwater, Energy, and Innovation/Other.

If you believe your recent project has helped make Winnetka a more environmentally-friendly or sustainable community, the Commission asks that you consider applying. Applications are available through the Public Works Department at 1390 Willow Road, or by clicking here (<http://www.villageofwinnetka.org/government/boards-and-commissions/environmental-and-forestry-commission/>). The application deadline is February 28, 2023. Category winners will be announced on Earth Day (April 22, 2023). If you have any questions about the program, contact Diana Puga at 847-716-3568 or dpuga@winnetka.org.

2. Environmental and Forestry Commission Green Tip: Think Before You Buy

Weekly E-Newsletter

Our normal shopping habits may be adversely impacting our environment, and we may not even know it. You can make a big change by being environmentally conscious when shopping. For instance, we can implement the following waste reduction principles while shopping:

- Prepare a shopping list before buying so as to avoid purchasing more than needed.
- Family-sized product has less packaging and costs less.
- Buy products with minimal packaging that can reduce wasting resources.
- Reuse the packaging materials, such as plastic bag, paper bag, plastic box, paper, ribbon, etc.
- When buying, remember to bring your own shopping bag.
- Only buy items that are actually needed.

3. Environmental and Forestry Commission Green Tip: Think Before You Pack

Weekly E-Newsletter

Travel, as much fun it is, can also make your eco footprint on this world a few sizes larger than it would be if you just stayed at home. There are a lot of small changes you can make to become a greener traveler. Below are a few tips to keep in mind when travel to help you leave a smaller footprint:

- Pack what you will actually need
- Take reusable items
- Invest in quality
- Use chemical-free toiletries
- Bring a reusable water bottle

March 2022 EFC Communications Content

1. Coal Tar Sealant Reminder

Spring Winnetka Report

In August of 2014, the Village of Winnetka implemented a ban on the use of coal tar-based sealing agents on all public and private driveways, parking lots and other roadway surfaces with Village limits. Coal tar is a waste material generated during coal processing that contains high levels of chemical compounds shown to be harmful to aquatic life and pose a potential risk to humans. This initiative was studied by the Village's Environmental and Forestry Commission as an effort to benefit water quality. As required by this ban, all contractors and multi-family property owners must obtain a Pavement Sealant Applicators License through the Public Works Department. Property owners of single family lots applying sealant themselves do not need a Pavement Sealant Applicators License.

As an alternative to coal tar-based sealants, the Village recommends using asphalt-based sealants (sold in most home improvement stores), replacing asphalt with concrete driveways, or leaving driveways unsealed. For more information, please call the Public Works Department at (847) 716-3568.

2. Electronics Recycling Program Resuming

Spring Winnetka Report & E-Winnetka Newsletter

Residential electronics may not be disposed of through the Village's residential waste or recycling programs. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the Village's seasonal electronic disposal program free of charge. Residential electronics may be dropped at the Winnetka Public Works Yards, 1390 Willow, **TBD through TBD** on Thursdays between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. Accepted items include but are not limited to:

- Converter boxes
- Computers/monitors
- Fax machines
- Scanners
- Printers
- Satellite receivers
- Televisions
- VCR/DVD players
- Computer mice or keyboards
- Video game consoles

Please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568 with any questions.

3. Clean Up Week

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Winnetka's Annual Spring Clean-up is scheduled for April 17th through April 20th. The goal of the yearly spring rubbish collection is to reduce fire hazards in the home. The Village's Recycling provider, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, will remove from the parkway anything that two men can reasonably lift into a truck. Electronics, yard waste, dirt, stone, logs, construction materials/debris, batteries, paint, and other liquids will not be picked up. To minimize litter problems, the rubbish should be placed on residential parkways no earlier than the evening before the scheduled pickup, before 7:00 A.M. the day of the pickup. There will be no call-backs if the material is not on the parkway by the scheduled time.

This is an excellent opportunity to clean out your attic, basement, and garage - especially of combustible materials - thereby making a significant contribution to community fire safety. Residents are encouraged to recycle items such as cardboard boxes, Styrofoam and plastic bags before putting them out for Clean-Up Week. If you have any questions, please call the Public Works Department at (847) 716-3568.

4. Environmental and Forestry Commission Green Tip: Use Your Car Less

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Regular vehicle use results in more greenhouse gas emissions and increased traffic congestion. Benefits of using your car less include: save money on fuel and running costs, save on wear and tear of your vehicle as well as maintenance costs and improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Alternatives to using your car include: walk or bicycle, use public transportation, avoid peak hour traffic, work from home, car pool or car share, or combine your trips.

5. Environmental and Forestry Commission Green Tip: Reduce Vehicle Idling

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Idling reduction is a simple way to use less fuel and to reduce pollution and greenhouse gasses. An idling car uses about 0.3 gallons of fuel per hour while an idling truck can use up to a gallon of fuel per hour. It is also important to know that idling uses more fuel than does restarting your car. Though it may be tempting to let your vehicle idle during winter months, it is more environmentally-friendly to turn your car off if it will be sitting for more than a few minutes.

6. Disposing of Food Waste Responsibly

E-Winnetka Newsletter

Disposing of food waste responsibly is a low-tech, low-cost action with a positive environmental impact. Do not put food waste in your garbage, where it will be landfilled and release methane because it cannot break down properly. Rather, turn your food waste into compost, a valuable soil amendment, especially in our area where the soil tends to be clay-rich. You can make great compost by mixing food waste (do not include meat, bones, oil or grease) with 100% paper products (like napkins and towels) and landscape waste (like grass clippings, leaves, and/or peat moss) either in your backyard or by using one of Winnetka's two bucket service compost providers. <https://www.villageofwinnetka.org/231/Composting>

Tips From the Chicago Botanic Garden: Backyard Composting 101
<https://www.chicagobotanic.org/conservation/composting>