



Village of Winnetka

Environmental and Forestry Commission Meeting

August 7, 2024 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 July 10, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
4. **Old Business Updates**
 - a. Friends of the Green Bay Trail Update
5. **New Business**
6. **Communications**
 - a. September Communications
 - b. October Communications
7. **Committee/Staff Reports**
 - a. Commissioners' Initiatives Update
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
JULY 10, 2024

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, July 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Commissioner Kunkle called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Commissioner Kunkle noticed those in attendance that Chair Hanley had requested to attend this meeting remotely due to childcare obligation. Commissioner Kunkle stated that this is permissible provided that 2/3 of the Commission does not object. Commissioner Kunkle asked for any objections. Seeing none, Chair Hanley was approved to participate in the meeting remotely.

Voting Members present: Chair Patrick Hanley and Commissioners Elizabeth Kunkle, Gregory Frezados and Tim Ring. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: None. Student Representative Present: Scarlett Harper. Interim Staff Liaison present: Erik Jensen, Assistant Public Works Director.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chair Hanley welcomed the group.

2) Public Comment:

From the audience, Mr. Bryan Lammers spoke on the status of the Green Bay Trail project. He noted that a section of trail was identified near Ash Street with the Village Forester. He stated a landscaping plan was forthcoming.

Chair Hanley asked how screening would be approached.

Mr. Lammers explained that initial conversations were held with the abutting property owners.

Commissioner Ring asked what the timeframe would be for the project.

Mr. Lammers stated that the landscape plan would include a timeline.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) Approval of the May Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Ring, seconded by Commissioner Frezados to approve the minutes as presented.

AYES: KUNKLE, FREZADOS, RING, HANLEY.

NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: ANDREW, ECK, VARCA.

4) Old Business Updates:

a) Village Council May 14, 2024 Study Session on IMEA Contract Renewal Update

Chair Hanley briefly overviewed the Village Council's study session and noted a forum would be held likely sometime in the fall.

b) Right-of-Way Landscaping

Commissioner Kunkle introduced Ellie Dunne, a New Trier High School student with an interest in native landscaping. Commissioner Kunkle explained the context of the permitting process for right-of-way native landscaping, and Ms. Dunne stated she had reviewed the materials and found them to be comprehensive.

Commissioner Eck arrived at 7:21 p.m.

Commissioner Kunkle noted that September communications could focus on native landscaping with some items written or input provided by Ms. Dunne.

5) New Business

a) Presentation on Residential Solar Installations

Commissioner Frezados introduced Mr. Paul Doughty, from Certasun, and stated that Mr. Doughty would be presenting on residential solar installations for the Commission.

Mr. Doughty provided a general overview of residential solar installations, including how they work, the suitability of various structures for solar installations and the incentives that are offered for their installation.

Mr. Doughty overviewed common questions and answers about the installations and detailed some work performed in the North Shore Area, including within the Village.

A brief conversation followed communicating this information with the public.

Chair Hanley thanked Mr. Doughty for the overview.

6) Communications:

a) August Communications Items

Commissioner Kunkle suggested edits to the August communication items related to composting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eck, seconded by Commissioner Kunkle to approve the August Communications as amended. On a voice vote, all aye.

b) September Communications Items

Liaison Jensen explained that the previous September Communications from prior to the COVID-19 pandemic were distributed tonight for conversation.

Commissioner Kunkle stated she would work with Ms. Dunne to create some native landscaping items for September.

7) Commission/Staff Reports:

Liaison Jensen noted that the August meeting would be held at the Police Department as the Village Hall elevator would be out of service for the modernization project.

8) Open Forum:

Chair Hanley asked the Commission for updates on their individual areas of focus.

A conversation followed on the evening's presentation and how to make the information useable to the general public. Ultimately, the Commission encouraged Commissioner Frezados to look into the Solsmart program and report back on potential ways the Village could expand its participation.

9) Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chair Hanley asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Eck. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote; the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

TURN A
WASTEFUL
LUNCH

INTO A
ZERO WASTE
LUNCH



paper lunch
bag



lunchbox



juice box



bottled
water



resuable drink
bottle



plastic baggies



reusable
snack bags



reusable
container



Lunchables



Campbell's Soup
to-go



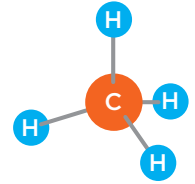
Thermos



Bento Box



Food Waste and Methane: What's the Connection?



What is methane and why is it important?

Methane (CH_4) is a greenhouse gas (GHG) and its presence in the atmosphere affects the earth's temperature and climate system. Both natural and human activities produce methane emissions. For example, agricultural activities (e.g., ruminants, manure, and rice), waste management (e.g., landfills and wastewater treatment), fossil fuel extraction and transport, wetlands, and open biomass burning all produce methane.¹ Methane is also a primary component of natural gas.



Methane is 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO_2) at trapping heat in the atmosphere and is responsible for approximately 30% of the increase in global temperature since the Industrial Revolution.^{2,3} Over the last two centuries, atmospheric methane concentrations have more than doubled, largely due to human-related activities.

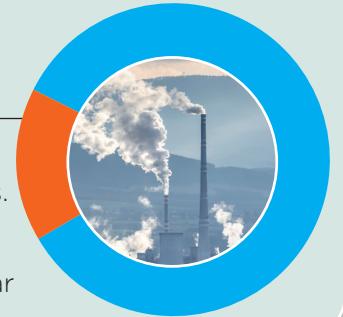
Because methane is a powerful GHG and short-lived compared to carbon dioxide, rapidly reducing methane emissions is a key component in efforts to avoid catastrophic global warming. Recognizing this, the [Global Methane Pledge](#) was launched to reduce collective human-related methane emissions 30% from 2020 levels by the year 2030, and is now supported by about 150 countries, including the United States.⁴

Methane accounts for about

16%

of global GHG emissions.

It is 28X more powerful than CO_2 (over a 100 year timespan).



What is the connection between food waste and methane?

Roughly one-third of all food available for human consumption goes uneaten, both domestically and globally. In the United States, much of this uneaten food ends up in landfills and sewers



where it decays over time in the absence of oxygen, producing methane.

[According to the EPA](#), municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills are the third-largest source of methane emissions from human activities in the U.S. Food waste is the number one component in U.S. MSW landfills (24% in 2018).

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Most U.S. landfills install systems to capture landfill gas, which includes methane. However, food waste decays more quickly than many other organic wastes, often before gas collection systems are installed or expanded at the landfill.

In 2020, food waste was responsible for approximately 58 percent of the fugitive methane emissions from MSW landfills, emitting approximately 55 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) based on a 100-year global warming potential (GWP). The greenhouse gas emissions from landfilled food waste are equivalent to the annual emissions of 15 coal-fired power plants (or 7 million homes' energy use).

For every 1,000 short tons (907 metric tons) of food waste that was disposed of in a landfill in 2020, 838 million metric tons CO₂e were emitted (over a 30-year time span) into the atmosphere, which

1/3

of all food available for human consumption goes uneaten.



is equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions of burning five railcars' worth of coal.

Tackling food waste presents a critical opportunity to address climate change by reducing methane emissions. Reducing food waste also ensures the inputs needed to produce food, such as water, land, and fertilizer, are not wasted.



The greenhouse gas emissions from landfilled food waste are equivalent to the annual emissions of **15** coal-fired power plants.



¹ UN Environment Programme and Climate and Clean Air Coalition (2022). "Global Methane Assessment: 2030 Baseline Report."

² International Energy Agency (2023). "Global Methane Tracker 2023."

³ Measured over a 100-year time horizon

⁴ The White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy (2021). "U.S. Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan."

Learn about how to reduce food loss and waste at
www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste and www.epa.gov/reducefoodwaste

October 2024 EFC Communications Content

1. 2024 Pumpkin Composting Event

E-Winnetka Newsletter

The Village of Winnetka is hosting its annual one-day pumpkin collection event on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Residents are encouraged to bring pumpkins for the Village to properly dispose of, limiting the amount brought to landfills. The Public Work Department will provide a designated drop off location at the Municipal Yards Facility at 1390 Willow Road from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Wednesday, November 6, 2024. Please remove any solid waste (candles, bags, etc.). Collection of garbage, food scraps or other landscape waste will not be accepted.

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

2. Environmental and Forestry Commission Recycling Tip: *Leaf Collection*

E-Winnetka Newsletter

The Village's annual curbside leaf collection program will run from X until X. Under this program, residents may rake their leaves to the parkway just inside the edge of the curb for collection by the Village. Please do not place pumpkins or debris other than leaves for collection as it will damage the leaf collecting equipment.

Leaves collected are then hauled to Antioch, IL for composting which the Village then receives back in early spring for residents to use as compost material. For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 847-716-3568.