

Sustainability Commission 2025 Work Plan Summary

Overview

As per Section 3.2 of the Sustainability Commission's Bylaws, the work of the Commission shall be directed by an annual work plan provided by the City Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) in coordination with the Public Services Area. The work plan will set the specific annual goals of the Sustainability Commission, with clear metrics established to not only determine progress towards these goals, but also articulate how success for each metric will be determined.

2025 Priorities

For 2025, the following topics are the priorities for the Sustainability Commission:

- Commercial Building Decarbonization (Lead: OSI)
- Circular Economy Action Plan (Lead: OSI)
- Chloride Characterization and Source Identification Workgroup (Lead: Public Services)
- Environmental Services Workgroup (Lead: Public Services)
- Position Statement on Sidewalk Gap Filling Work Group "Light" (Lead: Public Services)
- Other needs as identified

2025 Work Groups

To accomplish the 2025 priorities, the following work groups will be formed:

1. Commercial Building Decarbonization

Vision Statement

This work group will work with OSI staff to create a set of recommendations for decarbonizing both new and existing commercial buildings in Ann Arbor by or before the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Frequency of Meetings

The Commercial Building Decarbonization Work Group will meet a minimum of six times.

Work Group Makeup

The Work Group will consist of one chair, 3-5 members, and one City staff member.

Project Deliverables

- Report on recommendations for existing commercial building decarbonization
- Report on recommendations for new commercial building decarbonization

Completion Date

All work is to be completed by the May 2026 Sustainability Commission meeting, at which time the work group will present its findings.

2. Returnable Containers Work Group

Vision Statement

This work group will work with OSI staff to advance the work on the returnable containers program in Ann Arbor by or before the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Frequency of Meetings

This workgroup will meet a minimum of four times.

Work Group Makeup

The Work Group will consist of one chair, 3-6 members, and one City staff member.

Project Deliverables

- Report on best practices and recommendations for the returnable container program

Completion Date

All work is to be completed by the May 2026 Sustainability Commission meeting, at which time the work group will present its findings.

3. Chloride Characterization and Source Identification Work Group

Vision Statement

This work group will work with Public Services staff to review chloride data in surface water to identify areas that exceed the water quality standard. The group will advise on potential sources of chloride and work to provide a list of recommendations to address elevated chloride levels.

Frequency of Meetings

The Chloride Characterization and Source Identification Workgroup will meet a minimum of four times.

Work Group Makeup

The Work Group will consist of one chair, 3-5 members, 2-3 non-Commission members, and 1-2 City staff members.

Project Deliverables

- Advise/recommendations on source identification
- Recommendations on potential chloride mitigation strategies

Completion Date

All work is to be completed by the May 2026 Sustainability Commission meeting, at which time the work group will present its findings.

4. Environmental Services Framework Work Group

Vision Statement

Work with Public Services staff to assess the current state of the environmental policy in the City and provide recommendations on how best to align environmental services with existing City efforts.

Frequency of Meetings

The Environmental Services Framework Work Group will meet a minimum of four times.

Work Group Makeup

The Work Group will consist of one chair, 3-5 members, 2-3 non-Commission members, and 1-2 City staff members.

Project Deliverables

- Advise/assess current environmental work within the City
- Recommendations on how Environmental Services can best prioritize and amplify environmental work within the City

Completion Date

All work is to be completed by the May 2026 Sustainability Commission meeting, or as soon as feasible.

5. Position Statement on Sidewalk Gap Filling Projects “Light”

Vision Statement

Work with Public Services staff to create a joint statement of support in collaboration with the Transportation Commission as to how the City approaches environmental considerations for sidewalk gap filling projects. The joint statement will be used as a public engagement tool to help advance an all ages and abilities transportation network that promotes non-vehicle travel.

Frequency of Meetings

The Position Statement on Sidewalk Gap Filling Projects “Light” will meet 1 or 2 times.

Work Group Makeup

The Work Group will consist of one chair, 3-5 members, and 1-2 City staff members.

Project Deliverables

Joint Statement of Support from Sustainability and Transportation Commissions regarding the city’s approach to sidewalk gap filling projects.

Completion Date

All work will aim to be completed during winter of 2025/26, or as soon as feasible.