

Ann Arbor Environmental Commission 2024 Legislative Policy Recommendations

Biodiversity

1. Restore Public Act 451 of 1994 “Biological Diversity Conservation” to the “Natural Features Protection Act” of 1988 to return the Act to its original intent. The Act was amended by [2013-PA-0022](#) that stripped out the biological diversity requirements and replaced them with deer matters.
2. Bring forward legislative discussion with State Wildlife Division officials regarding deer management options.
3. Mandate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as first-line treatments to limit the use of broad-spectrum pesticides
4. Ban sale of seeds treated with neonicotinoid pesticides.
5. Prioritize the use and maintenance of native plants on highway rights-of-way.
6. Support for Michigan HB 4848 Natural resources and environmental protection act, prohibiting use of neonicotinoid pesticides on public land.
7. Support for Michigan HB 4857 Exempt milkweed as a noxious weed, passed Michigan House of Representatives 11/8/23, referred to Michigan Senate.

Circular Economy

1. Amend Part 115 (2022) to prevent organic waste disposal in landfills, unless chemical contaminations prevent their beneficial uses.
2. Clarify definition of [“Chemical Recycling”](#) in Public Acts to eliminate pyrolysis, gasification, and other pseudonyms for burning. One suggestion would be “Chemical Recycling is the quantitative breakdown of polymers to monomers useful as manufacturing materials.”
3. Support [S.B. 0327 \(2023\)](#) to restrict the sale of all food packaging that includes intentionally added PFAS, bisphenol, or phthalate chemicals.
4. Support [Polluter Accountability](#) bill package (S. B. 605-611, H. B. 5241-5247). This will relieve taxpayer burden of cleaning up private
5. Support Right to Repair ([H.B. 4673](#)) and expand to all product categories. This is an important enabler of the Circular Economy.

Water Quality

1. Reinstate EGLE's rule making authority where it has been removed (e.g. Part 4 'Water Quality Standards')
2. Support H.B. 4083 to ban use of perchloroethylene (PERC) in dry cleaning businesses. Expand to include all halogenated solvents.

Human Health and Safety

1. Restore Driving License privileges to Michigan residents (must provide proof) regardless of residency status. Refer to Senate Bills 433, 434 and House Bills 4835, 4836 of 2021.
 - a. Many workers in the environmental service area, among others, are undocumented and are driving without a license.