

Ann Arbor Environmental Commission Work Plan 2019

The Ann Arbor Environmental Commission plans to achieve the following goals during CY 2019, as proposed by the commission's three work groups. These goals may evolve and change as the year progresses. Other topics may be added at the request of the City Council, city administration, or commission members, particularly on subjects that fall outside the purview of the work groups.

Solid Waste

1. Define comprehensive, reliable metrics and data collection processes for solid waste operations Citywide by June 1, in partnership with City Staff.
2. Draft a Zero-Waste vision for the City, incorporating elements of the APTIM/SWRMP and WRMMA outcomes as inputs. The City has posted a "Zero-Waste" declaration in 2016, with no meat or action to it. APTIM has declared this outside the scope of their contract.
3. Focus on opportunities to help Council and Staff improve and expand services with regard to a functional local MRF, Sunday organics and recycling collections downtown, and year-round residential composting.

Natural Features

1. Make a case to the City:
 - a. To assemble a capable outreach team to work with property owners (perhaps some city departments) that would educate and encourage the protection/enhancement of natural features, better control of water runoff, adopting ever increasing energy conservation/carbon emission reduction measures, the conversion of turf grass to other vegetation (native ecologies and plants preferred).
 - b. That these three elements together are keys we can use to address climate change, and a program to effectively reach our citizens is important.
 - c. That sustainable funding to do this work is needed sooner rather than later.
2. Once the team is established, work to devise:
 - a. A means to quantifiably inventory, map, and produce educational/informative graphics and other materials to show native forest fragments, tree canopy cover (or lack of it), turf grass areas (non-recreational), wetlands, waterways, flooding issues, drainage issues, etc.

- b. A means to measure improvements implemented over time as a result of the program.
- c. A means to measure the amount of carbon sequestration or carbon emission reduction as a result of the program.
- d. An incentive program and a help program (bare root trees and other plants at lower costs, etc.), to facilitate greater participation in the program.

Water

1. Propose a mechanism by which we can recommend the city measure improvement in controlling runoff, and draft a resolution to achieve this.
2. Review and propose revisions the Green Streets Policy with an eye toward eliminating the road repair loophole.
3. As time and staff resources permit, review and recommend changes to the Floodplain Ordinance.