

**Environmental Commission
City of Dearborn, Michigan**

Location: Henry Ford Centennial Library, 1st Floor Library Commission Room 111

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INTRODUCTIONS**
- III. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES**
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. BY-LAWS**

- B. WORK PLAN**

- C. RECOMMENDATION - BULK SOLID STORAGE AND HANDLING**

Recommending the removal of **Sec 13-556 Outdoor storage of bulk material other than carbonaceous materials; height limits and screening; protection of waterways; high wind events; dust suppressant system; runoff management.** of Article IX.

BULK SOLID STORAGE AND HANDLING, subjecting “other than carbonaceous” facilities to **Sec. 13-557 Carbonaceous bulk solid material facilities; enclosure of carbonaceous materials; enclosure plan; enclosure requirement of existing, new, and expanding facilities; enclosure deadline, interim requirements.** Attached is full recommendation and background documents.

- V. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. RECOMMENDATION - TREE CANOPY GOAL**

In collaboration with the City Beautiful Commission, a 3 30 300 Tree Survey was piloted; results attached. Dearborn’s tree canopy is estimated at 22%. Recommending a goal of at least 30% tree canopy citywide. Advise residents are able to order trees on the City website, by species, for either easement or private property. Further, recommend City partner with other large landowners, e.g. Dearborn Schools, Ford Land, Wayne County, and State of Michigan, to protect and enhance our urban forest. Attached is a spreadsheet from Michigan DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program for species selection.

- B. RECOMMENDATION - RECYCLING REJECTION RATE**

Currently 15% of the material collected curbside as recycling is rejected and is landfilled. In 2024, an estimated 1,500 tons (3 million pounds) of material that could have been recycled was instead sent to the landfill. Recommend residents and small businesses are reminded of recycling guidelines. Suggest direct mailing to each residence, small

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business, and landlord with a “RECYCLING ONLY” sticker to be applied to green bins. In mailing, list material that can be placed in green bins and what should not.

C. RECOMMENDATION - LEED CERTIFICATION

Recommendation that the City of Dearborn applies for LEED for Cities and Communities: Existing Cities Certification. See background information.

D. FOOD WASTE- DISCUSSION

Landfills are projected to be full in twenty-one years. The largest contributor (30-40%) of landfilled solid waste is food waste. Make Food Not Waste and Food Scrap Composting are programs that could reduce Dearborn’s landfilled waste.

VI. SE MI FLOOD STUDY UPDATE - <https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/semifloodstudy/>

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT