

**Environmental Commission
City of Dearborn, Michigan**

Location: Dearborn Administrative Center, 16901 Michigan Ave, Room 1B

Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Public comment is welcome at regular meetings. The Environmental Commission may also be emailed at envcommission@dearborn.gov or delivery/mail to Attn: Environmental Commission, c/o Department of Public Health, City of Dearborn, 16901 Michigan Ave, Dearborn MI, 48126. Each person or group submitting comments shall provide in writing: name, address, and a summary of comment. Please limit comments to three (3) minutes.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

III. UPDATE FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. WORK PLAN

B. 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 be able to order trees on the City website, by species, for either easement or private property. To achieve this goal, recommend an Urban Forestry Plan is developed. Further, recommend City partner with large landowners, e.g. Dearborn Schools, Ford Land, Wayne County, State of Michigan and other business owners in commercial districts, to protect and enhance our urban forest. Attached is a spreadsheet from Michigan DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program for species selection.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 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 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.

B. RECOMMENDATION - LEED CERTIFICATION

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

C. 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. OTHER BUSINESS

VII. ADJOURNMENT