
City of Erie

Environmental Advisory Council

Erie, Pennsylvania

AGENDA

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

A regular meeting of the City of Erie Environmental Advisory Council will be held Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 3:00 pm in Bagnoni Council Chambers, 626 State Street, Erie PA. The meeting will also be streamed live on the City's [YouTube page](#) and [Facebook page](#).

1. ROLL CALL

Members	Present	Absent
John (Michael) Campbell		
Robert (Bob) Howden		
Aaron Kerr		
Sr. Pat Lupo		
Sherri (Sam) Mason		
Matthew Puz		
Freda Tepfer		
Associate Members		
Molly Tarvin		
Jenna Walmsley		
Sara Wettekin		
Other		
Jacqueline Spry, Director		
Cooper Moore, Assistant Planner		
Sarah Peelman, Sustainability Coordinator		

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING MINUTES

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. LCAP PSU Student Presentation – GHG Inventory
- B. Signage Project Updates

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Subcommittee Updates

B. Upcoming Events

C. Department Updates

6. ADJOURNMENT

City of Erie

Environmental Advisory Council

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MINUTES

Wednesday, March 26th at 3:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the City of Erie Environmental Advisory Council was held Wednesday, March 26, 2025 beginning at 3:00 pm in Bagnoni Council Chambers, 626 State Street, Erie PA. The meeting was also streamed live on the City's [YouTube page](#) and [Facebook page](#).

1. ROLL CALL

Member Name	Present	Absent
John Michael (Michael) Campbell	X	
Robert Howden	X	
Aaron Kerr		X
Sr. Pat Lupo	X	
Sherri (Sam) Mason		X
Matthew Puz	X	
Freda Tepfer	X	
Associate Members		
Molly Tarvin	X	
Jenna Walmsley		X
Sara Wettekin		X
Other		
Jacqueline Spry, Director	X	
Cooper Moore, Assistant Planner	X	
Sarah Peelman, Sustainability Coordinator		X

2. AGENDA REVISION & APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Motion to proceed without changes to agenda by Robert, seconded by Mike, unanimous approval.

Motion to approve February 2025 minutes by Freda, seconded by Robert, unanimous approval.

3. VISITORS & PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Schember was present.

4. OLD BUSINESS A. Priority: LCAP Priorities a. LCAP Funding

Jackie reported that approval to use internal funds to help secure P4P grant is in the works. Freda asked about funding for LCAP implementation; Jackie indicated that there are funding sources, but that we first need to complete the LCAP.

OLD BUSINESS cont. B. Secondary Priorities: Single Use Plastics and Litter Mitigation

b. Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance Advisory Committee Updates

Matt reviewed progress made in first ad-hoc committee meeting; he commented on “Ripples of Plastic” movie that featured Sherri; Sr. Pat and Matt commended Sherri for her central role in it. It was suggested that the EAC could help promote further use of this film for public education. Molly asked if the film was publicly available.

Freda mentioned her concern about single use plastic in food packaging, suggesting that the EAC could work to encourage food suppliers to try to reduce their plastic use. The next committee meeting will be held on April 9. Sr. Pat indicated interest in joining the Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance committee.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. LCAP PSU Student Presentation – GHG Inventory

Following an introduction by Jackie, PSU students Tyler Bogle and James Schafer, accompanied by Peter Buck (Co-Director of Local Climate Action program) presented the City of Erie 2023 GHG (greenhouse gas) inventory report via Zoom. A pdf of the power-point presentation was provided to EAC members in an email from Jackie. The largest sources of Erie GHG emissions (in order of relative importance) were transportation, industrial energy, residential energy, commercial energy, solid waste, and water/wastewater. “Energy” includes emissions from both heating fuels and electricity. The students and Peter Buck answered questions posed by EAC members and the audience. Many of the questions pertained to issues that will be addressed by the students in the second part of their analysis, developing a much needed Climate Action Plan (CAP) that is responsive to the emissions issues identified in the GHG inventory.

Audience member Miles Roberts (Lake Effect Leaders - AmeriCorps VISTA with nonprofit Bike Erie) asked about “margin of error” in GHG inventory estimates. James, Tyler and Peter indicated that many geographically defined estimates were used. For example, since specific data were not available for the exact measurement of Erie’s electricity generated from renewables (wind, hydro, solar, biomass) versus combustion of fossil fuels (natural gas, coal, oil), grid-level (regional) proportions were used.

Student presenters and Peter emphasized that ***improvements which maximize building energy efficiency can lead to the biggest reduction in GHG emissions in Erie***, along with more on-site generation of renewable energy. Jackie brought up the subject of having a local government operational inventory of city buildings and properties, which Peter indicated the PSU team could do, in addition to (and to strengthen the effectiveness of) the climate action plan. EAC members and Mayor Schember expressed comments in favor of having the PSU team perform the operational inventory. Matt thanked the team for their work and presentation.

B. Dark sky ordinance update

Cooper joined the EAC in this discussion. Jackie mentioned the possibility of forming another EAC committee to focus on this issue. Matt mentioned that in considering an ordinance, the committee would need to evaluate whether the problem could be best addressed by an addendum to an existing related ordinance (LED signs) or a new stand-alone ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS – cont. B. Dark sky ordinance update – cont.

The numerous practical considerations involved indicate the need for a committee to focus on the light pollution/dark sky issue. Freda, Mike and Matt will be the EAC members on the committee, and Mike will reach out to persons he knows with the Erie Bird Observatory (EBO) to join. Jackie will invite members of the Planning Commission to be involved. The March 30 “Lights Out Erie” event being held by the EBO at the TREC will be an opportunity for interested EAC members to learn more about how light pollution affects migrating birds. Freda, Mike and Jackie planned to attend this.

C. Arbor Day updates

Cooper will send out information about events being planned by the Urban Forestry Committee. The City of Erie with several community partners is entering the final year of a \$356,000 DCNR-funded grant project that will do a lot of tree plantings this Spring and Fall; also in the works is a tree inventory and maintenance plan (sustainable forest management plan). Cooper indicated that the inventory will be completed before the end of the year. Inventoried trees include street trees, not trees on private property (e.g. in back yards).

Freda mentioned concern about invasive tree species and shrubs such as Tree-of-Heaven (host of the Spotted lanternfly), Bradford pear, and Japanese barberry. The inventory would include these. Cooper indicated that tree plantings will be focused particularly in areas of “inequity” in the City. Groundwork Erie will be doing much of the plantings. Sr. Pat asked if Treegators (slow release watering bags) are to be included with planted trees to ensure survival. They are.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Robert moved, Matt seconded, unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned 4:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted by JM Campbell