



Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM
8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

AGENDA

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS: Individuals may submit written public comments in advance of the meeting by emailing comments to Rebecca Kiernan (rkiernan@ighmn.gov). Comments received prior to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2024, will be provided to the Council at or before the March 28, 2024 meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Presentations**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
5. **Consent Agenda**
6. **Regular Agenda**
 - A. 2023 EAC Work Plan Update and 2024 Agenda Calendar Discussion
7. **Public Comment**

Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items that are not on the agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person.
8. **Administrative Presentations**
9. **Commission Comments**
10. **Adjourn**

This document is available upon a three (3) business day request in alternate formats such as braille, large print, audio recording, etc. Please contact Rebecca Kiernan, City Clerk, at 651.450.2513 or rkiernan@ighmn.gov.



Environmental Advisory Commission Staff Report

SUBJECT: **2023 EAC Work Plan Update and 2024 Agenda Calendar Discussion**

MEETING DATE: March 28, 2024

ITEM TYPE: Regular Agenda

CONTACT: Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, 651.604.8511

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Environmental Advisory Commission is asked to make comments and recommendations for the 2024 EAC Agenda Calendar.

BACKGROUND

In November 2023, the Environmental Advisory Commission recommended City Council approval of the 2024 EAC Work Plan. The City Council approved the 2024 EAC Work Plan on February 12, 2024. The EAC expressed interest in discussing an annual calendar to tentatively schedule agenda items for the year that can be pre-scheduled. Staff has drafted a calendar for EAC consideration, and requests that the EAC makes comments and recommendations based on EAC priorities identified in the 2024 EAC Work Plan. Staff also requests the EAC discuss which speakers to invite for work plan items 6 and 7 related to groundwater and natural resources.

This calendar does not include items noted in the 2024 EAC Work Plan that may arise throughout the year, such as items related to solid waste programming, landfills, wetlands, land alteration permits, and SolSmart. These items will be added to meeting agendas during the year as they arise and the time potentially needed to review these items should be taken into account when developing the calendar. Staff will also review 2023 EAC Work Plan progress with the Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT

This item has no financial cost.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the EAC makes comments and recommendations for the 2024 EAC Agenda Calendar.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023 EAC Work Plan Progress
2. 2024 EAC Work Plan
3. 2024 EAC Agenda Calendar

2023 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION WORK PLAN PROGRESS

Duties and functions of the City of Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) are defined by City Code 2-4-2, which include reviewing and advising the City Council on environmental issues and promoting public awareness and understanding of local environmental issues. In 2023, the EAC worked on the following work plan actions with support from the city's Environmental Specialist.

1. (COMPLETE) Extend Xcel Energy Partners in Energy MOU through 2023 to assist with energy related 2023 EAC Work Plan goals.

- 01/2023: EAC recommended City Council approval.
- 02/2023: City Council approved MOU.
- 01/2023-12/2023: Partners In Energy continued to assist the city in Energy Action Plan implementation: developed energy efficiency communication materials for in-person, newsletter articles and electronic media; assisted with research and development of the Sustainable IGH Community Recognition Program; provided 50 free or discounted Home Energy Squad visits; hosted Home Energy information table and presentation; developed Renewable Energy Challenge for earth day, etc.

2. (COMPLETE) Support development of a Dakota County Organics Drop-Off located in IGH.

- 05/2023: City Council approved JPA for Inver Glen Library Organics Drop-Off.
- 09/2023: Inver Glen Library Organics Drop-Off opened.
- 07/2023-09/2023: County promoted site via direct mailer to IGH households. City promoted the drop off in the Q3 Insights newsletter and at five in-person events.
- Participation rates: 10,481 registered households in Dakota County (6% of all households). IGH registration rates have exceeded the County's expectations.
 - Eagan, 1,798 registered household, 6% of household
 - Burnsville, 944, 4%
 - IGH, 934, 6%
 - Mendota Heights, 817, 17%
 - Apple Valley 6%, Farmington 7%, Hastings 8%, Lakeville 5%, Rosemount 10%. WSP 8%

3. (IN PROGRESS) Support solar development in IGH by joining SolSmart.

- 04/2023: EAC recommended City Council approval of SolSmart.
- 05/2023: City Council approved resolution to join SolSmart.
- 07/2023: Program liaison assigned to the city.
- Present: City is continuing to work towards reaching bronze certification in 2024.

4. (IN PROGRESS) Recognize IGH residents and businesses taking environmentally friendly actions by developing a recognition program.

- 06/2023: EAC recommended City Council approval of Sustainable IGH and reviewed application materials.
- 07/2023: City Council approved resolution to develop Sustainable IGH and reviewed application materials.

- Present: Final application and communications materials are under development. Program will launch in mid-March. Applications will be due April 31. EAC will review applications in May 2024. City Council and EAC will recognize awardees in June 2024.

5. (IN PROGRESS) Explore how the city can support electric vehicle readiness.

- 02/2023: City Council approved resolution to join EV Smart.
- 07/2023: EAC recommended EECBG be used towards a fleet electric vehicle.
- 08/2023: City Council selected different use for EECBG funds.
- Present: Working towards EV Smart program goals, including developing public education materials to encourage electric vehicle adoption.

2024 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Duties and functions of the City of Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) are defined by City Code 2-4-2, which include reviewing and advising the City Council on environmental issues and promoting public awareness and understanding of local environmental issues. In 2024, the EAC will work on the following work plan actions with support from the city's Environmental Specialist.

- 1. Support the City's Energy Action Plan.** Extend the Xcel Energy Partners in Energy MOU through 2024 to assist with implementation of the Energy Action Plan.
- 2. Support the City's Solid Waste Abatement Program as related items arise.**
- 3. Support the new Sustainable IGH recognition program.** Sustainable IGH will be launched in Spring 2024. The EAC will help promote the program, review applications, and select awardees.
- 4. Support SolSmart implementation as related items arise.**
- 5. Review landfill expansion applications related to the anticipated Pine Bend Landfill proposed expansion.**
- 6. Incorporate stormwater and groundwater educational items into the EAC agendas.** Invite internal and/or external speakers to educate the EAC on priority topics.
- 7. Incorporate natural resources related educational items into the EAC agendas.** Invite internal and/or external speakers to educate the EAC on priority topics.
- 8. Process other business-as-usual items related to landfills, wetlands, airport noise, and other assigned duties of the Environmental Advisory Commission per City Code 2-4-2.**

2024 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION AGENDA CALENDAR

This calendar seeks to tentatively schedule EAC agenda items for the year that can be pre-scheduled. The calendar is drafted based on EAC priorities identified in the 2024 EAC Work Plan. This calendar does not include items noted in the 2024 EAC Work Plan that may arise throughout the year, such as items related to solid waste programming, landfills, wetlands, land alteration permits, and SolSmart. These items will be added to meeting agendas during the year as they arise.

Month	Items
January	• <i>(Meeting cancelled)</i>
February	• Metropolitan Airport Commission Noise Oversight Committee Update
March	• 2023 EAC Work Plan Progress & 2024 Agenda Calendar Discussion
April	• Water Pollution Prevention Presentation
May	• Sustainable IGH Applications Review • Energy Action Plan 2023 Data Review & 2024 Priorities
June	• Commissioner Appointments • 2024 EAC Work Plan Discussion
July	• 2024 EAC Work Plan Approval • Pine Bend Landfill Annual Gas Migration and Operations Update
August	•
September	•
October	•
November	•
December	•