



Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM
8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

AGENDA

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS: If you are interested in participating on **Item 6. Public Comment**, please contact Ally Sutherland prior to this meeting via telephone 651-604-8511 or email (asutherland@ighmn.gov) to inform her - your name, address and to what you wish to speak on. Individuals may submit written public comments in advance of the meeting by emailing comments to Ally Sutherland (asutherland@ighmn.gov). Comments received prior to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2022, will be provided to the Commission at or before the February 24, 2022 meeting.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Presentations

- A.** Community Development Environmental Initiatives Update, October - December 2021

4. Approval of Minutes

- A.** Minutes of Thursday, October 28, 2021, Environmental Commission Meeting

5. Regular Agenda

- A.** IGH Environmental E-News Content

6. 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.

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

8. 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 Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, at 651-604-8511 or asutherland@ighmn.gov.

**Environmental Commission Staff Report**

TITLE: Community Development Environmental Initiatives Update, October - December 2021

Meeting Date:	February 24, 2022
Item Type:	Presentations
Contact:	Ally Sutherland, 651-604-8511
Prepared by:	Ally Sutherland

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Staff will provide the Environmental Commission an update on environmental related projects overseen by the Community Development Department. No action from the Commission is required.

BACKGROUND

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, will present an update to the Environmental Commission on the following Community Development environmental initiatives from October - December 2021:

- Dakota County Community Waste Abatement Grant activities
- Energy Action Plan / Xcel Energy Partners In Energy activities

**Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, October 28, at 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes**1. Call to Order**

The Environmental Advisory Commission of Inver Grove Heights met in City Council Chambers on Thursday, October 28, 2021. Chair Trenzeluk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Ted Trenzeluk, Commissioners; Sarah Brass, Katherine Teiken, Brian Barner, Larry Moehring, Matt Mills

Absent: Commissioner Todd Kruse, Pat Todd (excused); Nichole Boehmke

3. Presentations

A. Community Development Environmental Initiatives Update, January - October 2021

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the Community Development Environmental Initiatives updates from January 2021 to October 2021. Powerpoint slides were presented as follows:

Environmental Initiatives Update (January - October 2021, Community Development)

- Landfill Regulation Update
- Community Solid Waste Abatement Programming Update
- Energy Action Plan & Xcel Energy Partners In Energy Progress
- GreenStep Cities Progress

Landfill Regulation -State Policy Updates

- Certificate of Need (CON) - MPCA
 - CON is used to regulate and limit how much Twin Cities area metropolitan waste is landfilled. Landfilling is the least preferred disposal option for solid waste management in Minnesota, which is set by state law.
- July 2021: Preliminary certificate of need (CON) issued by MPCA
 - 4 metro landfills, 2 in IGH: Pine Bend Landfill (Republic Services/BFI) and Rich Valley Landfill (SKB Environmental)
 - Additional preliminary allocation of MSW for the next ~7 years
 - Currently in public comment process
- Pine Bend Landfill Update - MSW Landfill
 - 2015-2018: Received city and county approvals for side slope expansion
 - Waiting for final CON

Chair Ted Trenzeluk asked if the MPCA believes the city has completed all necessary steps related to approval of the landfill expansion at Pine Bend Landfill. Mrs. Sutherland noted that the MPCA has already given approval to *construct* the expansion space at Pine Bend Landfill, but that it had been waiting to give approval to *fill* this space until the other preferred waste disposal options indicated in the waste management hierarchy were not a viable option for disposal. Now that the waste-to-energy plants are at capacity, preliminary approval has been given to Pine Bend Landfill to fill their expansion area.

- Rich Valley Landfill Update - Demolition Landfill
 - Environmental review and receive city, county and state approvals.
 - City code currently prohibits a new sanitary landfill.
 - Amendments to the zoning code, conditional use permit, and host community agreement.

Commissioner Brass asked if Rich Valley Landfill is requesting to convert from a demolition landfill to a municipal solid waste landfill. Mrs. Sutherland confirmed the landfill has requested approval from the MPCA to collect trash but is unsure if it will continue to collect demolition waste as well. It has never collected trash before but noted this is one of two demolition landfills that were awarded preliminary approval to collect trash.

Commissioner Moehring asked what effect the side slope expansion has on gas mitigation. Mrs. Sutherland said the new cells will cover the unlined portion of the landfill which the landfill anticipates will reduce the amount of leachate collected and will help with managing the gas migration.

Commissioner Teiken stated that the Rich Valley Landfill application showcases how the state approval process cannot proceed without city approval. Mrs. Sutherland confirmed that per state statute the permit sequencing process requires that the city, state then the county issue approvals.

Solid Waste Abatement Programming

- Based on State and County solid waste management priorities
- 75% of waste recycled by 2030
- Dakota County Community Waste Abatement Grant Program
 - 2021 Workplan includes multifamily recycling, event recycling and education, and collection events.

Website (Solid Waste Abatement Programming)

- Updated website www.ighmn.gov/recycle with additional resources for residents, businesses, multifamily properties and schools.

Commissioner Teiken asked if there's research to support that one hauler increases the recycling rate of a community. Mrs. Sutherland stated Inver Grove Heights' current hauling system has about 10-12 licensed haulers which poses a challenge to convert to an organized hauling system. Mrs. Sutherland stated that yes, having one hauler helps the city communicate more clearly with residents instead of having multiple haulers communicating differently to residents. She noted that the County has recently passed an ordinance update to improve communications outside of an organized system, by requiring haulers to utilize standardized messaging including labels and a designated list of accepted recyclables to make all communications the same for all haulers. Chair Trenzeluk noted that in past years the City Council was not interested in approving an organized hauling system as it proved very difficult to eliminate existing vendors.

Multifamily Recycling Program (Solid Waste Abatement Programming)

- Engage apartments, condos, townhomes and independent senior living facilities
- Provide multifamily properties with recycling resources including
 - Cart labeling
 - Education - Door knocking & In-person events
 - Event recycling and Education

Commissioner Teiken asked if this program includes a composting component. Mrs. Sutherland noted the program supports food scrap collection for back of house collection for properties that generate a lot of food waste. The main way the county is educating residents on organics is informing residents about the organics drop sites in Dakota County.

Event Recycling and Education (Solid Waste Abatement Programming)

- Assisted with recycling at public events and provided residential recycling education at event booths

Collection Events

- Hosted Clean-Up Day. 562 vehicles attended
- Hosted 2 shredding events. Collected over 13,000 lbs of confidential paper.

Commissioner Mills asked why the city only hosts Clean-Up Day this annually. Mrs. Sutherland responded that this is due to funding limitations and that Inver Grove Heights is in a close proximity to year-round establishments that collect these items. This includes the Recycling Zone which offers free collection year-round for many of the items we collect and it is subsidized by tax-payer dollars.

Chair Trenzeluk shared that he supports the city in continuing the Clean-Up Day event.

Energy Action Plan (Xcel Energy Partners In Energy)

- March 2020: Joined Xcel Energy Partners In Energy.
- July 2020 - January 2021: Held stakeholder engagement process; workshops for Energy Action Plan development
- March 2021: City Council Adopted Energy Action Plan
- April - Oct 2021: Implementation with Partners In Energy facilitators.

Website (Energy Action Plan/Xcel Energy Partners In Energy)

- Created an energy education webpage was published for residents, businesses, multifamily properties, and other community organizations (www.ighmn.gov/energy).

IGH Specific Materials (Energy Action Plan/Xcel Energy Partners In Energy)

- Printed education flyers to use at events: residential energy savings, income qualified energy savings, rental property energy savings, small business and nonprofit energy savings.

In-Person Education (Energy Action Plan/Xcel Energy Partners In Energy)

- Home Energy Squad representatives attended the Healthy Living Fair to promote home energy squad visits. 30 residents were directly engaged, and at least 2 residents signed up for a visit at the event.
- Hosted the earth day virtual home efficiency workshop and other event education booths.

In-Person Education (Energy Action Plan/Xcel Energy Partners In Energy)

- Ongoing workplan items
 - Partnering with Inver Hills Community College
 - Connect with community groups (chamber, seniors group, etc.)
 - Create additional flyers (new construction, EV vehicle and charging, etc.)
 - Different events in 2022

Commissioner Barner asked if the city has any existing plans to install public electric vehicle charging stations. Mrs. Sutherland stated they city continues to research the best location for these. Lack of a centralized downtown location in the city poses a challenge when determining what location would be most beneficial to install a charger. The city continues to research grant funding opportunities, preferred locations, and potential to provide the required grant matches in the future.

Chair Trenzeluk asked if the city received feedback about the Energy Action Plan. Mrs. Sutherland said we will be able to measure the level of engagement in the plans initiatives once we receive data on participation in utility programs. She noted residents were interested in learning about energy topics at the education tables this year.

GreenStep Cities

- Voluntary challenge and recognition program for MN cities
- Sustainability best practices
- Step 1 - 3: Joined and noted best practices
- 2020 Step 4: Metric reporting (150+ metrics)
- 2021 Step 5: Improvement on metrics
 - Covid related operational changes - businesses and city used far less water in 2020.
 - New resources: <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/page/recognition>

Commissioner Barner asked if the city is advertising the metrics that we are excelling in. Mrs. Sutherland stated she believes this is the next step for the city in this program. The first year of Step 5 reporting was focused on data sources and collection but the city hopes to move towards messaging.

4. Announcements

- A. Next Meeting - Thursday, November 18, 2021 - Virtual Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m. *Note: Meeting date is changed from regularly scheduled Thursday due to a holiday.*

5. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of Thursday, April 22, 2021, Environmental Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Teiken, seconded by Commissioner Brass to approve the minutes from Thursday, April 22, 2021 as submitted.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. Public Comment

7. Regular Agenda

A. Environmental Commission Appointments

Motion by Chair Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Barner to approve the reappointment of Ted Trenzeluk as the Environmental Commission Chair.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Motion by Chair Trenzeluk, seconded by Commissioner Teiken to approve the reappointment of Sarah Brass as the Environmental Commission Vice Chair.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

8. Administrative Presentations

9. Commission Comments

10. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Brass, seconded by Commissioner Mills to adjourn at 8:14 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**Environmental Commission Staff Report****TITLE: IGH Environmental E-News Content**

Meeting Date:	February 24, 2022
Item Type:	Presentations
Contact:	Ally Sutherland, 651-604-8511
Prepared by:	Ally Sutherland

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Environmental Commission is asked to provide content suggestions for staff to share throughout the year in the new monthly IGH Environmental E-News.

BACKGROUND

The city recently created a new monthly [IGH Environmental E-news](#) to expand environmental communications to residents. E-News content will include local news, events, and tips related to waste reduction, recycling, energy efficiency, renewable energy, water quality and conservation, and more. The goal is to provide additional environmental communications to residents interested in receiving more than what is currently provided through the city's website, social media and the quarterly Insights newsletter. The first Environmental E-News published was on February 1, 2022 and is included in this packet. Staff expect to include content related to current events, workplan priorities and seasonal themes. Recurring seasonal themes may include examples as follows:

Season	Recurring Themes/Topics
Winter	- Holiday recycling - Smart salting - Cold weather content (Energy efficiency)
Spring	- Earth Day content and events - Spring cleaning (properly dispose, repurposing, waste reduction) - Spring Paper Shredding Event
Summer	- Hot weather content (energy efficiency and water conservation)
Fall	- Yard waste disposal - Clean Up Day - Pumpkin Collection Event

To subscribe to the E-News, visit www.ighmn.gov/notifyme, and select "IGH Environmental E-News" to subscribe to email and/or text notifications. There are currently 190 Environmental E-News subscribers.

ATTACHMENTS

- February 1, 2022 IGH Environmental E-News

GET IGH ENVIRONMENTAL E-NEWS YEAR-ROUND!

WWW.IGHMN.GOV/NOTIFYME

Updates on local news, event dates, tips and more!

Sign up today to receive a FREE LED Light Bulb Kit!



Welcome to City of Inver Grove Heights' New Environmental E-news!

Thank you for subscribing. You will now be receiving monthly updates on:

- Residential recycling and disposal events
- Household sustainability tips on recycling, organics, energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation and more
- Dates of environmental related presentations and workshops
- How to get involved in community environmental initiatives, volunteer opportunities, and more!

We are kicking off our first newsletter with the highlights below.

Free Specialty LED Light Bulb Kit

Thanks to Xcel Energy, we have handed out over 100 free LED light bulb kits to those that subscribed to our new IGH Environmental E-News! We have a limited amount of kits remaining. **If you are still interested in claiming a kit, contact Ally Sutherland at asutherland@ighmn.gov by February 8th to be added to the waitlist.** Limit one kit per household while supplies last.

New Ways to Save!



Find information on energy savings tips, programs, rebates, and more on our new energy webpage!

WWW.IGHMN.GOV/ENERGY



Explore our [NEW Energy Webpage](#)

Ready to learn how energy efficient your home or business is? Or how to reduce your energy costs? If so – we've got you covered!

Our brand new energy-focused webpage is dedicated to sharing energy resources for households and businesses in Inver Grove Heights. [Explore the page to:](#)

- Discover low-cost energy-saving opportunities unique to your property
- Learn how to support renewable energy
- Find rebates and financing opportunities for home or business improvement projects
- And more!

**WEEKLY RECYCLING COMING
TO ALL IN 2022****Countywide Recycling Update**

Weekly recycling pickup service will soon be available to all Dakota County residents. [Learn more about the countywide recycling update here](#). For hauling service details specific to your home, contact your recycling service provider.

Be a Confident Recycler

Say goodbye to recycling confusion! Focus on the basic items accepted by all recycling collectors in Dakota County. Print out the [Recycle at Home Cheat Sheet](#) to reference the recycling basics, OR submit an [email request to receive a free kitchen cling version](#) made with reusable adhesive for any surface.

**February Dakota County Fix-It Clinic**

Get items fixed or mended for free and learn useful repair skills.

Feb. 19, noon–3 p.m. – Burnhaven Library
(1101 W County Road 42, Burnsville).

More information can be found [here](#).

Stay tuned to our next Environmental E-News coming out early March.

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