



Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
Thursday, May 26, 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, May 26, 2022, will be provided to the Commission at or before the May 26, 2022 meeting.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Presentations

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Thursday, February 28, 2022, Environmental Commission Meeting

5. Regular Agenda

A. Discussion on Future Environmental Initiatives

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.

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, February 24, 2022, 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, February 24, 2022. 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, Matt Mills, Todd Kruse

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

3. Presentations

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

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

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

- Community Solid Waste Abatement Programming
- Energy Action Plan / Xcel Energy Partners In Energy

Community Solid Waste Abatement Programming

- State and County solid waste management priorities
 - 75% of waste recycled by 2030

Commission Teiken ask if waste is measure by weight or volume. Mrs. Sutherland responded in the affirmative. Commissioner Barner asked what Dakota County's recycling rate is at and Mrs. Sutherland stated it is around 52%.

- Dakota County Community Waste Abatement Grant Program
- 2021 Workplan
 - Grant Admin
 - Residential Communications
 - Best Practices in City Facilities
 - Special Collections
 - Multifamily Recycling
 - City Facilities & Reuse
 - Event Recycling
 - In-Person Education
 - Gap Funding

Community Solid Waste Abatement Programming, Collection Events

- Compost Your Pumpkin - Nov 6 & 7
 - 2020: ~7,250 lbs
 - 2021: ~8,700 lbs

- Winter Clothing Swap Events – Reuse Opportunity
 - 2021, ~200 lbs

Multifamily Programming

- 18 multifamily properties contacted via rental license renewal letters

2022 Workplan

- \$52,942.16 available for reimbursement
- Educate residents on waste abatement topics
 - Earth Day – Decluttering and Reuse
 - E-News
 - Insights, Social Media
- Connect multifamily properties to recycling resources
- Host special collection events
 - Spring Confidential Paper Shredding
 - Clean Up Day & Confidential Paper Shredding
 - Pumpkin Collection
 - Swap Event

Commissioner Mills asked if there are plans to educate single family households on how to properly recycle as well. Mrs. Sutherland stated the County has required articles for the city to share annually in printed communications. The City shares the required articles in the residential Insights newsletter which is sent to all 15,000 Inver Grove Heights households. One of the articles includes a list of which items can and cannot be recycled. Haulers are now required by the County to share this same list with their customers. This is also on the city website.

Energy Action Plan & Xcel Energy Partners In Energy

- March 2021: City Council Adopt Energy Action Plan
 - Goals for residents, businesses, institutions and city
 - Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- April 2021: Implementation with Partners In Energy facilitators.

Commissioner Barner asked what the City's partnership with Xcel Energy and if it costs the city money to be part of Partners in Energy. Mrs. Sutherland responded that Xcel Energy pays the cost of Center for Energy consultants that implement Partners in Energy. The city is currently in a two-year partnership that is free to the city, which also includes a \$2,000 budget for professionally printed marketing materials.

IGH Environmental E-News

- Worked with Partners In Energy facilitators to create a monthly E-News
- FREE Specialty LED Lightbulb Kit with Sign Up
- Created in Fall 2021 and launched publicly Jan 1, 2021
- 196 subscribers to date

Rental Property Outreach

- 80 mailers included in rental license renewal letters

Ongoing workplan items

- E-News

- 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 Kruse asked about the city fleet size, replacement plan and if there is an existing plan to purchase electric vehicles. Mrs. Sutherland responded she is unsure of the current size of the city fleet but can get back to the Commission with that information. She said there is currently no existing plan to purchase electric vehicles, but the purchasing process for electric vehicles would depend on what vehicles are up for replacement, if they travel enough difference to make the finance case to purchase an electric vehicle, if the existing city replacement plan budget would allow for the purchase and installation of fleet charging equipment.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Thursday, October 28, 2022, Environmental Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Teiken, seconded by Commissioner Mills to approve the minutes from Thursday, October 28, 2021 as submitted.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

Chair Trenzeluk asked what the status is for the Pine Bend Landfill's Certificate of Need. Mrs. Sutherland stated Pine Bend Landfill received their Certificate of Need in late October 2021 from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. SKB Environmental Inc. has received approval from their preliminary Certificate of Need and will not receive a final until and if all final approvals are received.

5. Regular Agenda

A. IGH Environmental E-News

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, presented the new IGH Environmental E-News. The e-news is intended to reach a targeted audience to share local environmental news, events, and tips on waste reduction, recycling, energy efficiency, renewable energy, water quality and conservation, natural resources conservation and more. She stated there are currently 196 subscribers that the city continue to grow the subscriber base. She noted residents can sign up at www.ighmn.gov/notifyme, Select "IGH Environmental E-News" and Select email and/or text notifications. Staff shared examples topics the city plan to share information about with residents:

- Holiday lights recycling
- Smart salting
- Energy efficiency in cold weather
- Earth Day content and events
- Spring cleaning tips and how to properly dispose, repurpose, and reduce your waste
- Spring Paper Shredding event information
- Backyard composting tips

- Energy efficiency in hot weather
- Yard waste disposal tips
- Clean-Up Day event information
- Pumpkin collection event information
- America Recycles Day content

Mrs. Sutherland requested the Commission have an informal discussion of additional topics they would like to see shared in the email e-news with residents. The Commission suggested sharing information on the following additional topics:

- E-waste recycling
- Promote local disposal sites
- Request local businesses share environmental related content
- Landfill updates and tours
- Invasive species education
- Rain gardens
- Pollinator gardens
- State and county education and grant programs for residents
- Airport noise information and how to report a complaint
- Tick prevention
- Bee boxes
- Adopt a Park and Clean-Up Programs
- Partnerships with neighboring cities

The Commission also suggested staff consider promoting the Environmental E-news at city events, signs at city facilities and parks, and give out low-waste prizes for signs ups, for example free park rentals or native seed packets.

6. Public Comment

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

8. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Kruse, seconded by Commissioner Brass to adjourn at 8:17 pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**Staff Report****TITLE: Discussion on Future Environmental Initiatives**

Meeting Date:	May 26, 2022
Item Type:	Regular Agenda
Contact:	Ally Sutherland, 651-604-8511
Prepared by:	Ally Sutherland

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Environmental Commission is asked to review a preliminary list of environmental initiatives the City of Inver Grove Heights could consider pursuing in the future. Staff requests the Commission provides comments and suggestions on the list.

BACKGROUND

The City of Inver Grove Heights' sustainability efforts are guided by regional trends and programs such as [Minnesota GreenStep Cities](#), [Xcel Energy Partners in Energy](#), [Dakota County Community Waste Abatement Grant](#), and more. Staff continues to research new initiatives the city can pursue that support existing programming goals.

Staff has attached a preliminary list of environmental initiatives for the Environmental Commission to review and provide feedback on. Background information and links to additional resources are included. Items are listed in no particular order. It should be noted that additional research is still required for all items before they could move forward. Feasibility of projects will vary based on requirements related, but not limited to, staff time, project costs and available funding, support from other departments, and City Council approval.

ATTACHMENTS

- Preliminary List of Environmental Initiatives (*draft*)

Preliminary List of Environmental Initiatives

Updated 5/19/2022

SolSmart: SolSmart is a solar-ready certification program focused on helping communities adopt best practices for solar readiness. The city is eligible to receive free technical assistance from Great Plains Institute (GPI) on solar projects, land use and permitting standards, and educational and outreach initiatives does require entering the program. Minnesota has almost 40 communities that have achieved certification and their achievements which can be viewed [here](#).

Organics Drop-Off: Dakota County is expanding opportunities for residential organics recovery. Specifically, to co-develop and provide assistance (e.g., hauling and enclosure reimbursement, resident education, training) for residential organics drop-off sites with cities until curbside organics collection is widely available. Cities provide the location and site maintenance. Drop-off sites include organics dumpsters that may be enclosed in a fenced-in structure. Any Dakota County resident can sign up to use this free service. Cities with existing drop-off are include Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Hastings, Lakeville, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, and West St. Paul.

Residential/Business Sustainable Recognition Programs: Many communities in Minnesota recognize their residents and/or businesses for taking sustainable actions that help create a greener, more resilient community. Examples of city sustainability recognition programs include: [Eden Prairie](#), [St Louis Park](#), [Hopkins](#), [Coon Rapids](#), [LaCrescent](#), [Burnsville Neighborhood Grant](#), [Burnsville Community Builder Award](#) and more.

No-Mow May: No Mow May was developed to create habitat for bees and other pollinators that have been in decline for years. The idea is that not mowing lawns in May will increase pollen and other foraging resources for pollinators that are emerging from dormancy. This initiative is promoted through Bee City USA. Other Minnesota cities such as West St. Paul, Edina, Crystal, New Brighton, Vadnais Heights and Mendota Heights and recently participated by temporarily suspending property maintenance zoning codes. The city received at least 7 inquiries from residents about No Mow May in May 2022.

Litter Clean-Up Event: Various cities organize city-wide litter clean-up events in Spring or Fall. Picking up trash, litter, and other debris protects water quality by preventing pollutants from entering the storm water system. Volunteers are typically organized into groups and designated to sites around the city such as parks, streets and school grounds. Examples of existing events/programs include [Eden Prairie](#), [St. Paul](#), [Minneapolis](#), [Lakeville](#), [Dakota County](#), [Champlin](#), [Fridley](#), [Duluth](#), [Vadnais Heights](#), [Roseville](#) and more.

Home Energy Squad® Buy-Downs: The 2020 Inver Grove Heights Energy Survey results identified cost as the number one barrier to completing energy efficiency projects in home and businesses. [Home Energy Squad visits](#) are the first step to identifying home energy problems, and how homeowners can save money and reduce energy usage. Other Minnesota cities offer "Buy Downs" of home energy squad visits to reduce cost barriers to home energy improvements. City programs vary, where they pay for a portion of the visit or offer a select number of free visits annually. Cities such as Burnsville, Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, Richfield, and [more](#) participate.