

Cleveland Heights Climate and Environmental Sustainability Committee (CESC)

Minutes

11/18/2025 4:00pm – 5:30pm at Cleveland Heights City Hall

Attendees: Appointed CESC members John Barber, Carly Beck, Tami Masouka, Sean Terry, Catalina Wagers, and Peter Whiting. Absent members: None. Mark Lefkowitz, City Communications and Councilperson Gail Larson. A quorum was present. Catalina Wagers led the meeting; John Barber took minutes.

The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

The Committee welcomed Peter Whiting as a newly-appointed member of the committee.

Guest Eric Yarham presented ideas and recommendations for expanding composting and recycling at public events – events sponsored by the City and events held at city facilities. The committee already had approved a handout to accompany city facilities permits, but it hasn't been implemented. **Marc will follow up with Catalina to determine status.** The committee also queried the cost of Rust Belt Riders event drop-off/pick up services that would apply to events.

CESC Contact Form Submissions

The committee reviewed outstanding submissions from the CESC Contact Form.

- The committee reviewed a number of citizen comment submissions related to noise and air pollution from gas-powered leaf blowers. The committee agreed that this would be a priority for a 2026 recommendation to Council.

CESC Initiatives

- the air quality alert enhanced communication (with cautions on using 2-stroke engines on AQA days) **is ready to be used.** Marc will confirm.
- The committee reviewed a number of potential grant opportunities. **Marc will check on how the city's grant consultant finds and publicizes grant opportunities.** Sean will track and evaluate the 2026 Climate Smart Communities Initiative, perhaps having TPL advance a regional solution.
- The city's composting initiative had 416 households registered by late October, with 3,279 pounds of material composted. The committee asked for quarterly updates on registrants, poundage composted, and landfill tipping fee savings as additional sites are selected. Money will be budgeted for two drop off stations for 2026. Sean's question for further information on how the city might acquire and use composting output remains open.
- Marc reported that the **commercial recycling program**, initially only cardboard and paper, will be rolled out soon in four locations and that he'll keep us abreast of **use.**
- Catalina presented a proposal for Styrofoam recycling.

Discussion topics follow up:

- Gail reported 2 appointments will come in December to fill our two vacancies.
- Catalina asked the committee to review the CESC Stakeholders Plan for prioritization.
- There was no update on transferring CESC files to city servers.
- **Light Pollution (C. Brace) – Marc will follow up for updates on streetlight bulb replacement color.**
- All existing committee members will continue with new two-year terms.
- CESC will produce an annual report again, as required by its originating legislation.

- The Committee identified 2026 impact opportunities, including 2-stroke engine phaseout, Tree Commission formation, Single use plastic reduction in CH restaurants, and outdoor LED light color temperature restrictions.

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The meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

The next meeting will be December 16th at 4:00.

Submitted by John Barber