

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Village Hall, Room 101

Commission Members Present: Liz Lukehart (Chair), Lisa Boone, Tejas Shah, Darryl Baker, Ramona Blaber

Commission Members Absent: Cassandra West, Carly Provost-Rizor

Staff Present: Abby Zielinski, Civil Engineer; Erica Helms, Environmental Services Manager

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lukehart at 7:05 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** A Motion was made to approve the agenda, and it was unanimously approved with no revisions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made to approve the previous meeting minutes, they were unanimously approved with no revisions.
3. **Public Comment:** There were no public comments.
4. **Community Waste Reduction:**
Environmental Services Manager, Erica Helms, presented on results from the Community Compost Survey. The results can be found at <https://engageoakpark.com/community-compost>. Erica Helms also presented recommendations for next steps to improve the Village's composting program and waste services. The Village is planning to complete a waste characterization study, which will provide information about the type of materials being placed in recycling, refuse, and compost bins.

Erica Helms recommended that the waste characterization study is completed before a waste rate study. The waste characterizations study is planned for late 2024 to early 2025. Erica Helms also explained that a change in waste rates will require an ordinance update. A change such as a bin size could be completed through a contract revision with LRS.

Erica Helms also recommended that the EEC creates a broader solid waste community survey, which would include questions about all types of waste materials and services. The EEC is interested in reaching a more representative population of Oak Park residents because the composting survey overrepresented residents who currently compost. The EEC discussed ideas for reaching the community through the survey, including working with Takeout 25 and making the survey available at the library.

The EEC plans to complete research, case studies, and a survey before making a recommendation to the Board about completing a rate study. EEC members discussed action items to be completed before the next meeting. Chair Lukehart and Commissioner Baker will research and review case studies. Chair Lukehart, with help from Erica Helms, will put together a survey. Commissioner Shah will reach out to universities to inquire about what will be needed for a waste rate study and who may be able to conduct the study.

5. **Adjourn:** At 8:10 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.