



**CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD**  
City Operations Center | 305 Williams St. | Hendersonville, NC 28792  
Thursday, May 16, 2024 – 3:30 PM



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## **AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Kelly Pahle, *Chair*

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Approval of April 18th meeting minutes

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Presentation on Native Plantings on City Property – *Mark Stierwalt, Public Works Superintendent* (10 min)

**5. STAFF LIAISON UPDATE**

A. City plastic reduction follow up - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Sustainability Manager* (5 min)

B. ESB Annual report - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Sustainability Manager* (5 min)

C. City sustainability update - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Sustainability Manager* (5 min)

Sustainability Strategic Plan approved: <https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/sustainability-strategic-plan>

Sustainable Facilities Policy approved: <https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/sustainability>

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Hendo EarthFest wrap up – *Ann Twiggs, member* (10 min)

B. Waste Reduction – *Virginia Tegel, member* (10 min)

Sustainability demonstration station update

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Wildlife Habitat Certification vs Bee City – *Kelly Pahle, Chair* (5 min)

B. Native plant policy recommendation letter – *Kelly Pahle, Chair* (5 min)

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Confirm dates for farmers market and ESB member attendance – *Virginia Tegel, member* (5 min)

**9. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE**

- A. City Council Update - *Lyndsey Simpson, Council Woman* (5 min)

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

*The City of Hendersonville is committed to providing accessible facilities, programs and services for all people in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you need assistance or an accommodation for this meeting please contact the City Clerk no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting at 697-3005.*



**CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD**  
 City Operations - Assembly Room | 305 Williams St. | Hendersonville, NC  
 28792



**Thursday, April 18, 2024 – 3:30 PM**

## AGENDA

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 3:33p.m.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved by Ann followed by Jill

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes approved by Mary Ellen followed by Ann

### 4. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Parks and Greenspace recommendation letter - *Kelly Pahle, Board Chair*

Caitlyn will invite Mark Stierwalt to present to board on Parks & Greenspace Plan and can address current practices relating to City native landscaping at next meeting.

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Plastic Reduction Proclamation/purchasing policy proposal - *Virginia Tegel, Board member*

Caitlyn will look into examples of what other municipalities have done and will report back to the board.

### 6. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

#### A. Hendo Earth Fest - *Ann Twiggs, board member*

Board confirmed volunteer times

#### B. Waste reduction - *Virginia Tegel, Board member*

Caitlyn will find out if Public Works can install permeable pavers and drop off mulch at site; Caitlyn also checking if we have extra benches

Unanimous vote approving remaining ESB funds be used for sustainability station

### 7. STAFF LIAISON UPDATE

- A. Maternity leave plan - Caitlyn Gendusa, *Staff Liaison*  
Caitlyn will confirm site location for farmers market days
- B. Sustainability Plan next steps - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*
- C. Budget Update - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*
- D. Waste Reduction grant award - *Caitlyn Gendusa, Staff Liaison*

Concerns were raised of data privacy with contamination rates; Caitlyn will talk with Allison on best practices

## 8. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

### **Tree canopy ordinance was passed at last City Council meeting**

Passed system development fees

Board members input was gathered on thoughts of combining the Tree Board and Environmental Sustainability Board

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

Jill motioned to adjourn first followed by Mary Ellen

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## Notes on potential plastic reduction requirements & efforts

Project option: transition to hand dryers instead of paper towels with trash bins in restrooms

Policy option:

- Plastic disposable water bottles
  - a. Single-use disposable plastic water bottles shall only be used in situations where government worker conditions are not sanitary.
  - b. Assuming budget allowance, all new City employees shall be offered a free reusable water bottle upon start of employment.

Plastic cutlery, cups, and plates

- c. Government workers shall not use City funds to purchase plastic single use disposable cutlery, cups, and plates.
- d. Prior to contract and/or ordering approval, the City shall ask if the contractor/temporary vendor is able to provide plastic free cutlery, cups, and plates.
- e. Internal City staff events
  - a. Where compostable or plastic-free cutlery, cups, and plates are able to be used, the City Sustainability Manager shall be responsible for having designated compost waste bins available with proper signage for disposal.

Special events permits

- a. No person shall use balloons or plastic confetti in any outdoor area of city property.
- b. No person shall use polystyrene foam food ware or unencapsulated polystyrene foam products on city property for special events.

Enforcement

- a. Following adoption of this policy, the City Sustainability Manager and Environmental Sustainability Board shall engage in public education efforts to inform affected persons and entities of the provisions of this article and to provide assistance with identifying environmentally friendly alternatives to the prohibited items.
- b. Enforcement for special event permits:
  - i. First violation: written warning;
  - ii. Second violation: \$25 fine;
  - iii. Third and subsequent violations: \$50 fine.



Environmental  
Sustainability Board  
City of Hendersonville, NC

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## NOTE FROM BOARD CHAIR

## 1. Community Projects

This year the board contributed funds for two community projects including the Brooklyn Creek Bird Sanctuary and Brooklyn Community Garden. These small community sponsorships are a pilot initiative the board has started to sponsor important projects in the community that are implementing sustainability and/or environmental projects.

The Brooklyn Creek Bird Sanctuary is now a destination in Sullivan Park for bird watchers, nature lovers, and more. ESB funds went towards four birdhouses and a feeding station for all to enjoy.



The next project sponsored was ADA-assessible garden beds for the Brooklyn Community Garden. ESB recognizes a sustainable Hendersonville needs to prioritize the accessibility for all community members.

Continuing again this year, the board also sponsored 18 classrooms through the Symbolic Monarch Migration educational program which mimics the monarchs' journey by engaging more than 10,000 children from across the United States and Canada in creating paper butterflies to send to students in Mexico.



The last community sponsorship was to Caregivers of Mother Earth for their “Everyday is Earth Day” signs which were featured at Hendo Earth Fest. The signs provide simple actions anyone can take to reduce their impact on the environment.



## 2. Hendo Earth Fest

This year marked the second annual Hendo Earth Fest which has become a widely popular and successful festival that saw 3,000+ visitors, included 46 exhibitors as well as 7 engaging musical acts.

The purpose of the Hendo Earth Fest is to promote community education for all ages on environmental and sustainable practices, inspire action, and renew and expand commitments to protect our planet. Local and regional environmental allies focus on participation/hands-on activities and demonstrations designed to educate, renew and expand action to protect our Western North Carolina environment and natural resources.

Multiple ESB members led the sub-committee to plan the festival which also included partnering with non-profits and other community groups.



### 3. Sustainability Hero Award

This year marked the second annual Sustainability Hero Award which celebrates outstanding achievement in the pursuit of the City's commitment to lead by example in pursuing environmentally sustainable practices critical to preserving the community for future generations. The Sustainability Hero award honors an individual City employee or team that is a champion for change and is responsible for development and implementation of sustainability practices in Hendersonville and the surrounding community. This year, the board recognized Public Works Superintendent, Brandon Mundy for his work with the City's brush collection program reducing fuel and staff resources, analyzing the trash and recycling routes, and implementing a tracking system.

"Sometimes, it's as simple as looking at what services the city is already providing and finding ways to improve them so they are more efficient and thus more sustainable," said ESB board member Mary Ellen Kustin. "We commend this year's recipient for doing just that."



## 4. Sustainability Demonstration Station

New for the board was the approval for establishing the first Sustainability Demonstration Station. This project, led by the board's Waste Reduction Subcommittee, will demonstrate multiple sustainability practices community members can implement at their own homes with a focus on composting and will offer the City's first small scale community compost drop off location. Phase 1 of the project will be completed in the 2024 fiscal year with the last phase 2 completed in fiscal year 2025.



## 5. Mayor's Monarch Pledge & Bee City USA

The board submits the yearly report for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge which is a yearly commitment to raise awareness for the decline in the Monarch butterfly and is organized by the National Wildlife Federation. The board also incorporates pollinator education in Hendo Earth Fest to assist in meeting the annual Bee City USA requirements.

## Confirmed Farmers Market Days and Volunteers

May 18th - Frank

July 20th - Grady

August 17th - Virginia

October 19th – Jill

Suggestion to have Jill and Virginia rotate Farmers Market days so that Jill can complete the Symbolic Monarch Migration kids activity which requires butterflies to be mailed between September 30<sup>th</sup>-October 18<sup>th</sup>. Refer to

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extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgglefindmkaj/https://www.eealliance.org/uploads/1/2/9/7/129730705/smm\_leader\_packet\_2024-25\_final.pdf for more information.



## Farmers Mkt ESB display

2024 dates

DATE/Shift	ESB member	volunteer
5/18		
7:30 - 10:30		
10 - 1pm		
7/20		
7:30 - 10:30		
10 - 1 pm		
8/17		
7:30 - 10:30		
10 - 1 pm		
10/19		
7:30 - 10:30		
10 - 1 pm		

### Purpose:

Outreach Support

- Promote, facilitate, and act as liaison to educate citizens on environmental sustainability issues affecting the City of Hendersonville.

4. Participate in community outreach at public events to educate citizens on environmental issues and related City programs.

### Set Up

Per instructions from market supervisor - Dakota

### Equipment

ESB tent

Table

Table cover

2 clear plastic displays - 8 ½ x 11"

ESB literature

Sustainability Strategic Plan

Binder with ESB info and projects

Sustainability Demonstration Station

- Compost info
- Compost demo
- Mini Worm farm