ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI
September 29, 2026 | 4:00 PM
Conference Room
Spurt Industries | 2041 Charms Rd, Wixom MI 48393
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL - Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 27, 2026 Minutes

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Tour of Spurt Industries

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: People with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk (248) 347-0456 at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.

CITY OF NOVI
Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting
July 27, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER: 5:39 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Smith

PRESENT: Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Smith

STAFF LIAISON: Danielle Mahoney, Assistant City Manager

ALSO PRESENT: Rebecca Runkel, Project Engineer
Katherine Oppermann , Recording Secretary
Atika Gupta, UofM CLC Fellow (Remote, via Teams)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion: Heintz; Seconded: Gurumurthy; Approved: 3:0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 13, 2026 Minutes
Motion: Gurumurthy; Seconded: Heintz; Approved: 3:0

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Food Waste Composting Pilot Program Update

   Ms. Runkle said that the pilot is going fairly well so far, the bin at the Civic Center as well as the bins at Tollgate Farm are in use. Atika has contacted My Green MI as to see if their driver had any more insight into the bins since a collection automatically notes the bin as full, but they have not heard back yet. We've started getting survey responses, the survey went out in a newsletter from Community Relations and is on the city webpage (at https://cityofnovi.org/trash/food-scrap-composting-program/). They plan to make some tweaks to the signage and do further social media posts. The Committee noted that they liked the Reel that Ms. Gupta made and would like to see more similar, such as at the Civic Center location. Councilmember Heintz asked if there was a possible more visible location, other than the Power Park parking lot, such as Civic Center or Police Station for the Civic Center bins. Ms. Runkle said that they are looking into it, ideally, they'd like a permanent pad. They cannot take up a parking space, but she noted that with the upcoming High School construction project they may need to find a new location in the near future. Councilmember Heintz emphasized that greater visibility will increase awareness and ease of use/access for residents. Ms. Runkle noted that we might consider additional signage to clearly identify where the drop-off is for drivers. Councilmember Gurumurthy

suggested it might be a good idea to have a QR code for the survey near the bins. She also suggested that we might work with the Library to have a public information session. Ms. Mahoney said they could also ask Library Director Farkas to advertise the food waste drop off in the lobby or their newsletters. It was noted that the library is not a priority location for a protentional drop off site since they already deal with an excess of traffic overflow from the Highschool, beyond their own Library patrons. Councilmember Gurumurthy also suggested that we have a follow-up meeting with My Green Michigan to get their insights into how the pilot is going so far, if they have suggestions, etc. The rest of the Committee agreed, thinking that December might be a good time for the follow-up. Councilmember Smith asked if we are able to get compost from My Green Michigan and Ms. Runkle said that she is still getting information on that matter, but she thinks no, you'd have to go to Spurt Industries to purchase it. There was also some brief discussion regarding a visit to the Spurt Industries site in Wixom, with particular interest from Councilmember Heintz.

2. UofM Catalyst Leadership Circle (CLC) Fellow Project Progress Report

   The Committee thanked Ms. Gupta for all of her work and invited her to go over Food Waste Program Municipality Guide draft. She explained that the Guide goes through what it is to start a program from planning, the different phases from pre-Pilot, Pilot, and expansion. A large portion of the project has been talking to different communities; she has spoken with 32 people, covering 14 municipalities that have or are starting compost programs. She has interspersed some of their recommendations and experiences throughout the guide. Ultimately, the guide is intended for how to start a program and how to communicate the program and purpose to the public, along with other resources. The committee members all appreciated that work, noting that it will be very helpful both for Novi going forward as well as for other municipalities looking to do a similar program.

   Ms. Gupta asked that the Committee and staff provide any further feedback on the draft guide directly on the shared document as comments, so she can best review and incorporate them no later than August 5th. They all look forward to diving in further, noting that the document is very thorough and could provide great insights. Councilmember Heintz noted that he'd like to see more images included in the final version and hopes there will be key insights from other communities as well as what might be coming in the future for Michigan as far as food waste/compost goes (County/Statewide beyond municipalities). Councilmember Gurumurthy suggested a template for how to approach City Council to pitch a food waste program, as well as key parameters to determine if a pilot program has been successful. Ms. Gupta said she would welcome the Committee's insight as to how they pitched the program to the full City Council, noting that the process varies a lot municipality to municipality. Ms. Gurumurthy agreed that they would do so. Councilmember Smith briefly noted that they were able to roll the fee into our recycling costs but that is likely very variable in different communities for how they would be able to do that. The Committee once again complimented Ms. Gupta on her work. Ms. Gupta thanked the Committee for their insights so far, reiterating that she would appreciate any further comments they have on the draft, especially regarding municipal ordinances and/or policy.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

Chairperson Smith briefly spoke on the map that the GIX team had provided of all conservation easements in the City. He wants a clear list, by acreage, we have for conservation. It doesn't clarify how parks are protected so they may need to look further into that. He would like to ultimately have a published list so people can better understand how much land the City actually has for parks and conservation. He also wants to work on a Carbon Emissions inventory for the City soon, to establish a baseline either for the City or for the City and residents. He plans to have more to report on the topic at the next meeting.

Councilmember Heintz said that he attended a Food Waste Coalition meeting earlier in the day and said that there is an upcoming community education day on September 29th where the coalition can talk with elected officials in Lansing to inform them about food waste. He also briefly spoke on a program for area restaurants to sell their food at discounted rates to prevent it from going into the trash.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Committee and staff should provide any further feedback on the draft guide for Ms. Gupta directly on the shared document as comments no later than August 5th.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: 6:32 p.m.

Motion: Smith; Seconded: Heintz; Approved: 3:0