



City of Battle Creek
Sustainable BC Committee

Zoom Meeting

Monday, June 23, 2025 1:30pm – 2:30pm

The purpose of this Committee is to increase the City's efforts to incorporate environmentally responsible, cost effective policy in the planning, administration and economic development of its built infrastructure and natural resources. The Committee may make recommendations to the City Commission for their consideration and will be available as a resource on sustainability policy.

The committee is grateful for the land upon which we live, and recognizes the Potawatomi Nation as the original inhabitants. The committee seeks to partner when possible with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) Tribe in stewardship of the land and its natural resources.

AGENDA

- ☐ **Call to Order**
- ☐ **Introductions Committee Members & Guests**
- **Approval of Minutes:** April 28, 2025
- **Danielle Dickow, Kellanova Sustainability**
- **Reports by City Staff & Commissioners**
 - **Environmental Programs updates:**
 - 2025 Sustainability Member Goals:
 - Each member to reach out to a community neighborhood planning committee or business with updated ENV educational material.
 - Topics: Recycling; Solids Waste; Composting; Recycle Events; Invasives: What are they? Where are they? What do we do!?!; Oak Wilt; Stormwater; Other important ENV info...
 - April/May: Huge Volunteer Month: 971 hours total!!
 - Tree planting – 1,600 trees/shrubs along Jackson St.: SUCCESS!!
 - Over 6 days in April 170 volunteers helped us get all trees in the ground!
 - Garlic mustard pull/native plants (Jackson St Grant area): SUCCESS!
 - Roughly 20 contractor bags filled with about 10 volunteers
 - Trash Pickup, weeding, more tree planting
 - Kellogg Bird Sanctuary Birding event, Thursday, May 22, 6-7 pm: SUCCESS!
 - Had roughly 20 birders join us on a stroll along LP off Jackson St.
 - Children's Water Festival: 16 classes (335 students) Tote Activity done in classrooms
 - Billy B entertained 2 schools: That was super great!
 - Looking forward to in person event in 2026!!!
 - Food Composting PILOT???? We are soo interested! Check out photos from Portage.
 - UPCOMING:
 - Photo Contest: NEED YOUTH photos!! We have about 20 Adult submissions so far. Contest ends July 31, 2025
 - Submit photos at bcwater.org
 - Kellogg Bird Sanctuary Birding event, Thursday, July 10, 6-7 pm (Jackson St. Boat Launch parking)
 - RESCHEDULED: DPW Open House, Wednesday, July 30, 4-6 pm
 - 2025 Calhoun County HHW and Electronic Events:
 - Sept 15: HHW 2:30-5:30pm @Marshall Fairgrounds
 - Oct 13: HHW 2:30-5:30pm @ Bailey Park

- Scrap Tire Grant AWARDED!! County Scrap Tire Dates are still to be determined...
 - Scrap Tire for City of Battle Creek residents only: September 24 at DPW 4-6pm
- **Environmental Grants: Awarded/Pending/Pursuing**
 - **Awarded:** Battle Creek Community Foundation, Thelma Greer Tree Fund – 10 trees at Claude Evans Park
 - **Awarded:** Forest to MIFaucets – tree grant through Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, 93 trees along Kalamazoo River at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - 1st phase of planting 68 trees: June 11 & 12
 - Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Black Gum, Musclewood, Tulip Poplar
 - Still need to mulch and cage trees: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
 - 2nd phase in August: 25 Planting Pawpaw Trees! VOLUNTEERS??
 - **Awarded:** Michigan DNR, Urban and Community Forestry Grant w/Leila Arboretum
 - **Patty is on the roll with these Grants!!** Way to go Patty!
 - **Pending:** Michigan EGLE, Source Water Protection Grant
 - **Pending:** Composting Consortium, Food Composting Grant

Planning Department Updates:

- **City Commission Updates:** Should we have a commissioner on the Board?
- **Sustainability Plan Notes:** Updates needed following GHS Inventory results. Hope to discuss with new Commission in later 2025. **October 21 @ 5 pm**
- **Field Trips, Trainings, Etc.:**
- **Other Business:**
- **Public Comments**
- **Member Comments/Announcements:**
 - **Next Meeting:** 2025: February 24, April 28, **June 23**, Aug. 25, Oct. 27, Dec. 22
4th Monday of Month.
- **Adjournment:**

Member List:

- Andy Helmboldt (Community Volunteer)
- Patty Hoch-Melluish (DPW City of Battle Creek)
- Bessie Ploeg (DPW City of Battle Creek)
- Bob Gilbert (Community Volunteer)
- Keona Ackley (Community Volunteer)
- Mark Behnke (Mayor City of Battle Creek)
- Kris Martin (BC Unlimited)

- Chris Bacik (Community Volunteer)
- Mike Wyszynski (Community Volunteer)
- Michael Hall (Community Volunteer)
- Mark Stephens (Community Volunteer)
- Danielle (Dee) Chauvin (Community Volunteer)
- Roger Bosse (Community Volunteer) Member of Lions Club

Guests Listed:

- Kurt Tribbett (DPW City of Battle Creek)
- Darcy Schmitt (Planning City of Battle Creek)
- Ryan Reincke (Calhoun Conservation District)
- Jake Smith (Commissioner)