



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Date: October 27, 2025
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: **Room 106** (Betty Cheever Council Chambers - East)
Civic Center
850 Curtiss Street

I.	Call To Order	
II.	Roll Call	
III.	Approval of September 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes	
IV.	Public Comments – General Topics or Issues NOT on Tonight’s Agenda	
V.	Old Business	
1.	Greener Way Pledge Update	
	Action Requested:	Recommendation
	Description:	Staff will provide an update on the development of a launch strategy for the Greener Way Pledge, including a mock up portion of the resident resource guide. The Commission is requested to provide input and feedback on the plan.
VI.	New Business	
VII.	Adjourn	

**Village of Downers Grove
Environmental Concerns Commission**

Civic Center
850 Curtiss Street
September 22, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Chair Pelloso called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and asked for a roll call.

Commissioner	Present	Absent
P. Bolton	x	
L. Dantoft	x	
L. Donnelly		x
K. Lerner	x	
B. Johnson	x	
L. Pelloso	x	
Also present: Jason Michnick, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Village of Downers Grove		

Chair Pelloso declared a quorum present.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2024 meeting was made by K. Lerner. Seconded by L. Dantoft. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comment - Items not pertaining to the agenda

Two high school students asked to address the commission during the public comment period. Both students are actively engaged in science and environmental clubs in their respective schools. Students initially made contact with staff and were invited to talk to the commission about their interest in promoting sustainability in the community and schools. A prepared presentation was shared with the commission and included some recommendations and examples of efforts happening within their schools.

One recommendation included incorporating murals on solar panels as part of the downtown streetscape project that is being discussed by the Village Council. The students also highlighted a recent installation of a rain garden at Downers Grove North High School and shared examples of educational materials they had developed.

The commission commended the students on the presentation, professionalism, and creativity. A suggestion was made that the students could make a presentation about the rain garden at a District 58 School Board meeting. The commission also stated a desire to have a student representative on the commission again and believed that both students could be viable candidates and welcomed them back to future meetings.

Old Business

Community Solar Program

Staff provided a recap of the August conversations regarding the Greenest Region Compact community solar program and commission discussion. Staff reached out to the program coordinator and did not receive a response before the meeting, so no updates could be provided regarding whether there would be an expectation for exclusivity in promoting a single community solar program. The commission discussed the program and determined that it was not desirable to make a recommendation to the Village Council to participate in the program at this time. The commission unanimously agreed that informing residents and maximizing options and flexibility was more advantageous than the Village endorsing a single program. Alternatively, the commission recommended that staff dedicate time to put together information about alternative strategies for residents to connect to renewable energy sources. The Pledge Resource Guide would be a place for information like this to be provided, as well as placing information on the Village's website..

Staff Updates - Various Projects

Solid Waste Contract

Staff provided an overview of the solid waste RFP review process to the commission. On Tuesday, September 16, Village Council approved a motion directing staff to negotiate with three firms on a single service package that includes the following elements:

- Transition from a hybrid program with stickers and carts to an all-cart program
- The all-cart program would be a three cart inclusive pricing structure where residents can opt into having an organics recycling cart at no additional charge
- Residents select a 35 gallon, 65 gallon, or 95 gallon cart
- Proposals for e-waste and household hazardous waste programs
- Residents would be provided with a two item (bulk item, additional bag, or white good) allowance without need for stickers

The commission discussed the attributes of the proposed service package and raised a couple of concerns. One concern was that the two item allowance does not support the goal of reducing waste and does not provide any disincentive for residents. The unlimited organics recycling also disincentivizes residents from composting grass clippings and leaves at home. Those residents already composting at home may be subsidizing the organics program for those that do not. It is anticipated that the Village Council will review final and best offers in October.

Long-Range Planning

Staff updated the commission on Village Council's discussion of priority action items. A final list will be approved at a future meeting but the preliminary vote by council included some items that may result in the commission providing input or feedback on specific strategies, including: private tree preservation ordinance and enhanced public tree planting efforts.

Downtown Streetscapes

Staff also shared that Village Council reviewed concepts for five downtown amenity areas. The preliminary designs include additional native landscaping, additional locations for recycling receptacles, and shade structures that would have solar panels. The commission asked whether the solar panels would be connected to the grid or used to power the lights and outlets in the amenity areas. Staff will investigate this with the consultants doing the design work.

The commission also referenced the students' earlier suggestion for solar panel murals and asked whether the public art foundations would be fixed or flexible. A commissioner also asked if downtown composting receptacles would be installed. Staff stated that it was not being considered at this time and feared that it would be likely for the public to contaminate or improperly dispose of items in a compost bin. Staff will provide an update on these questions at a future meeting.

A Greener Way Pledge

The upcoming Inside DG mailing will include information about A Greener Way pledge. Staff is also developing a launch strategy and guidelines for the pledge to be promoted by community partners. Completing the Pledge Resource Guide is a higher priority and staff requested that the ECC provide suggestions for action items that are oriented towards residents living in multifamily buildings and condos, as well as items for students and youth. Staff will share a current draft of the resource guide via email.

Public Comment

S. Ruffolo offered to be a resource if the commission is requested to discuss a private tree preservation ordinance. He also reiterated an earlier statement made by the commission to bring back a student member. It was also suggested that the flexible amenity areas be designed

for a potential future compost receptacle. Perhaps residents will learn how to compost at home and be able to do it in the downtown as well.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by L. Dantoft. Seconded by R. Johnson. The motion to adjourn was carried on a voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm .

DRAFT