

# SCHENECTADY COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

## MEETING AGENDA

**Date:** Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Place:** Online

**Meeting Information:**

SCEAC Meeting  
Tuesday, April 23rd • 5:00 – 6:00 PM

SCEAC Members Please email Heather Ipsen ([ipsenh93@gmail.com](mailto:ipsenh93@gmail.com)) or Portia Zwicker ([zwickerp@gmail.com](mailto:zwickerp@gmail.com)) as soon as you determine your availability.

# Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024

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**Attendees:** Portia Zwicker, Heather Ipsen, Khila Pecoraro, Jasenya McCauley, Bob Titus, Alex Lykins, Ashok, Linda Murray, Grace Stearns, Amelia, Sharon, Ryan, Charlie, Gail, Kathy?

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## Privilege of the Floor (Guests)

- None

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## Agenda Additions or Modifications (Council Members)

- None

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## Project, Standing Committee, Commission, and Liaison Reports

- Approved minutes from last month
- **A. CSC Task Force Updates - Charlie Davidson**
  - Received National Grid bill for 2023 to fill in missing data; hopefully will get benchmarking in before next meeting
  - Received the updated vehicle fleet list which can be adjusted now
  - Charlie and Aaron from facilities met with energy auditing services, L & S, meaning we can move forward with building audits soon
  - Announcement from NYS about the last round of applications for CSC coming this Thursday
  - Free saplings being given away to residents at the County library branches until end of day Friday
  - E-waste event 10-2 on Saturday, May 4th at SCCC: registration required
  - Heather asked if EWaste + recycled e-waste before destroying it. Charlie: E-Waste+ is based out of Victor NY, and they have a spot in Rotterdam industrial. Company checks items for parts before being recycled. For hardwares with data, the company is certified to wipe information
- **B. Natural Resources Inventory subcommittee meeting - Nick Klemczak**
  - Skipped for this meeting
- **C. Pesticide subcommittee meeting - Charlie Davidson**
  - Made a plan for next facility to bring this initiative to
  - Beginning fact finding search for Glendale Nursing Home
  - Charlie will send out meeting minutes from their most recent meeting
  - There has been notice that Glendale may have been using pesticides when blanket ban is issued, Charlie will look into this
- **D. Skip the Stuff - Portia Zwicker/Charlie Davidson**
  - Waiting to hear from legislators, other community groups are interested in getting involved as well
- **E. Zero Waste Event Guide - Portia Zwicker**
  - Rhonda has a professional background in training and will work with Portia to revamp the guide with comments and critiques.
  - Open to accepting new comments and concerns over the next month or so. Also: shout out to Rhonda for setting up the in-person event!

- Will include guidance from similar guides in NYS
- Goal may be to have the county adopt it, can be unofficially used in the meantime
- **F. Drip Drop/Fit Pick update - Jasenya McCauley**
  - Waiting to secure the space

## **Administrative Agenda**

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### **Treasurer's Report 5 Minutes**

- **T-shirt update - SCEAC logos**
  - Skipped this week: Nick and Kathy not present

### **Executive Committee**

- Orientation - Alex 3 Minutes
  - Most popular date was this Thursday at 5pm, will move forward with this and potentially hold another in May.
- Website update
  - It's up now! Under county manager's sustainability page: <https://www.schenectadycountyny.gov/sustainability/sceac>
- Union liaison for next year
  - Grace brought Amelia who may be interested in being the new liaison. Amelia is from Tennessee, an English major with an environmental science minor. Amelia is a sophomore going into junior year.
- Climate Reality Leadership Training Corps Training - Heather & Portia
  - Heather and Portia went, over 3,000 people were there. Progressive Schenectady had attendance as well
  - Heather: "a great event" They did a great job of keeping everything relevant and streamlined. Smart, informative, and some famous people there. Al Gore was the host, leaders from EPA and White House, Native American tribes. Diverse, valuable perspectives. Not too many tangible takeaways but highly informative.
  - Portia: I was under the impression that I could take away info and apply it to leadership like this position. Knew a lot of the information already. Expecting more of a workshop. In the end, I don't think I came away with anything new to incorporate as a "leader". Main feature was Al Gore's presentation: Climate 101, graphs, charts.
    - 30 million tonnes of ice lost from greenland every hour
    - heavy precipitation events are up 70% in the northeast
  - Went to a climate disinformation presentation. Session hosted by Emily Atkin who writes Heated, investigative climate journalism. Spoke with Imran Ahmed of counterhate.com - both great sites to check out!
- Portia gave a short presentation on communicating on the climate crisis.
  - Say true, refute false, say true.
  - Social media is where we have more of these encounters
  - climatetrace.org shows sources of methane emissions.
  - Organization has chapters, Capital Region has one. Heather: Local chapter will present to our group if we want.
  - George Mason has a good newsletter and misinformation information section.

## Upcoming Meetings and Events of Interest

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- NiskaDay - 5/18 - need volunteers for zero waste stations
  - 2024 Niska-Day Zero Waste Volunteers Portia needs volunteers! You get \$5 from the food vendors!
- May meeting - 5/21 (?) Can we hold this meeting hybrid?
  - Passed a resolution in the past for purchasing conferencing microphones and cameras, etc. Charlie will check with the library for room with equipment

Motion to adjourn from Bob, second by Heather

Meeting adjourned at 6:02PM