

**LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA  
7:00 P.M. TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025  
LAUDERDALE CITY HALL, 1891 WALNUT STREET**

1. **CALL TO ORDER (Chair Williams)**
2. **ROLL CALL (Chair Williams)**
3. **APPROVALS (Chair Williams)**
  - a. Agenda
  - b. Minutes of the December 17, 2024 Meeting
4. **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS**
5. **DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM**
  - a. Defining Grass Roots Work Together (Mayor Gaasch)
  - b. Discuss Topics of Interest (Butkowski)
  - c. Sustainability Fair Partnership with Falcon Heights (Butkowski)
  - d. City Website and Information Sharing (Butkowski)
  - e. Establish Subcommittees (Butkowski)
6. **SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**
  - a. First Topic of Interest as Determined by Commission
  - b. Continue Falcon Heights – Lauderdale Sustainability Fair Planning
  - c. Subcommittee Follow Up
7. **ADJOURNMENT**

**To participate remotely:**

Topic: January 21, 2025 Lauderdale Environment & Sustainability Commission

Time: Jan 21, 2025 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88304241142?pwd=JtPpOy1YGGSt23SQ5GrsEhWWfA33F9.1>

Meeting ID: 883 0424 1142

Passcode: 606172

Dial by your location

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US

**LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
7:00 P.M. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024  
LAUDERDALE CITY HALL, 1891 WALNUT STREET**

**CALL TO ORDER**

City Administrator, Heather Butkowski, welcomed the group to the Lauderdale Environment and Sustainability Commission Meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Josh Keller; Mindy Nakamoto; Ewa Prochniewicz; Greg Williams; Jess Winkelaar; Ann Sisel; and Bryan Carlson.

Council City Council Member Present: Jeff Dains.

Member Absent: Monika Davis

**APPROVALS**

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adopt the agenda and minutes of the November 19, 2024 commission meeting. Sisel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM**

**A. Open Meeting Law:**

Butkowski mentioned that commissioners asked about sharing of information at the last meeting. She said the commission must follow the rules of the Open Meeting Law (OML). This means that staff will post notices of meetings at City Hall. Commissioners shall not meet as a quorum unless notice of the group has been posted. Unplanned meetings of a quorum are not OML violations if commission business isn't discussed. If commissioners have information to share between meetings, they may send to Jim or Heather for distribution. Williams shared an audio recording that captured the highlights of the OML.

**B. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

Williams offered to serve as chairperson.

Commissioner Williams made a motion appoint himself as chairperson. Carlson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Winkelaar offered to be vice chairperson.

Commissioner Winkelaar made a motion appoint herself as vice chairperson. Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The following terms were established for members.

Bryan Carlson – 1 year

Ann Sisel – 1 year

Ewa Prochniewicz – 2 years

Jess Winkelaar – 2 years

Josh Keller – 2 years

Monika Davis – 3 years

Mindy Nakamoto – 3 years

Greg Williams – 3 years

#### C. Green Step Cities Discussion

Butkowski explained that Green Step cities is a voluntary recognition program hosted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. It is set up to challenge cities to do more for the environment. It consists of 29 best practices that are broken down into 180 actionable items. The City became a Step 1 city in 2015 by adopting a resolution. The City achieved Step 2 status in 2016 by completing six best practices. The City has been given credit for completing 13 best practices.

Included in the packet was the 2023 Green Step Cities Assessment for Lauderdale. Page three of the document lists required best practice to achieve Step 3 status. The checked boxes have been completed by the City; unchecked boxes are required. The Committee reviewed the items the City would need to achieve Step 3 status. Some will be easy to accomplish and others will require more thought. The group decided not to make achieving Step 3 status a goal but instead focus on group interests and priorities. The extent to which they align with Green Step Cities, the City will receive credit.

#### D. Topics of Interest

City staff presented the topics of interest collected during the previous meeting's discussion. With time running short, the group will submit priority topics to staff ahead of the next meeting to spark discussion at the next meeting. Staff also mentioned that Falcon Heights invited Lauderdale to participate in their Sustainability Fair. Information will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

#### **SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

The agenda will include finalizing first topics for discussion, the Falcon Heights – Lauderdale Sustainability Fair, and establishing subcommittees.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

## LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC FORM

**Meeting Date** January 21, 2025

**Agenda Item** Mayor Gaasch

### Action Requested

|         |                          |                |                          |              |                                     |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Consent | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Discussion   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Action  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Resolution     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Work Session | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC:

Commission members have asked about the working relationship between the city council and the commission and council's priorities for the commission. Mayor Gaasch plans to attend the meeting to share her perspective and the city council's perspective on these topics.

## LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC FORM

**Meeting Date** January 21, 2025

**Agenda Item** Topic Schedule

### Action Requested

|         |                          |                |                          |              |                                     |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Consent | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Discussion   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Action  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Resolution     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Work Session | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC:

At the last meeting, the commission started reviewing topics of interest to the members. To save time, member were asked to submit their ideas to staff, which are included with this memo. Many of you sent along great narratives that were not included in the memo for simplicity.

There was a lot of commonality around topics especially as they related to pollinator health, native plantings / forestry, and stormwater management. If the commission agrees, we could start exploring those topics over the next several meetings.

One well-known speakers on pollinators / native plantings is Russ Henry. Russ owns Minnehaha Falls Landscape, Giving Tree Gardens, and was founder of Bee Safe Minneapolis. He spoke to the council a year ago and was a wealth of knowledge. Attached is a short bio from the Minnesota State Horticulture Society website. Staff could invite him to the next meeting unless there are other recommendations for speakers.

Bryan Carlson

- Rewilding, particularly at the micro-level (i.e., your own property)
- Building resiliency
- Renewables

Monika Davis

- Pollinator habitat/bee lawns
- Composting (either individual or if there are community options we could explore) and soil health
- Stormwater management/watershed health

Josh Keller

- Sustainability planning
- Recycling, composting, and waste reduction
- Stormwater management and water conservation

Mindy Nakamoto

- Urban forestry and bird/pollinator friendly landscaping
- Stormwater management
- Water conservation

Ewa Prochniewicz

- Native plants and trees.
- Recycling, composting and waste reduction.
- Stormwater management and water conservation.

Ann Sisel

- Tree replacement grants
- Bee friendly native gardens
- Boulevard ordinance changes for taller plants, unless it's on a corner.

Jess Winkelaar

- Pollinator health
- MS4 Permit list
- Solar in the community

Greg Williams

- Waste Reduction and Recycling Improvements
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Initiatives
- Urban Greening and Stormwater Management

Mayor Mary Gaasch

- No (or less) mow May
- Bee lawns and pollinator friendly habitat
- Solar panels for city hall

Council Member Jeff Dains

- Pollinator friendly yards and tree replacement
- Access to better transportation
- Establish community garden

Council Member Sharon Kelly

- Migratory birds
- No Mow May
- Organics

Council Member Duane Pulford

- Urban forestry and bird /pollinator-friendly landscaping
- Home energy efficiency and renewable energy options
- Recycling, composting, and waste reduction

Council Member Evan Sayre

- Strategy for salt use reduction without sacrificing safety
- Study of infrastructure challenges caused by climate change
- Possible uses of park dedication funds received from development of the Fern

|  |
|--|
| <b>RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS:</b> |
|--|



RETURN TO SPEAKER ROSTER

# Russ Henry

Minneapolis, MN

(612) 227-0115

[rhenry@givingtreegardens.com](mailto:rhenry@givingtreegardens.com)

<https://www.minnehahafallslandscape.com/>

Bio

## About Russ

As the president of Minnehaha Falls Landscape & Giving Tree Gardens, and the founder of Bee Safe Minneapolis, Russ Henry has been protecting and growing ecosystems across Minnesota for decades. Together his landscaping and garden companies install, manage, and restore hundreds of properties throughout the Twin Cities with native pollinator plants and without the use of pesticides or synthetic fertilizers. Russ has a soil-health based approach to all his



work. As a certified Soil Life Consultant, he scientifically explores and supports soil health, the foundation for beauty and productivity in all landscapes. As an activist and educator, Russ advises individuals and organizations who want to grow healthy ecosystems. Recently, Russ served as the Chair of the Pesticide Advisory Committee for the Minneapolis Park Board. In this role and in a similar role at Minneapolis Public Schools Russ worked for public and environmental health through pesticide elimination and ecosystem regeneration. Enchanting landscape designs, clean water, compost, urban farming, healthy food access, pollinators, soil health, rain gardens, native plantings, are all part of Russ' work both through his companies and through his ongoing advocacy. Learn more about Russ' work at: <https://www.minnehahafallslandscape.com/>

Language/s Spoken: English

## Presentation Topics

## Affiliations

Minnesota State Horticultural Society  
1935 County Road B2 W, Suite 125  
Roseville, MN 55113

Questions? Call 651-643-3601  
or email [info@northerngardener.org](mailto:info@northerngardener.org)

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society is located  
on Dakota land.

## LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC FORM

**Meeting Date** January 21, 2025

**Agenda Item** Sustainability Fair

### Action Requested

|         |                          |                |                          |              |                                     |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Consent | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Discussion   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Action  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Resolution     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Work Session | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC:

Following are materials sent by Falcon Heights staff regarding the sustainability fair on Saturday, September 26. Our increase in funding from Ramsey County for recycling allows us to be a full financial partner in the event which will provide Lauderdale residents with access to the textile, electronics, and paper shredding along with resources from vendors at the fair.

Falcon Heights is offering their residents free food scrap containers paid for by the recycling funds (see attached). Unless there are objections, Lauderdale city staff will order some of the same to distribute to Lauderdale residents.

Falcon Heights staff are looking for additional ideas for speakers and whether any of our commission member can help with the event. Those are the two items up for discussion during the meeting.

## Heather Butkowski

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**From:** Olivia Siebert  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2025 10:31 AM  
**To:** Heather Butkowski  
**Cc:** Jim Bownik; Hannah B. Lynch  
**Subject:** Sustainability Fair Update  
**Attachments:** Sustainability Fair January Update.docx

Hello,

Here is the list of organizations that are confirmed coming to the event, as well as timing and a sense of the activities. Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. Please share this with your Environment Commission next week! I will be excited to hear if they have any input on the fair, any ideas for other organizations to invite/activities, and a general sense of their availability to staff their own table as well as help with other tasks that will need volunteers!

After the commission meeting, we would love to meet with you all again and hear what they had to say. Do you have any availability on Friday, January 24th, the morning of Tuesday, January 28th, or any time on Wednesday, January 29th?

Thanks!

**Olivia Siebert** | Minnesota GreenCorps Member

City of Falcon Heights

2077 Larpentour Ave W | Falcon Heights | 55113

☎ 651-792-7600 | ✉ [olivia.siebert@falconheights.org](mailto:olivia.siebert@falconheights.org)

She|Her|Hers

[www.cityof.falconheights.org](http://www.cityof.falconheights.org) | [www.pca.state.mn.us/mnngreencorps](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/mnngreencorps)



## Falcon Heights & Lauderdale Sustainability Fair January Update

General outline of the event: Saturday April 26, 11am – 2pm, Falcon Heights City Hall

Parking lot:

- Retold Recycling textile collection (requires volunteers to help sort)
- Repowered electronics recycling collection
- Shred Right paper shredding
- *Electric Vehicle demonstration – Kate Anderson*

City Hall:

- 15-minute lightning talks: Gregory Goodwine and Russ Henry
- Environment Commission welcome table (requires volunteers)
- Tables (12 confirmed)
- BINGO cards for residents to fill out and redeem for a food scrap bin (while supplies last)

Tabling Organizations:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Bicycle Chain – Bike Shop</b><br>Contact: unknown<br>Topic: Bike safety, ebikes  | <b>Capitol Region Watershed District</b><br>Contact: Maricella Xiong, staff<br>Topic: nonpoint source pollution, give away stickers and seed packets          | <b>Home Energy Squad</b><br>Contact: Gerardo Roca<br>Topic: HES and home electrification, Xcel Energy giveaways   |
| <b>Ramsey Co. Recycling Ambassadors</b><br>Contact: Mariah Quick, ambassadors<br>Topic: recycling, food scraps, medicine collections, household hazardous waste and the new environmental center, giveaways | <b>Ramsey Co. Master Gardeners</b><br>Contact: Darren Lochner<br>Topic: Ask a Master Gardener! (potentially information from Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms as well) | <b>CERTs</b><br>Contact: Keely Rau, Bruce<br>Topic: Air Source Heat Pumps, solar, electric vehicles, Community Energy Ambassador program, and Home Energy Guides  |
| <b>Russ Henry/Bee Safe Minneapolis</b><br>Contact: Russ Henry<br>Topic: Bee lawns, pollinators  | <b>Solar United Neighbors</b><br>Contact: John Anderson<br>Topic: Solar group buy   | <b>The Good Acre</b><br>Contact: Nikki Warner<br>Topic: CSAs, plastic free produce storage  |
| <b>MN Tool Library</b><br>Contact: Kate Hersey<br>Topic: shared access to home repair, landscaping and woodworking tools  | <b>Gibbs Farm/RCHS</b><br>Contact: Sammy Nelson<br>Topic: nature related activities for kids, info about the farm   | <b>Reuse MN</b><br>Contact: Emily Noyes<br>Topic: Waste reduction, reuse network  |
| Falcon Heights Climate Action Plan<br>Contact: Ted Redmond/CAP team (not yet confirmed)<br>Topic: FH CAP progress   | Potential kid activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Art Scraps</li><li>- Mosaic on a Stick</li></ul>  | Potential tables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Monarch Joint venture</li><li>- Adopt a Drain</li><li>- Metro Transit</li><li>- UMN bee lab</li><li>- Cooperative Energy Futures</li><li>- MN Toy library</li></ul> |



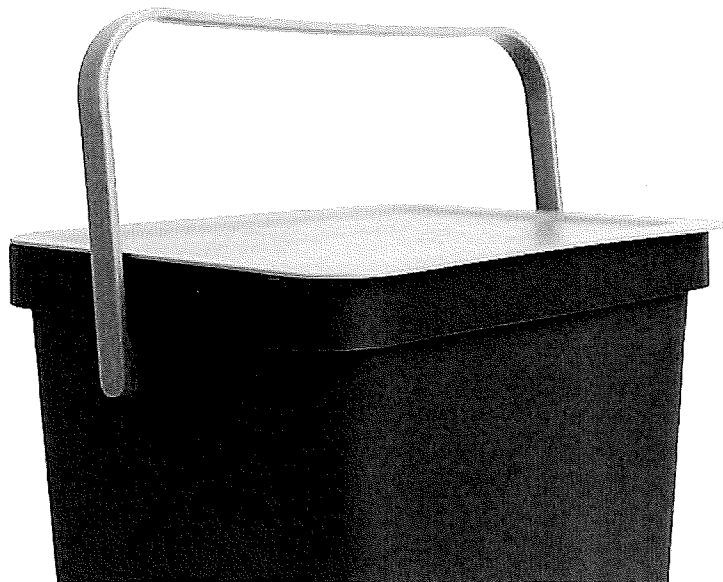
I want to recycle toothbrushes, snack packaging...



4 reviews

## Compost Bin

**\$20.00**



GET 10% OFF

Size: **Compost Bin**



-

1

+

Add to cart

Volume pricing

| Quantity (pcs) | Price per Unit |
|----------------|----------------|
| 51+            | \$18.00        |

Description

- Movable handle for easy transport
- Dishwasher safe
- BPA & Phthalate free
- **Recycled Contents:** 50% recycled content including materials collected through TerraCycle recycling programs
- **Size**
  - Volume: 2.5 gallons
  - Dimensions: 8.25”L x 9.75”W x 8.5”H
  - Weight: 430gr / 0.95lbs
- **Color**
  - Grey and Green

Product Description

What is TerraCycle® Made?

## LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC FORM

**Meeting Date** January 21, 2025

**Agenda Item** Communications

### Action Requested

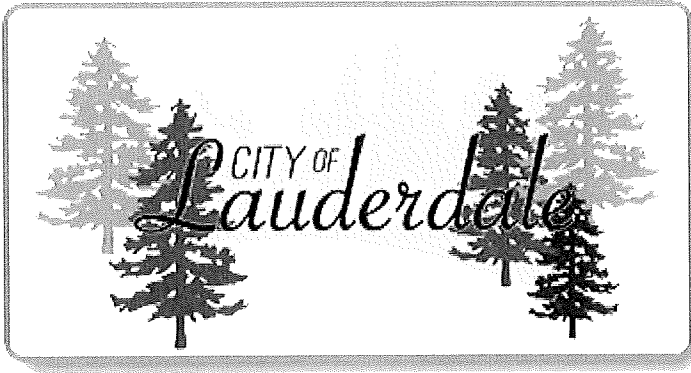
|         |                          |                |                          |              |                                     |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Consent | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Discussion   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Action  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Resolution     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Work Session | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC:

Commission members have asked about channels in place for disseminating information. The primary two are the City's website / email distribution list and the city newsletter that is published quarterly.

A website page devoted to the commission was created over the summer and is available for commission use. Attached is what the page currently has on it. Information about events or opportunities can be emailed through the website to those that have signed up to receive messages. Similarly, messages can be published in the city newsletter. As it is only published quarterly, timing of information can sometimes be a challenge.

Sharing information about the Sustainability Fair can happen through these channels. To get the word out and energy people to attend will take more effort. Time permitting, the commission can start brainstorming options. Advertising plans can be finalized during the February meeting.



Published on *Lauderdale, MN* (<https://www.lauderdalemn.org>)

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## Environment and Sustainability Commission

In 2024, the City Council launched the Environment and Sustainability Commission to create a body of residents eager to be a sounding board for the City Council and an on-going resource for residents looking to create more environmentally friendly and sustainable yards and homes. The Commission meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

The Commission is currently full. If you are interested in being considered when there is an open seat on the committee, please remit the application to City Staff. Residents are welcome to be a community volunteer without being a part of the Commission. Just let staff know how you would like to help.

Agenda, minutes, and packet materials for the Environment and Sustainability Commission are available on the City's website.

**Source URL:** <https://www.lauderdalemn.org/environment/pages/environment-and-sustainability-commission>



## LAUDERDALE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION AGENDA TOPIC FORM

**Meeting Date** January 21, 2025

**Agenda Item** Subcommittees

### Action Requested

|         |                          |                |                          |              |                                     |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Consent | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Discussion   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Action  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Resolution     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Work Session | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC:

Some commission members have expressed interest in devoting more time to environment and sustainability efforts in the city beyond the monthly meeting. One way to do that is to create one or more subcommittees based on interest and needs. So long as the subcommittees are limited to four commission members, meetings will not violate the open meeting law. Time permitting, the group can determine interest in establishing subcommittees and how they will operate.