

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION MEETING

February 8, 2023

Attendance

Members Present: Chris Babb (Chair), Lauren Albarella, Dennis Healy, Patrick Walker, Christopher Pagan

City Council Representative: Sarah Stankorb-Taylor

City Representative: Rob Nicolls

Approval of January 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The January 11, 2023 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Solid Waste/Recycling Update

ESC reviewed the recycling and waste management report prepared by the Public Works department.

Composting Program

The ESC discussed the status of the composting program. Grant funding has been approved to support the start-up of the program. Our current goal for the launch of the service in April 2023, contingent upon the completion of the contracting and grant disbursement process. The City will construct a shed for the compost bin as part of the funding/labor requirements for the grant. The ESC discussed the communication plan for the launch of the program. To support the roll-out of the program to the community, we plan to leverage communication materials used by other communities and make a video to market the program.

Green Your Schools Program

At the time of the meeting, ESC has received one application for the Green Your Schools program. The application deadline is February 28, 2023, and ESC will follow-up with the schools on additional applications. We plan to review applications and determine recipients at the March meeting.

Upcycle Day

Upcycle Day is scheduled for April 21, 2023. Through the efforts of Patrick Walker, we have secured the participation of multiple partners, including Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, New Life, Junk King and Keeping Cincinnati Beautiful among others. Lauren Albarella will coordinate volunteers, and we are planning to make yard signs to help market the event to residents. Communication planning will continue at the March meeting.

Miscellaneous

The ESC continued its discussion about Junk Day. We noted that our efforts to divert waste from Junk Day to Upcycle Day and other recycling events have been successful. However, it is unlikely that we will be able to reduce the cost of Junk Day significantly despite the decreased amount of waste collected. Consequently, ESC forecasts that the marginal cost per ton of waste collected on Junk Day to continue to increase. The ESC is planning to continue to communicate through email to the community about Upcycle Day and how residents can dispose of junk through regular trash collection services.

Next Meeting

The next ESC meeting will be on March 8, 2023.