

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Agenda
October 30th, 2025
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Open to the Public - Zoom Virtual Meeting

Register to attend the virtual meeting via Zoom here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zyozig5pR-KHG7EfGuiUJQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with a link and instructions to join the meeting.

Attendees: Melissa Schweisguth, Thaddeus Waterman, Rayya Newman, Janet Nackoney, James Wigley, Staff Liaison Dawn Taft **Guests:** Kristen Brown

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of [September Meeting Minutes](#)
 - a. Unanimous approval of September meeting minutes
3. Public Comment Period (Comments limited to 3 minutes per person)
 - a. No public comments
4. Pay-as-you-Throw pilot development (30-45 min)
 - a. Kristen Brown joined to provide an overview and answer questions about the Pay-as-you-throw pilot program: [Pay Your Way- Hyattsville 10 30 25.pptx](#)
 - b. Waste-Zero Details:
 - i. Consult for Pay-As-You-Throw or Unit-based pricing systems for trash
 - ii. Profit comes from the sale of trashbags used for unit-based pricing systems
 - iii. Work with about 500 municipalities because their programs work to reduce trash waste
 - iv. Waste zero is expanding into new states like Maryland
 - c. Why expand to Maryland/Why should we care?
 - i. Mid-Atlantic trash disposal fees are likely to keep increasing
 - ii. Hyattsville municipality is currently around ~\$80-90/ton, but much of the Northeast is already at \$150/ton

- iii. Disposal capacity nationally is diminishing, so when costs go up they go up exponentially
- d. Benefits of Pay-As-You-Throw Programs
 - i. Pay-As-You-Throw programs reduce waste generated
 - ii. Residents are incentivized to utilize existing food waste/recycling programs
 - iii. Residents are encouraged to donate instead of throwing things away
 - iv. Most households can save money under these programs if they adjust their habits, trash is not proportionally generated across households
- e. Greenbelt details
 - i. Greenbelt was going to have to raise trash fees from \$280/year to \$420/year
 - ii. Greenbelt started piloting a Save as you throw program
 - 1. Residents can pay a max fee (\$380) for unlimited trash or a reduced fee (\$240) and pay per bag
 - iii. Greenbelt is trying to ease into program with a pilot, and hoping that enough people stick with the program to show waste reduction and get positive feedback
 - iv. Some difficulties because people are used to paying online and with autopay
 - v. Greenbelt already had ordinances in place to cap trash bags and have trash as a separate fee, Hyattsville does not have these ordinances in place so we could not exactly replicate Greenbelt's program
 - vi. Waste-Zero is helping spread the word of the program in Greenbelt door to door
- f. Different Types of Programs
 - i. Waste-Zero outlined different types of programs that could be done on page 18 of the provided powerpoint
- g. Questions
 - i. How do programs work with recycling and food waste? Is Greenbelt only charging for Trash?
 - 1. Greenbelt's trash/food waste runs about \$400/500 per year. Some communities like Greenbelt charge separate fees, but many fees are just embedded in taxes
 - ii. Why did Greenbelt go to a separate fee? HOAs worry about double fees, do some places get a credit?

1. Greenbelt has a two tier system with variable vs fixed costs.
There are a few different ways to handle it
- iii. Does the Pay-As-You-Throw program include public parks?
 1. No - programs don't include trash from public parks and such.
- iv. Are people putting the bags in totes, is it just one bag per tote?
 1. In Greenbelt the totes are getting RFID chips so you can read the chip to know which houses are being compliant.
Can check the color of the bags in the tote to see if people are trying to cheat the system (Greenbelt bags are Purple)
- v. How much taxes are going to trash, would they go down for households?
 1. In theory estimated costs would go down, the average cost is currently about \$440/year. There are ways to ease people into Pay-As-You-Throw programs. After implemented 70-80% of people like the program after, but don't necessarily want it before
- vi. What about things that can't fit in a standard bag?
 1. Alternate streams - compost, large trash days, etc. With enforcement mostly looking for habitual breakers
- h. Next Steps
 - i. Further discussion on agenda for next meeting. Waste-Zero is looking for HEC support, but lingering questions include:
 1. How is the city going to handle this financially?
 2. Is it worth doing now or waiting until after we see results from Greenbelt?
 3. How will this impact townhouses and HOAs?
 4. What is the lead time for something like this?
 5. What unit based options is the city leaning towards?
 6. What is the PR/education process look like for something like this?
5. [HEC Goals](#): Leads and implementation plan
 - a. Moved to next meeting
 - b. At next meeting will focus on who has ownership of what objectives to help move objectives forward
6. Sustainable Maryland Grants - HVL application planned? (Due 11/10/25)
 - a. Details were sent to the Hyattsville Grant writer previously
7. Green Festival report back
 - a. Moved to next meeting

8. Any Other Business

- a. Next meeting will be November 18th because November 11th is a holiday

9. Announcements

- a. Invasive removal training & work session Oct 31st, 38th Ave Park, 9-11 AM (CCAN)
- b. Upcoming HEC tasks: elect chair & recorder (January 2026), annual meeting calendar (Dec 2026)

10. Adjournment

Virtual Meeting Procedure and Etiquette for Guests

- The Committee chair/city staff will handle audio settings for guests. However, as a best practice, please keep your audio muted when you are not speaking.
- Please keep other devices (e.g., cell phones, televisions, radios, etc.) silenced during meetings to minimize audio distractions.
- Please use the “Raise Hand” feature if you would like to speak during the public comment periods of the meeting.
- The City does not enable the Chat function for guests. Please use the Q&A function to share questions and comments.