

Hyattsville Environment Committee (HEC)

Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2026

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Open to the Public - Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Melissa Schweisguth, Thaddeus Waterman, Janet Nackoney, Malik Ferguson, James Wigley, Rayya Newman, Staff Liaison Dawn Taft

Agenda Items:

INTRO

1. Welcome, Committee Roll Call, & Guest Orientation.
2. Approval of March minutes
 - a. Meeting minutes approved with minor edits
3. Public Comment Period (Comments limited to 3 minutes per person)
 - a. No public comments
4. Welcome new members! (5 min)
 - a. No new members

OLD BUSINESS

5. Climate Action Plan (CAP): Recap/thoughts on work session, Draft plan feedback (presented to council 4/13) (20-30 minutes)
 - a. Session Recaps
 - i. First session provided a broad overview of the Climate Action Plan
 1. Presented community survey results
 2. Provided community greenhouse gas emission inventories
 3. Asked for feedback on priorities
 - ii. Second session focused on reviewing drafted climate actions
 1. Presented actions in four different sectors
 - a. Transportation and Land Use
 - b. Buildings and Energy
 - c. Green Space and Stormwater
 - d. Municipal Leadership
 2. Asked for feedback on specific goals and actions
 - iii. Goals were presented to City Council on April 13th
 1. Focused on introducing the project and providing a timeline
 2. Climate Action Plan to be completed by June 2026
 - a. Plan will contain options for City to pursue

3. Climate Action Plan can serve as a strategic point for the city to choose future actions to take
 - b. HEC Feedback/Discussion
 - i. The vision statement could include clearer language about the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions
 1. Some of the language choices may be due to political neutrality
 2. Being more explicit about why climate impacts matter could help remove some of the stigma around using climate change and other words
 - ii. It would be good to have a system in place to have the city follow up on the Climate Action Plan to actually implement the suggested actions
 1. Someone in the city should have ownership/accountability for implementing the Climate Action Plan
 - iii. It would be beneficial to have more data about the cost and impacts of the proposed actions
 - iv. Building codes and other efforts that could lead to reducing emissions should be prioritized
6. HEC Goal follow up - diversifying outreach (10 min) (Chair facilitates)
- a. Any updates on outreach or support/contacts needed?
 - i. Opportunity to network with other communities and partners at the Sustainable Maryland Happy Hour on Thursday May 7th
 - ii. New volunteers joining spring clean up efforts from community outreach
 - b. School Community Gardens funding
 - i. NOT DISCUSSED
 - ii. <https://cbtrust.org/grants/prince-georges-county-community-gardens/>

NEW BUSINESS

7. Multifamily building recycling: requirements and enforcement (Malik) (15 minutes)
 - a. Some apartment buildings are not recycling, but are just throwing away recycling
 - b. It could be an avenue to bring in revenue/increase recycling if a code compliance check is performed for the large apartment buildings
 - c. The code compliance is a State/County level issue, Hyattsville would have to potentially adopt the law for the city to attempt to enforce

8. HEC involvement with the 140th Anniversary of Hyattsville's Founding (5-10 minutes)
 - a. Climate Action Team project team will be gathering input on aspects of Climate Action Plan
 - i. Dawn will ask if volunteer support is needed for Climate Action Plan
 - ii. Some HEC members volunteered to hand out flyers and direct crowds to the Climate Action Plan table
 - b. Additional flyers about recycling and environmental events will be available

OTHER

9. Any Other Business
 - a. Pond to Pond Earth Day Walk on April 18th, committees invited to host table/pit stop and attend
10. Announcements
 - a. Janet is handing off the Hyattsville Aging in Place vine removal
 - i. The program has been extended for an additional two years
11. Adjournment

