



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Environmental Commission, Regular Meeting

October 15, 2025

5:15 PM

Council Conference Room

501 North Anderson Street

Ellensburg, WA 98926

And remotely via Microsoft Teams

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

2. Approval of Agenda

10/15/2025 Agenda

Commissioner Devore moved to approve the agenda. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Approval of the September 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lillquist moved to approve the 9/17/2025 meeting minutes.

Motion passed 4-0.

4. New Business

4.A 2026 Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP)

- Consultant Presentation
- Request for Feedback
- Request for EC Recommendation for City Council to Approve the CEIP

Nichole Baker, Energy Resources Manager, introduced the 2026 Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) and asked the Commission to provide a favorable recommendation to City Council. The presentation was delivered via PowerPoint by the City's consultants, Ted Light of Lighthouse Consulting and Angela Long of Rockcrest Consulting.

They summarized the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), adopted by the state in 2019, which establishes targets of coal-free electricity by the end of 2025, greenhouse-gas neutrality by 2030, and 100% non-emitting electricity by 2045. The CEIP is updated every four years and outlines the actions the City will take to achieve those targets. The City is currently using 91% clean electricity, and no additional actions are required for the interim compliance

period of 2026–2029.

Commissioners asked questions regarding the feasibility of demand voltage reduction, whether local wind and solar resources are being used by the City, and the impact of residential solar on the CEIP. Commissioner Lillquist moved to approve a favorable recommendation for City Council to approve the CEIP. The motion passed 4–0.

5. Unfinished Business

5.A 2026 Water Quality Grant

- Applicant Presentation: Mid-Columbia Fisheries
- Applicant Scoring and Grant Funding Decision

Aaron Balagot presented the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group's application for 2026 water quality grant funding, which would continue supporting the Adopt-a-Stream and Backyard Buffer programs. Adopt-a-Stream currently partners with eight volunteer groups that perform semi-annual cleanups across approximately 4–5 miles of Ellensburg creeks. Balagot reported that last year's funding supported a crack willow removal and restoration project at HayDay Bake & Brew, as well as installation of new educational signage at project sites. The group would like to add the City of Ellensburg logo to these signs to acknowledge the City's funding support. Commissioners asked follow-up questions regarding the historical introduction of crack willow as a replacement vegetation in agricultural areas, and about the criteria used to distinguish irrigation ditches from natural stream channels.

Commissioners completed individual scoring rubrics. Commissioner Lillquist moved to select the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group as the recipient of the 2026 water quality grant. Motion passed 4-0.

6. Citizen Comment

None

7. Staff Update/Discussion Items

7.A City-Wide Voluntary Water Conservation

- Ecology 2025 Surface Water Withdrawal Curtailment
- Surface vs. Groundwater Supply - Implications for different communities
- Coaching our community

Rebecca Springer, Water Resources Manager, led a discussion on the City's voluntary water conservation notice. The Washington State Department of Ecology recently issued a surface water withdrawal curtailment order for certain jurisdictions within the Yakima Basin. While the City of Ellensburg was not

included in the order, it voluntarily reduced its surface water use by limiting irrigation to only what is necessary for life and safety purposes, such as maintaining soccer fields. The City also issued a public notice encouraging residents to voluntarily reduce irrigation where possible.

Springer emphasized the importance of providing the community with accurate information and noted that directing residents to the Department of Ecology's resources is the best way to ensure they receive current and reliable updates.

Commissioners asked questions regarding the long-term implications of surface water curtailment, the surface/groundwater connection related to the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) study, steps the City is taking to better understand regional hydrology for long-term sustainability, and whether the voluntary curtailment extends beyond city limits to county residents.

No action was taken.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Linhart adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm.