



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Environmental Commission, Regular Meeting

November 19, 2025

5:15 PM

**Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926**

[Environmental Commission Regular Meeting | Meeting-Join |
Microsoft Teams](#)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Members

- 1.A **Nancy Lillquist:** City Council Member
___OPEN___: CWU-Appointed Representative
Christina Wollman: Chairperson
Brenda DeVore: Member at Large (2025-2029)
Jean-Marie Linhart: Member at Large
Kamran Hermann: Member at Large (2025-2029)
Raven Harlin: Member at Large
___OPEN___: EHS Env. Club President (Ex-officio Member)
Commissioner Wollman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Nancy Lillquist, Christina Wollman, Brenda DeVore, Jean-Marie Linhart, Kamran Hermann, Raven Harlin.

Absent: None

Others Present: Rebecca Springer - Water Resources Manager; Erin McGowan - Water|Storm Program Coordinator; Nichole Baker - Energy Resource Manager; Jay Howard - Sustainability Coordinator; Jordon Spradlin - CWU Sustainability Coordinator; Stacey Henderson - Planning Manager; Nicole Gutierrez - Cascadia Consulting Group.

2. Approval of Agenda

- 2.A Approval of the Proposed Agenda for November 19, 2025
Commissioner Linhart requested that her resignation from the Environmental Commission be added to the agenda.

Commissioner Linhart motioned to approve the agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

- 3.A Approval of the Meeting Minutes from October 15, 2025
Commissioner Linhart motioned to approve the October 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Motioned passed 6-0.

4. New Business

4.A Comprehensive Plan Update - Chapter 7: Environment

- Consultant Presentation
- Request for Feedback

Stacey Henderson provided an overview of the 10-year Comprehensive Plan update and introduced Nicole Gutierrez from Cascadia Consulting Group, which is developing the updated Environment Chapter and the newly required Climate Chapter. New regulations from the Washington State Department of Commerce require the plan to include a Climate Chapter with a required resiliency sub-element, while a GHG emissions reduction sub-element is optional but under consideration. The work includes a policy audit, climate hazards and impacts assessment, community engagement, and policy development.

The timeline is partly driven by the Department of Commerce, with a December 2026 deadline. Planned review opportunities for the Environmental Commission include climate impacts and the audit report, draft Climate Element goals and policies, and a full draft element review. The key goals of the update are to strengthen climate resilience by reducing risks from climate-aggravated hazards and to establish achievable policies for continued GHG emissions reduction.

The commission asked about the division of content between the Climate and Environmental Chapters, the focus on resiliency versus GHG reduction, and how the chapters will interact. They raised air quality, wildfire impacts, solid waste and recycling, and community engagement as important considerations. Questions included desired outcomes of the project, alignment with zoning and critical areas, and connections to other plans like the new UMFP. Commissioners suggested strategies such as tree planting, water conservation, and sustainable printing practices, and inquired about public feedback from recent outreach events and how it aligns with existing initiatives.

No action was taken.

4.B 2026 Community Recycling Event

- Planning and logistics for the 2026 Community Recycling Event.
- Key event components.

The 2026 Community Recycling Event includes \$2,000 in in-kind services from Waste Management. Feedback from last year suggested that large bulky items be addressed separately, possibly through informational booths, and additional components under consideration include battery recycling, medicine take-back,

and composting. Collaboration with other organizations, including Master Gardeners, the WSU Extension Office, and CWU's Professional Closet, will be explored. Planning for the event requires significant lead time, and suggestions were made to locate it in a more visible area, such as the City Hall parking lot. Questions were raised regarding the event timeframe and whether there would be sufficient time to refurbish bikes collected for Bike Month in May.

No action was taken.

5. Unfinished Business

None.

6. Citizen Comment

None.

7. Staff Update/Discussion Items

7.A Promotion of Erin McGowan to Water / Storm Program Coordinator
Rebecca Springer introduced Erin McGowan as the new Water/Storm Program staff member, noting her promotion from Stormwater/Urban Forestry Technician effective October 1, 2025.

7.B Introduce Jay Howard - New Sustainability and Energy Coordinator
Nichole Baker, Energy Resource Manager, introduced Jay Howard as the new Sustainability Coordinator. Jay began in the role on October 15, 2025.

7.C Bicycle Advisory Update
Consider forming a subcommittee to plan the May bike event, with the event date to be set at the next regular meeting.

No action was taken.

7.D Jean-Marie Linhart's Resignation
Commissioner Linhart confirmed her resignation from the Environmental Commission effective December 31, 2025.

No action was taken.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Wollman adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.