



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
January 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a regular meeting on January 14, 2026 at the New Albany Village Hall. Mr. Schumacher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked to hear the roll.

II. Roll Call: Those answering roll call:

Mr. Schumacher	present
Mr. Barnes	present
Ms. Gallo	present
Ms. Scott	present
Mr. Kocian	present
Ms. Kopelman	present
Ms. Lopez	present (arrived at 6:32pm)
Council Member Kist	present
Student Representative Griffith	present

Staff members present: Public Service Operations Manager, Angela Hobart
Planner II, Chelsea Nichols

III. Action of Minutes:

The Board adopted the November 12, 2025 regular meeting minutes by consensus.

IV. Additions or Corrections to Agenda:

Items to discuss under Other Business after the Organizational Meeting

V. Hearing of Visitors for Items Not on Tonight's Agenda: NONE

VI. Business:

i. Potential City-wide Curbside Food Waste Pilot – Partnership with SWACO:

- Potential 5-year pilot program and partnership with SWACO, who has agreed to help fund a portion of the pilot program.
- The request for bids will be packaged as an addendum to the Consortium 1 bid for all city-wide residential collection services (trash, recycling, yard waste).
- After 5 years, the city will need to determine whether they want to continue to provide the service or not.
- Timeline:
 - January 16th – City staff meeting again with SWACO to review bid language
 - January 30th – Final Draft of the collection services bid for New Albany to be completed
 - February 19th – The bid for all city-wide, residential collection services for Consortium 1 will be issued

ii. Public Service Department Solar Panels:

- Preliminary information was provided via email, and Staff was able to have a discussion with the company contact – they are looking into some things for us and will provide more information that will better explain how well the panels are operating.



iii. Seasonal Recycling Updates:

- Holiday Lights Collection runs through February 2nd
- 2025 Pumpkin Collection: 33.71 tons of pumpkins diverted from landfill (19.2 tons in 2024)
- 2025 Election Yard Sign Collection: Recycling 359 signs during November

iv. Windsor Curbside Food Waste Pick-up Program Update:

- 48 registered households
- September – December collection total = 3, 663 pounds of food waste and compostables

v. Quarterly Sustainability Stakeholder Meeting Update:

- Kick-off Meeting was held in November, next meeting to be in March
- Meetings bring together organizations and individuals who are actively engaged in advancing sustainability within New Albany

vi. 2026 E-waste collection, HHW collection, and Paper Shredding events:

- Two events in 2026 – one spring and one fall
- Council Member Kist offered to investigate potential partnership with Joseph’s Coat for alternative waste collection event for discarded household items that are not e-waste, paper, or hazardous

vii. Rumpke MRF Tour:

- SAB to tour the facility on Wednesday, February 11, 2026

viii. Upcoming March Agenda Items:

- Waste Diversion discussion item
- Presentation from Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District regarding their stream monitoring
- Presentation on the ECOS Program update

VII. Other Business:

2026 Annual Organizational Meeting: Staff lead the annual organizational meeting.

Mr. Barnes nominated Mr. Schumacher as Board Chair. Motion seconded by Mr. Kocian and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 7 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to appoint Mr. Schumacher as Board Chair.

Ms. Scott moved to appoint Ms. Gallo as Board Vice-Chair. Seconded by Mr. Barnes, and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 7 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to appoint Ms. Gallo as Board Vice-Chair.

Mr. Kocian moved to appoint Ms. Scott as Panel Secretary. Seconded by Ms. Kopelman, and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 7 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to appoint Ms. Scott as Board Secretary.

Ms. Gallo moved to hold the regularly scheduled Sustainability Advisory Board meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month in Council Chambers at Village Hall. Seconded



by Ms. Scott and the Sustainability Advisory Board voted with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions to hold the meeting during this day, place, and time.

Continued Other Business:

- 2026 Student Leaders in Sustainability Grant (SLiSG) Program Update:
 - Questions from the Board:
 - Asked if the city could share the program with students that live in New Albany but attend private schools.
 - Staff to investigate.
 - Asked if it is possible to open applications for the 2027 grant cycle in fall 2026, with the understanding that any approvals would be contingent upon budget approval.
 - Staff explained that the city cannot solicit or approve applications that would require funding it does not yet have.
 - Asked if the full \$10,000 SLiSG allocation is not used in 2026, could the remaining funds roll over to next year, like what occurred with the Invasive Trade-in Program between 2024 and 2025?
 - Staff explained that the funding mechanisms for these programs are different. The Invasive Trade-in Program is a partnership with FSWCD and operates under a professional services agreement/contract, which allowed for rollover of unused funds. In contrast, SLiSG is administered through staff purchasing materials (on behalf of students) using a purchasing card, and it is not structured in a way that allows funds to roll over.
- New Signage to be installed at Food Waste Drop-off sites
- Pocket Prairies Update for James River Park

VIII. Poll Members for Comment:

Chairman Schumacher recognized Ms. Lopez for her time and service on the Board, as she is stepping down due to her pending move outside of New Albany city limits.

IX. Adjournment:

Having no further business, Mr. Schumacher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37p.m. Without objection, the January 14, 2026 New Albany Sustainability Board Meeting was adjourned.