



New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board Agenda

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 6:30pm

Village Hall, 99 W. Main Street, New Albany, Ohio 43054

Members of the public are invited to watch or listen to the meeting virtually on the city's website; however, the public must attend the meeting in person to participate and provide comment.

Watch Live: newalbanyohio.org/streaming-meetings/

I. Call to Order

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a regular meeting on August 12, 2026 at the New Albany Village Hall. Mr. Schumacher called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and asked to hear the roll.

II. Roll Call

Those answering roll call:

Mr. Schumacher
Mr. Barnes present
Ms. Kopelman
Ms. Gallo present
Mr. Kocian present
Mr. Burack present
Ms. Griffith
Councilmember Kist

Staff members present:

- David Celebrezze, Sustainability Program Coordinator
- Steve Mayer, Deputy Director, Public Service

III. Action of Minutes: July 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

- i. Mr. Schumacher made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Ms. Gallo seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Board adopted the July 8, 2026 regular meeting minutes.
- ii. Mr. Schumacher announced Molly Scott submitted her resignation from the Board. The Board thanked her for her contributions and service to the Board. Next Board meeting a new secretary will be elected.

IV. Additions or Corrections to Agenda

None.

V. Hearing of Visitors for Items Not on Tonight's Agenda

None

VI. Business:

- i. Student Leaders in Sustainability

The Sustainability Advisory Board approved two student projects. The first was submitted by Gavin Briggs. His project will replace old, rotting benches in New Albany Woods with new benches they build. This will engage a Boy Scout Troop, and they will learn skills during the process. Grant award is \$889.48. Mr. Barnes did abstain since he is an advisor on another application.

The second student project was submitted by Noelle Griffith. Her project will engage the community on waste reduction by distributing the Hefty ReNew orange bags for hard to recycle items, work with the New Albany Parks and Recreation to increase the number of recyclable containers at Bevelhymer Park, and give residents a tour of the Rumpke



Recycling Facility. She is also applying for a SWACO grant. The Board awarded \$5,201.89. Mr. Barnes did abstain since he is an advisor on the project.

ii. Waste diversion statistics update

The first six months of 2026 saw a slight increase in waste stream diversion to 29.9% compared to 2025 first six months at 27.5%.

iii. Consortium

The Sustainability Advisory Board recommends City Council accept the Rumpke status quo in the collection and disposal of yard waste and have the city pay for the recycling processing (as has been done in the past). The motion passed. 6-0.

The Sustainability Advisory Board recommends City Council accept the collection bid proposed from The Compost Exchange with notation the Sustainability Advisory Board expects the city of New Albany would pick up the bill not covered by the SWACO grant and including bucket liners. The motion passed 5 to 1. Mr. Burack voted against the motion stating that he supports composting but does not see the value to the city compared to what the city is already doing.

City staff presented on food waste background such as one million pounds of food goes to the Franklin County landfill every day. Staff shared the results of the Windsor Pilot Curbside Food Waste Collection where 18% signed up. Out of those 18% there was a 63% participation rate. 93% of residents in that pilot said the program met their expectations. 5.1 tons of food was collected between September 2025 through July 2026. This avoided 10.34 tons of CO2.

There was much discussion around curbside food waste collection. Staff presented on the bids received: The Compost Exchange: \$2.16 per household per month plus \$.17 for a bucket liner. GoZero was \$10.61 which included yard waste pick up (something not requested by the Consortium), and Local Waste with \$15. The Compost Exchange's bid is based on 4,000 households participating (regardless if all participate or not). The collection service would cost \$103,680 a year plus bucket liners which are \$.17 each. If 30% of residents signed up for the program the cost would be \$114,279. This is a five year contract. The Compost Exchange can commit to three years with two, one-year automatic extensions. The city can terminate the contract at anytime without penalty. Further discussion whether the city would keep the current four food waste drop off locations, eliminate them, or keep one or two depending on what the data reveals after the curbside program kicks off.

SWACO offers three sets of resources, first, they will give residents a 5-gallon bucket free of charge; Second, they will give the city \$100,000 which can go towards off setting start-up costs, administrative costs, bucket liners, etc. The third set of resources is educational resources such as creating a mailer to be mailed to all residents. There was discussion about how the program would operate and if the city would keep the



four food waste drop-off locations.

Questions and answers:

1. Is there a performance bond? Yes. TCE has communicated they can get up to a 3-year bond; with 2 single year automatic renewals.
2. Does the rate change every year? No, it is locked in.
3. Can residents get compost back for household? Yes, can get 2, 2-gallon bags per year. Can buy more if they want.
4. What is process for opting in? Need to work that out after approval. The City would work with SWACO and TCE for best practices.
5. Can residents use their own bucket? Not sure
6. The liner charge is only for those participating, but the \$2.16 is for all whether they participate or not.
7. Is there minimal participation? No.
8. Does the composting facility have permits? What if it is mismanagement? There is indemnify language in the contract. Currently TCE is taking material to OPI and is building a facility in Columbus.

City Council will be presented the bid results next Tuesday the 18th.

See power point for information slides and video for questions and answers.

iv. 2027 work plan

Staff went through potential projects; ease of implementation, description, and how it fits with the Engage New Albany plan. Board members advocated for their project ideas. The Board voted via Mentimeter. Each Board member had ten votes to us. The results will be shared at the next SAB meeting in September.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Burack expressed happiness with the Kitzmiller park feedback that many prefer a nature type of setting. However, he had concerns that it was a mitigation wetland project. So, a wetland impact somewhere else. Why is the sight so degraded? Mr. Mayer responded that it is in a conservation easement and the city is aware of that and will be careful not to impact it. Mr. Mayer continued that New Albany does a good job at keeping mitigated wetlands within the watershed.

Mr. Schumacher reminded the Board members that next month they will vote on a secretary.

VIII. Poll Members for Comment

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 with unanimous consent.