



**New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board
September 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

I. Call to Order

The New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board held a regular meeting on September 9, 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
Mr. Kocian	present
Ms. Kopelman	present
Mr. Burack	present
Council Member Kist	present
Student Representative Griffith	present

Staff members present: Steve Mayer, Deputy Director, Public Service
David Celebrezze, Sustainability Program Coordinator

III. Action of Minutes: August 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes

One addition to add Becky Kopelman.

IV. Additions or Corrections to Agenda

Two additions: fall collection event and explanation of the Council vote on composting.

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

None.

VI. Business:

i. Solar on Service

- City staff presented on the history of the solar panels on the Service building, cost, energy generation, and cost savings. Question about how long the panels last and the answer is 20-30 years. Mr. Schumacher asked staff provide the link to the real-time online dashboard. The link:
<https://monitor.chintpowersystems.com/#/passport/kiosk/6166e0944e230f7355e1cdc8>.

ii. Vote on Secretary

- Mr. Schumacher nominated Mr. Kocian as Board Secretary. Ms. Gallo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

iii. Update on Community Backyards/Invasive trade in programs

- Community Backyards: staff presented on the number of rebates claimed (12) and remaining (11).
- Invasive Species Trade-In program: staff presented on the total number of rebates (21), how many have been approved (5), how many are in process (10), and how many remaining (6). Mr. Schumacher mentioned Plain Township is also a participating community.

iv. Food waste update

- City staff gave an update on the three resolutions that went before City Council: trash collection/processing, yard waste collection/processing, recycling collection. The second resolution was regarding recycling processing. These two resolutions passed. The third resolution regarding curbside food waste collection



did not pass. Council had concerns about paying for a service that not everyone would use but would pay for. Council did express interest in alternatives. City staff are talking with The Compost Exchange and SWACO regarding alternatives.

Question about what the options are and next steps. Staff stated Council mentioned a rebate type program.

Ms. Gallo was upset that the cost vs community participation reasoning given Council voted for an ice-skating rink that not everyone will use. Councilmember Kist conveyed that the feedback he got was that the pilot was not successful. Mr. Barnes is interested in the rebate program. That can help determine level of interest/participation.

Ms. Gallo asked if each household pays for recycling. Staff answered that residents pay for the collection and the city pays for the processing which in the last few years has been roughly \$10,000.

Ms. Griffith stated that if five or more neighbors go in together it reduces the cost of the individual subscription.

- v. 2027 SAB priorities
 - Staff presented the priorities that the Board voted on at the last Sustainability Advisory Board meeting.
 - Tabling materials for outreach was briefly discussed.
 - Brief discussion on the Windsor pilot program and funds proposed for 2027.
- vi. 2027 SAB budget
 - Staff presented the proposed 2027 budget and addressed questions about composting, waste collection events, and timing.
 - The Board will vote on the budget at the October meeting.

VII. Other Business

- i. Fall waste collection update.
 - The collection location will be at the Public Service complex.
 - Mr. Barnes and Mr. Burack will volunteer.
 - Volunteers can sign up at the city's website:
<https://newalbanyohio.org/programs-and-events/volunteer/>.

VIII. Poll Members for Comment

Mr. Burack asked about wetland mitigation. How many mitigated wetlands are in New Albany including ones the city is responsible for? What are the maintenance conditions, deed restrictions? What can we do if they are not maintained.

Mr. Mayer said staff will look to see if they have that data although mitigation records are housed at the Ohio EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers.

IX. Adjournment

Having no further business, Mr. Schumacher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25p.m. with Ms. Gallo seconding it. The motion passed.