



AGENDA
Environmental Commission
Commissions Room
Arlington Heights Village Hall
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd., AH 60005
February 24, 2026
7:00 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
 - III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. January 27, 2026 Minutes
 - IV. REPORTS
 - V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Landfill diversion and education on how to recycle
 - B. Polystyrene elimination
 - C. Livestream event
 - D. Increase participation in Curbside Composting
 - E. Benchmarking textile recycling
 - F. Recognition of sustainable businesses
 - VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Discussion With Neighboring Community Representatives
 - B. Textile Recycling
 - VII. OTHER BUSINESS
 - VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT
- Anyone wishing to speak on a subject not on the Agenda may speak at this time. Please limit your comments to three minutes.
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, such as an American Sign Language interpreter or written materials in accessible formats, should contact the Health &

*Human Services Department, at 33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005,
healthmail@vah.com or 847/368-5760.*

**Village of Arlington Heights
Environmental Commission
Minutes from January 27, 2026**

I. Call to Order

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present

Chair Jordan
Commissioner Porwit
Commissioner Jaeschke
Commissioner Skrudland
Commissioner Flores

Commissioner Sawyer
Youth Commissioner Butler
Commissioner Eisenhardt

Also Present

Michael Lysicatos, Asst. Director of Planning and Community Development
Darko Bojin, Planner 1
Mila Tsagalis, Director of Health and Human Services
Jeff Bohner, Staff Liaison

Charles Wilk, Village Resident

Paul Culhane, Village Resident

III. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Flores moved to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2025, Environmental Commission meeting. Commissioner Eisenhardt seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Reports

V. Old Business

Chair Jordan asked for updates on the Commission projects.

- A. Education on how to recycle-
Commissioner Eisenhardt said members of the Buffalo Grove Environmental Action Committee will attend the February meeting. She also said a social media reminder for residents on the Recycle Coach app had been posted in December.
- B. Tracking metrics to be published on VAH website-
Commissioner Porwit reported there was nothing new on the metrics at this time.
- C. Benchmark Single-Use plastics-
The Commission was waiting for the Village Board to discuss the report on single-use plastic bags.
- D. Livestream event
Commissioner Flores told Commissioners the Library staff had told him the event format and date would be finalized by the end of the next month.
- E. 2026 Goals
The Chair reminded the Commissioners of the goals that had been discussed for the upcoming year and asked for a description of each.

Commissioner Sawyer began by saying that due to construction at Recreation Park this summer, there would not be room for a Commission booth at Frontier Days.

Commissioner Eisenhardt stated that recycling education and landfill diversion needed to be continued as contamination and lack of knowledge on recycling were still issues. Commissioner Porwit said he would like to eliminate polystyrene foam and other food take-out trays. Chair Jordan noticed that the Sustainability Plan listed Village efforts in natural landscaping, so that topic was already being covered.

Commissioner Skrudland said having sustainability components required for new developments was important, but the Commission might want to wait until the Village reviewed the latest version of the Energy Conservation Code. Commissioner Flores agreed with the business requirement idea, such as mandating recycling be available for large waste generating businesses and restaurants. Commissioner Eisenhardt thought that a recognition or award could be presented by the Commission for businesses that incorporate sustainability components.

After discussion, the group narrowed their list of possible goals to six.

Commissioner Flores moved to adopt the following 6 areas of focus for 2026, Commissioner Skrudland seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

- Landfill diversion and recycling education
- Elimination of polystyrene foam
- Increasing participation in curbside composting
- A recognition of reward program for sustainable
- Benchmark neighboring communities' textile recycling programs
- Livestream education event (Greener Living In Arlington Heights)

VI. New Business

A. Village Sustainability Program

Michael Lysicatos and Darko Bojin of the Planning and Community Development Department spoke about the Village Sustainability Plan. A draft copy of the plan had been written by a staff committee and was presented during the meeting.

The last Village sustainability report had been written in 2009. This plan was based off a model plan from the Greenest Region Compact of the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus. There were seven main sections: energy, land, mobility, community, municipal operations, waste and recycling and water. Each of those sections had examples of projects and efforts already completed or underway in sustainability, along with goals for work in the future. Mr. Lysicatos ended the presentation by saying the Village had made good progress on environmental issues since 2009, but better documentation and communication about the accomplishments was needed. He then opened the floor to questions and comments.

Chair Jordan was impressed with all the accomplishments listed in the plan and was pleased they would be published in one place for residents to see.

Commissioner Porwit wanted to know if there were specific measurements to be reached under the goals outlined in the plan. The response from Mr. Lysicatos was the plan was more general, but specific measurements could be set by the Village Board. Commissioner Porwit also was curious if there would be a mention of the single-use plastic bag ban the Commission had proposed. He replied that would be up to the Village Board.

Commissioner Sawyer asked how often the plan would be updated and what was needed from the Environmental Commission? Mr. Lysicatos said updates would be requested by the Village Board and Administration. He asked for the Commissioners to read the plan and provide comments or suggestions to align the plan with Commission goals.

Commissioner Flores wanted to know about the portion of the plan involving sharing. It was explained that it involved possible sharing of grants and other funding with other community and government agencies.

Commissioner Eisenhardt asked when the plan would be adopted? Mr. Lysicatos said the plan was also to be reviewed by the Village Board and he was looking for comments from the Board as well as the Environmental Commission, but the goal was for this to happen soon. Chair Jordan asked the Commissioners to have their comments on the plan finished before the next Commission meeting.

Mr. Culhane suggested the elimination of combined sewers and requiring natural gas-free private developments.

There was a discussion on making sure the plan was placed on a visible spot on the Village website after adoption.

B. Textile Recycling

Chair Jordan noted that neighboring communities, such as Mt. Prospect have curbside textile recycling. She wanted to see if there were other similar towns, that is why it had been added to the list of areas of focus.

VII. Other Business

The Commissioners agreed to meet again on February 24th.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Commissioner Flores to adjourn. Commissioner Porwit seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.



VILLAGE OF
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
— INC. 1887 —

Environmental Commission
2/24/2026

Item: Discussion With Neighboring Community Representatives
Department: Health & Human Services

Item Description:

ATTACHMENTS:

None



VILLAGE OF
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
INC. 1887

Environmental Commission
2/24/2026

Item: Textile Recycling
Department: Health & Human Services

Item Description:

ATTACHMENTS:

None