



LOS ALAMOS  
where discoveries are made

## **DRAFT FY21 Work Plan for Los Alamos County Boards and Commissions**

**(Fiscal Year 2021: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)**

**Board and Commission Name: Environmental Sustainability Board**

**Date prepared: February 5, 2020    Date approved by Council: TBD**

**Prepared by: ESB**

**This work plan will be accomplished in the following time frame:  
July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021**

**Chairperson: Lisa Bakosi**

**Members and terms:**

Member	Start/End Dates	Term
Lisa Bakosi	8/1/2018 – 7/31/2020	1
Heidi Rogers	9/1/2019 – 7/31/2021	2
Heather Ward	8/1/2019 – 7/31/2021	2
Erik Loechell	8/1/2018 – 7/31/2022	1
Dorothy Brown	8/1/2018 – 7/31/2020	1
Susan Barns	7/1/2018 – 7/31/2020	2
Amanda Macdonald	8/1/2017 – 7/31/2021	1

**Department Director: Anne Laurent, Public Works Department**

**Work plan developed in collaboration with Department Director? (Y/N?) Y**

**Staff Liaison: Angelica Gurule**

**Administrative Support provided by: Public Works Staff**

**Council Liaison: David Izraelevitz    Reviewed by Council Liaison? Yes**

**1.0 Provide a brief Summary of your Board or Commission’s activities over the past twelve months. Please describe your Board or Commission’s accomplishments and identify constraints. List any “lessons learned” and identify the greatest challenges faced by the Board or Commission.**

- Formed Save As You Throw Research Subcommittee and conducted research about save as you throw programs and the feasibility of implementing the program locally.
- Continued supporting implementation of the Yard Trimming Roll Cart Program to 63% of households (4,315) and diverted 1,256 tons of yard trimming material in the first 18 months.
- Continued implementing Zero Waste Initiatives
  - Team activities included: Implemented first annual Zero Waste stations at Los Alamos Summer Concert Series, resulting in ~ 44% reduction in waste sent to the landfill. Developed Zero Waste posters, handouts, updated website, maintained Facebook group, published articles in PEEC Nature Notes, and monthly article series in Los Alamos Daily Post; presentations on waste reduction at Ignite Los Alamos, KRSN, and Voices of Los Alamos; initiation of food waste reduction campaign; China Ban, NM Recycling Conference, and other recycling issues; support at annual Recycle Art Fair & Fashion Show and other events.
- Hosted Clean Up Los Alamos Day
- Received the following presentations:
  - Plastic Bag, Plastic Straw and Styrofoam Containers Ban Petition Update by Councilor Sheehey
  - Generation to Generation -Alternative Waste Solutions Presentation by Steve Hanson
  - Los Alamos County Energy Use and Green House Gas Emissions Report by Robert Gibson
  - Reviewed NMED Annual Report
  - Save As You Throw Committee Progress Updates by Sue Barns
  - Overview of EPA Pay As You Throw Webinar by Sue Barns
  - Compost Operator Certification Presentation by Joshua Levings

- Zero Waste Team – Food waste Reduction for Los Alamos Restaurants by Jody Benson
- The Climate Crisis and Its Solutions Presented by Julia Ying
- Proposed Commercial Rate Increase
- SMM Food Waste source Reduction Webinar Overview by Sara Thurgood
- Composting of Food Waste at Reunity Resources
- Barranca Elementary Waste Audit Presentation by Angelica Gurule
- Reviewed Environmental Services Quarterly Financial Statements
- Identification of Regional Composting Facility Sites and Its Costs by Philo Shelton
- Supported second annual Zero Waste event at PEEC, Bear Festival Buffet
- Supported 2019 October People’s EcoChallenge
- Toured ReUnity Resources, food composting facility in Santa Fe, NM
- Awarded Zero Waste Champion of the Year Awards
- Co-Sponsored the Recycle Art Fair & Fashion Show with Los Alamos Public Schools in celebration of America Recycles Day
- Discussion items included:
  - Installation of Sunflower Art Piece by Ed Grothus at the Transfer Station
  - Los Alamos High School Eco Club regarding the progress of the plastic bag tax initiative
  - Environmental Services Quarterly Financial Updates
  - Closed landfill methane issues and remediation progress
- Conducted education and outreach activities at the following events:
  - 15 – Los Alamos Summer Concert Series
  - Science Festival
  - Earth Day Festival
  - Bear Festival
  - Bike-to-Work Week
  - Farmer’s Market
  - Chamber Festival
  - Diversity Week Community Potluck was a Zero Waste event

- ESB members helped Los Alamos Jazz Project Summer Jazz Camp host a zero waste event

**2.0 Describe the future work plans for this Board or Commission using the following items and showing the relationship to those items: *(Please remember that Council approval of this work plan does not constitute official Council approval of proposed projects, assignments, or anticipated recommendations included in this work plan that have budget implications.)***

**2.1 List any special projects or assignments given to this Board or Commission by Council or the Department director:**

- Research and develop plan to implement municipal food waste composting program
- Launch Food Waste Prevention Education Campaign
- Launch Recycle Coach App to Los Alamos residents to reduce recycling contamination, provide real time notifications and educate residents on Environmental Services programs
- Collaborate with Department of Utilities and PEEC at annual Water Festival
- Develop Green Business Certification
- Host annual Clean Up LA Day
- Maintain a balanced budget for Environmental Services operations
- Contribute, as appropriate, to the implementation of the Yard Trimming Collection program (3<sup>rd</sup> bin for organic yard trimming material)

<b>2.2 List the guiding documents/plans (with approval or revision dates listed) used by this Board or Commission.</b>
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- Environmental Sustainability Plan
- Environmental Sustainability Board Work Plan
- Los Alamos County Transfer Station Operation Plan

<b>2.3 Other projects/assignments proposed by the Board or Commission: (<i>Any projects or activities proposed in this section should be discussed with the Council Liaison prior to listing it in this work plan.</i>) To assist with Council review of the work plans, please list the B&amp;C's proposed projects or assignments in priority order.</b>
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Composting:

- Research municipal food waste composting
- Promote back yard composting for food waste diversion
- Monitor existing bio-solid composting program

Community Education/Events:

- Launch a Food Waste Prevention Campaign focusing on food waste prevention, food rescue, and food recovery.
- Participate in Bear Festival and other educational outreach to promote wildlife awareness
- Develop and implement environmental education and outreach materials and distribute to customers at community events such as ScienceFest, Farmer's Markets, ChamberFest, Earth Day, Bike to Work Week, and Bear Festival.
- Host Zero Waste Champion of the Year Contest
- Collaborate with organizations such as PEEC, LAPS, and UNM-LA to educate about recycle and zero waste initiatives.
- Partner with Summer Concert Series and other County events to promote "zero waste"
- Create and implement Green Business Certification
- Promote and participate in EcoChallenge

Work with Schools:

- Work with LAPS to educate and implement waste diversion and prevention programs including zero waste lunches, reduce, recycle, reuse and composting by participating in the Green Schools Task Force
- Host Recycle Fair and Fashion Show
- Partner with Utilities and PEEC at Water Festival

Continued Research Areas:

- Continue researching other glass recycling options
- Continue to investigate Waste to Energy Methods

- Research and become knowledgeable about Project Drawdown in support of carbon reduction goals and disseminate recommendations for Environmental Services Sustainability Plan
- Explore Bee City Programs

**3.0 Identify any interfaces for the goals/tasks in this work plan with County Departments and other Boards and Commissions. Specify the coordination required.**

- Continue to nurture and strengthen relationship with BPU and DPU to support energy and water conservation.
- ESB member to serve on Energy & Water Conservation Plan Subcommittee hosted by Department of Public Utilities.
- Continue to outreach to other Boards and Commissions (Parks and Rec and CDAB) regarding pesticides and herbicide use.
- Partner with Parks and Recreation Board on sustainability issues regarding Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)
- Continue outreach to other county boards and commissions regarding environmental sustainability
- Liaison with Tourism Implementation Task Force on environmental impacts of increased tourism, as needed.

Task is added to ensure that the 3 boards work as a team developing a policy and public education program.

**4.0 List any special public information or involvement meetings or efforts to be conducted by this Board or Commission:**

The ESB will sponsor the events with an asterisk\* and will host outreach and educational booths at the other events listed below to educate, share information, and solicit input from LAC residents and customers. The ESB will provide prior notification to the public utilizing a minimum of one media platform such as but not limited to: Facebook, press release, LA Daily Post paid advertisement, Environmental Services website, LA Monitor paid advertisement, KRSN interview or advertisement, bill insert, newspaper insert, LAVA Flyers, and/or County Line Newsletter. The ESB may also utilize County Open Forum Survey as a resource to solicit public input. The cost for the ESB public outreach efforts is budgeted in the Environmental Services budget.

- Earth Day Festival
- Bear Festival
- Los Alamos Summer Concert Series
- Green Team Event\*

- County Fair Event
- Science Festival
- Chamber Festival
- Farmer's Market (2 events)
- Recycle Art Fair & Fashion Show\*
- Eco Challenge\*
- Zero waste, recycling and/or composting workshops or lectures at PEEC and Los Alamos clubs\*

**5.0 List the current subcommittees for this Board or Commission.**

**5.1 For subcommittees with members that are not members of the parent board or commission: List the subcommittee members and their terms.**

**Explain how sub- committee members are selected or appointed.**

**Provide a description of each subcommittee's charter or purpose.**

**Describe the expected duration for the subcommittee and their work plan(s) demonstrating how they support the Board or Commission:**

**Attachment A: Provide a copy of your Board or Commission's "Purpose" and "Duties and Responsibilities" from Chapter 8 of the County Code:**

**Attachment B: Using the chart below, place an X in the column on the right if the Council Goal is related to the work of the Environmental Sustainability Board**

## **Attachment A**


- **Sec. 8-231. - Purpose.** The environmental sustainability board is established to serve as the central point of contact for environmental sustainability issues and as an advisory body to the county council on environmental sustainability issues.

(Ord. No. 02-078, § 2, 10-3-2006; Ord. No. 02-094, § 2, 6-10-08)

- **Sec. 8-232. - Membership, terms and qualifications.** The board shall consist of seven members. The members shall serve for staggered two-year terms beginning on August 1 and ending on July 31, except that three members on the initial board shall only serve for one-year terms.

(Ord. No. 02-078, § 2, 10-3-2006; Ord. No. 02-094, § 3, 6-10-08)

- **Sec. 8-233. - Duties and responsibilities.** The environmental sustainability board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the county council and shall have the following functions, responsibilities and duties:

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- (1) Gather and provide citizen input to staff and council on ways to improve the county's environmental sustainability and on proposed environmental sustainability policies, programs and services. For this purpose, the board shall gather public input in ways appropriate to the circumstances.
  - (2) Recommend ways to involve and educate the community on environmental sustainability issues. Review and comment on public involvement and information plans (PIIPs) related to environmental sustainability projects outside the department of public utilities.
  - (3) Review and comment to council on environmental sustainability master plans.
  - (4) Review all environmental sustainability related matters submitted to the board by council.
  - (5) Coordinate with other boards as appropriate on environmental sustainability activities.

(Ord. No. 02-078, § 2, 10-3-2006; Ord. No. 02-094, § 4, 6-10-08)



## Council Strategic Goals

<b>Ongoing improvement in communication and transparency, environmental sustainability, planning for appropriate levels of County services and coordination with Los Alamos National Laboratory and regional partners are overarching goals that will be components of all our efforts.</b>	
<b>Increasing the Amount and Types of Housing Options</b>	
<p>This includes a variety of housing options for all segments of the community, from affordable to new options for those interested in downsizing or moving closer to central areas of the community. The 2019 Housing Market Needs Analysis identified that needs are distributed among all income ranges but that it is particularly acute for middle- and lower-income households.</p>	
<b>Protecting, Maintaining and Improving our Open Spaces, Recreational, and Cultural Amenities</b>	
<p>Los Alamos County open spaces and cultural attractions are greatly valued by the community and provide opportunities for recreational and economic growth; appropriately allocating resources to ensure their health and sustainability is important to our citizens.</p>	X
<b>Enhancing Support and Opportunities for the Local Business Environment</b>	
<p>This includes appropriate support for existing businesses, growing new businesses, and supporting technology start-ups and spin-offs.</p>	X
<b>Improve Utilization and Aesthetics of Vacant Buildings and Properties</b>	
<p>Land availability in Los Alamos County, and in particular the downtown areas, is limited and there is a desire to work towards better utilization, opportunities for new businesses, and improved aesthetics.</p>	
<b>Supporting Social Services Improvement</b>	
<p>Behavioral, mental and physical health and social services are important quality of life components; there are key areas where appropriate types and levels of county support could help address current needs.</p>	
<b>Expand Transportation and Mobility Options and Address Parking Challenges</b>	
<p>Work with regional partners and the Laboratory to consider holistic solutions for the needs and challenges facing Los Alamos and White Rock in the context of expanded housing and employment in the County and the desire to create a walk-, ride-, and environmentally-friendly community.</p>	
<b>Investing in Infrastructure</b>	
<p>Appropriately balancing maintenance of existing infrastructure with new investments in county utilities, roads, facilities and amenities will help improve environmental stewardship, sustainability, and quality of life, while allowing for sustainable growth.</p>	X