



County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Agenda - Final Environmental Sustainability Board

*David Hampton, Chair; Erik Loechell, Vice-Chair; Sue Barns;
Carly Blair; Shannon Blair; Joseph Chandler
and Jack Grow; Members*

Thursday, May 21, 2026

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue - Municipal Building B&C
Room 110 and Via Zoom

NOTE: This meeting is in person and open to the public. However, for convenience the following Zoom meeting link and/or telephone call in numbers may be used for public viewing and participation. Please click this URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85656951187>

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

This section of the agenda is reserved for comments from the public on items that are not otherwise included in this agenda.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[21703-26](#) Approval of April 16, 2026, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: David Hampton

Attachments: [A - ESB Meeting Minutes April 16, 2026](#)

5. **BOARD BUSINESS**

[21704-26](#) Presentation of Ridwell Recycling Program

Presenters: David Hampton

[21705-26](#) Overview of On Bill Financing Program

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Attachments: [A - On Bill Financing Overview](#)

[21702-26](#) Provide Update on Development of Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance

Presenters: Shannon Blair

6. REPORTS

A. Chair's Report - David Hampton

1). Board of Public Utilities - Sue Barns/Shannon Blair/Carly Blair

2). Transportation Board - David Hampton

3). Parks and Recreation Board - Joseph Chandler

B. Working Groups and Steering Committee

1). Bee City Los Alamos - Britton Donharl

2). Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance - Sue Barns

3). Education and Outreach Work Group - Sue Barns

7. STAFF REPORT

[21701-26](#) Sustainability Manager Updates

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Attachments: [A - Residential Sustainability Report - APRIL 2026.pdf](#)

8. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

-Katie Thwaits - Open Meetings Act (June)

-Bio Solid Composting Operation - Josh Silva (July)

9. ADJOURNMENT

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the County Human Resources Division at 662-8040 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the personnel in the Community Services Administration Office at 662-8163 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.



County of Los Alamos

Los Alamos, NM 87544
www.losalamosnm.us

Staff Report

May 21, 2026

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: David Hampton

Legislative File: 21703-26

.Title

Approval of April 16, 2026, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

...Recommended Action Motion

I move that the Environmental Sustainability Board approve April 16, 2026, minutes as presented.

Or

I move that the Environmental Sustainability Board approve April 16, 2026, minutes as amended.

.Body

The ESB will review and approve the Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes from April 16, 2026.

.Attachments

A - Draft ESB Minutes April 16, 2026



County of Los Alamos

BCC Meeting Minutes - Draft

Environmental Sustainability Board

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

*David Hampton, Chair; Erik Loechell, Vice-Chair; Sue Barns; Carly Blair; Shannon Blair;
Joseph Chandler
and Jack Grow; Members*

Thursday, April 16, 2026

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue - Council
Chambers and Zoom

NOTE: This meeting is in person and open to the public. However, for convenience the following Zoom meeting link and/or telephone call in numbers may be used for public viewing and participation. Please click this URL to join:

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1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

5:31 p.m. Member Carly Blair absent.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda for the Environmental Sustainability Meeting of April 16, 2026 approved unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[21587-26](#) Approval of March 19, 2026, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: Angelica Gurule and David Hampton

Motion to approve the agenda for the Environmental Sustainability Meeting of March 19, 2026 approved unanimously.

5. BOARD BUSINESS

[21588-26](#) Presentation of the New Mexico Climate Action Plan

Presenters: David Hampton

Presentation by Amy Rosebrough, New Mexico Climate Action Plan (NMCAP) Coordinator for NM Environment Department, presented on what causes climate change, where do emissions come from, progress, and meeting targets. Explained the NMCAP development process and how to get involved.

21590-26 Presentation of Climate Marketing and Engagement Plan by Firebrand

Presenters: David Hampton

Presentation by Amanda Larrinaga on Climate Marketing and Engagement by Firebrand. Background on Firebrand creating effective climate action campaigns for local communities.

21589-26 Discuss Council Direction for ESB to Propose a Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance

Presenters: David Hampton

Discussion on ESB to propose a single-use plastic bag ordinance according to County Council direction. ESB established a working group consisting of Shannon Blair, Erik Loechell, and Jack Grow.

6. REPORTS

A. Chair's Report - David Hampton

Chair Hampton notified the ESB of the Ridwell event on Wednesday, April 22 at 2:00 p.m. on plastic recycling at the Unitarian church and asked for volunteers to attend.

1). Board of Public Utilities - Sue Barns/Shannon Blair/Carly Blair

Member Shannon Blair gave an update Boards of Public Utilities meeting, BPU recognized Tom Wyman, Assistant County Attorney who is retiring, LANL annual presentation on utilities forecast, water rate ordinance, Elk Ridge gas project nearing completion. The groundbreaking for the County atomic fiber is May 12th.

2). Transportation Board - David Hampton

Chair Hampton reported that the Transportation Board did not meet in April however, in May they will be getting the County Pedestrian presentation.

3). Parks and Recreation Board - Joseph Chandler

None.

B. Working Groups and Steering Committee

1). Bee City Los Alamos - Britton Donharl

Chair Hampton reported that Bee City will be having a work party on April 28th to pick weeds at the golf course, also they are looking for more volunteers for watering.

2). **Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance - Sue Barns**

Chair Barns reported that the Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance met and mainly focused on volunteers for the upcoming earth day events. Water Festival event to be held on May 18th and 19th. Next meeting will be June 16th and reminded new board members that they can join the alliance.

7. **STAFF REPORT**

[21591-26](#) Sustainability Manager Updates

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Sustainability Manager Angelica reported in the March newsletter celebrated earth day, EV charges are being used continuously, EV charges for Mesa Public Library is nearing construction. Food compost program is still on hold. Reminded everyone of earth day event at PEEC on April 18th, also earth day event for County employees on April 22nd everyone is invited. Shared the Residential Sustainability Report.

8. **PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

July - Open Meetings Act by Katie Thwait

Regional Landfill Study Update - Armando Gabaldon

Upcoming agenda items for May 21st Sustainability Manger Angelica Gurule will be scheduling presentations that the board has asked for.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

7:29 p.m.

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Staff Report

May 21, 2026

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: David Hampton

Legislative File: 21704-26

Title

Presentation of Ridwell Recycling Program

Body

Ridwell, Chief Executive Officer, Ryan Metzger leads a recycling program focused on collecting hard-to-recycle materials and helping ensure those items are reused through innovative solutions. Ridwell offers both collection and mail-in services.

Ridwell presented to the Los Alamos community during an Earth Day event held on April 22, 2026, at the Unitarian Church. The program generated interest among community leaders, who requested that the Environmental Sustainability Board learn more about its services and approach.

Mr. Metzger will provide an overview of Ridwell programs and the services available through the organization.

..Attachment

Handouts may be presented at the meeting.



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Staff Report

May 21, 2026

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Legislative File: 21705-26

Title

Overview of On Bill Financing Program

Body

On-Bill Financing allows utility customers to pay for energy improvements, such as heat pumps, electrical panel upgrades, heat pump water heaters, insulation, or other energy-efficient technologies, through their monthly utility bill instead of paying the full cost upfront. Costs are spread out over time, helping make upgrades more affordable while potentially reducing energy use, improving comfort, and reducing barriers to adopting more efficient technologies.

This concept will be presented to the Board of Public Utilities on June 3 as an opportunity to explore tools that may help utility members access energy improvements that may otherwise be difficult due to upfront costs. Potential discussion topics include eligible measures, financing terms, customer affordability, program structure, and possible benefits for both utility members and the community.

County staff have been working collaboratively with the Climate Investment Center, the Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico, and the Department of Public Utilities to better understand potential program structures, funding opportunities, implementation considerations, and lessons learned from similar efforts.

Tonight, I am providing a preview to the Environmental Sustainability Board and would appreciate your feedback, questions, and endorsement to help strengthen the concept, identify additional considerations, and improve the overall effectiveness of the program prior to presentation to the Board of Public Utilities.

..Attachment

A - On Bill Financing Presentation

ON-BILL FINANCING OVERVIEW

Board of Public Utilities

June 3, 2026

Angelica Gurule & Abbey Hayward Climate Investment Center
| Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico

Overview



Introduce the concept of On-Bill Financing



Discuss potential benefits for DPU and customers



Request BPU guidance on next steps

What is On-Bill Financing?

On-Bill Financing Overview

- On-bill financing allows customers to finance energy upgrades through their utility bill rather than personal credit request by traditional loans
- On-bill financing programs are used by utilities across over 30 U.S. states

Key Characteristics

- On-bill financing can solve one of the biggest barriers to electrification: upfront cost
- Payments appear as a line item on the utility bill (familiar payment mechanism)
- Financing often tied to the meter/property
- Projects focus on energy efficiency and electrification

Typical Eligible Upgrades

- Heat pumps
- Insulation and air sealing
- Electrical panel upgrades
- Efficient water heating

Benefits of On-Bill Financing

Strategic Alignment with County goals

- Incentivizing the transition from natural gas to electrification
- Helping customers invest in upgrades that improve efficiency and resiliency

Incentives for customers

- We are currently prohibited by the anti-nation clause to provide traditional incentives to encourage energy efficient retrofits. However, On-Bill Financing provides a funding source for customers while remaining in compliance with the anti-nation clause
- Provides low interest loans (0-5%)
- No increase to the individual property owner's debt-to-income ratio, there is no personal debt acquired

Energy Upgrade Financing Gap

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Many households cannot easily finance large energy upgrades



Heat pump installations often exceed \$15k–\$20k

Many households are cash-flow constrained

On-bill financing can solve one of the biggest barriers to electrification: upfront cost



On-bill financing allows customers to pay for upgrades gradually through their utility bill

Low interest loans

No personal debt acquired

Why Utility Conservation Financing Matters

Los Alamos County has several infrastructure hurdles:

- ~86% of Los Alamos's households rely on natural gas for heating
 - Natural gas usage accounts for roughly 32% of the County's total community greenhouse gas emissions.
- Many homes built 1950s- 1970s have poor insulation, single-pane windows, and aging gas furnaces.

Governance & Capitalization

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- **Capital Partner**: NM Climate Investment Center will provide the initial capital pool for the program
 - Grant Program and other financing opportunities
- **Program Administrator**: New Mexico Climate Investment Center or a **partner** could manage:
 - Contractor vetting
 - Project qualification
 - Application processing
 - Loan servicing and inspections
- **Utility Role**: DPU would provide the billing mechanism, program coordination & DPU would not act as the lender

Administrative Process

- Customer submits application through program administrator
- Eligibility review based on program design
- Collaborate with qualified contractors
- Project installation completed and verified
- Contractor payment disbursed by the capital provider
- Loan repayment begins through the utility bill
- Customer receives education on maximizing efficiency benefits

Repayment Mechanism

- Loan would be repaid through a charge on the utility bill (5-10 years)
- Programs typically demonstrated low default rates
- The goal is projects are designed so energy savings offset loan payments where possible
- Obligation can be settled at time of sale of property

Example of On Bill Financing for Mini Splits

Mini Splits		
Electricity Rate (\$/kWh)	\$0.1463	
Proposed Natural Gas Rate (\$/Therm)	\$0.4500	
Gross Installation Cost	\$18,000.00	
Federal Tax Credit (25C)	\$2,000.00	
HEEHRA/HEAR Rebate	\$1,750.00	
Net Financed Amount	\$14,250.00	
Current Situation		
Annual Gas Usage (Therms)	900	
Annual Gas Cost	\$405.0000	
Cooling (Swamp Cooler)	\$0.0000	No
Cooling (Window units)	\$292.6000	Yes
With Mini Splits		
Annual Electricity Usage (kWh) for Heating	9767	
Annual Electricity Usage (kWh) for Cooling	1500	
Est. Annual Electric Increase	\$1,648.31	
Interest Rate (Annual)		
	4.00%	
Repayment Term (Years)		
	7	
Monthly Tariff Payment		
	\$194.78	
Monthly Gas Cost Savings(Avg)	\$33.75	
New Net Monthly Electric Cost (Avg)	\$112.98	
Monthly Tariff Repayment	\$194.78	
NET MONTHLY CASH IMPACT	-\$274.01	

Examples of On-Bill Programs

- **Traverse City Light & Power Michigan:**

- Launched in 2020
- Loans from \$50-30k
- Term: up to 10 years
- Interest rate: 3%

- **Ipswich Electric Light Department (ELD) Massachusetts:**

- Launched in 2023
- Interest rate: 0% on bill loan where the monthly charge is less than the estimated money saved from the energy efficient upgrades

- **City of Tallahassee Utilities Florida:**

- Est. 1983.
- Interest rate: 5% interest financing for more than 25 energy efficiency measures and solar PV.
- Terms: Up to 7 years for most measures, and up to 10 years for solar measures

- **Fort Collin's Epic Homes program**

- Integrates directly into existing billing systems and utilizes a CDFI to handle loan administration and credit checks.
- Capitalized through a mix of internal reserves, bank loans, and grants with on bill interest rates around 5%

Potential Barriers

- Identifying capital partners
- Developing revolving loan fund
- Ensuring contractor pricing remains competitive
- Program administration capacity
- Robust program participation is necessary for program success
- Must have buy-in from contractors

Key Program Focus Areas

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- Los Alamos has long, cold winters and relatively mild summers, which means most home energy use goes toward heating rather than cooling
- Summer temperatures have been gradually increasing, and more residents are beginning to install air conditioning for comfort
- The most beneficial upgrades are technologies that address both heating and cooling needs:
 - Cold-climate heat pumps that provide both heating and cooling
 - Insulation and air sealing to reduce heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer
 - Electrical panel upgrades to support electrification

Staff Recommendations

- Staff propose developing a program and pursuing grant funding to stand up the program
 - The program components could include:
 - Energy audits to identify the most effective upgrades
 - Heat pumps for heating, ventilation and cooling
 - Heat pump water heater
 - Insulation and air sealing
 - Energy efficient windows and doors
 - Wiring and electrical panel upgrades where needed

Summary

- On-Bill Financing is a proven financing model used by utilities nationwide
- Helps overcome upfront cost barriers
- Supports beneficial electrification & conservation and helps spur the transition away from natural gas

Next Steps

To move forward, we recommend the Board of Public Utilities take the following actions:

- Direct staff to stand up the program to include:
 - Memorandum of Understanding with New Mexico Climate Investment Center and Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico to explore program design and secure a capital allocation
 - Apply for supporting grants
 - Develop on-bill financing program

Thank you!
Questions?





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Staff Report

May 21, 2026

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Shannon Blair

Legislative File: 21702-26

Title

Provide Update on Development of Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance

Body

During the April 7, 2026, Los Alamos County Council meeting, Council directed the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) to return within 90 days with a proposal for a single-use plastic bag ban informed by other programs in New Mexico. The language presented here reflects the general substance of Council's direction and is not a verbatim quotation of the motion. Council also expressed a preference for an approach that does not include a mandatory fee. While not formally included in the motion, Council indicated that community engagement should be incorporated into the process.

During the April 16, 2026, ESB meeting, Chair Hampton appointed a working group consisting of Vice-Chair Erik Loechell, Member Shannon Blair and Member Jack Grow. They will provide an update on the progress made toward the development of the single-use plastic bag ordinance.

History

During the January 14, 2025, Los Alamos County Council meeting, they requested the ESB to "Evaluate single use plastic bags to include factors such as ability to recycle and other alternatives and cost to County to recycle and engagement to include local businesses and other interested parties." The Environmental Sustainability Board adopted this initiative in their 2025 Work Plan and since then, the ESB formed a working group, consisting of Chair Shannon Blair and members Hermann Geppert-Kleinrath and Rebecca Paley-Williams. The working group has spent the past couple of months researching and interviewing other municipalities that have adopted a plastic bag ordinance. The working group will provide an update to the ESB and the board will make a recommendation to provide County Council.

In October 16, 2026, Chair Blair presented the findings of the research to Council and asked for further direction and guidance on community engagement.

Attachments

Handouts may be provided at the meeting.



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Staff Report

May 21, 2026

Agenda No.:**Index (Council Goals):**

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Legislative File: 21701-26

Title

Sustainability Manager Updates

Body

The ESB receives routine updates from the Sustainability Manager.

The May Sustainability Newsletter focused on Extreme Heat and Cooling Centers. Subscribers increased from 137 to 147 and has a 62% engagement rate.

1. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
 - a. Los Alamos County received NMDOT DC Fast Charging Grant funding. The project will construct two DC Fast Chargers at Mesa Public Library, with each port providing a minimum of 150 kW.
 - i. September 30 - Council approved grant agreement and passed a Resolution.
 - ii. February - EV equipment was procured.
 - iii. May 18 - Construction will commence.
 - b. For FY27 preparations are underway to construct chargers dedicated to the County Fleet.
2. Municipal food composting program is on hold; the County was selected to receive a \$1.2M grant for food composting, unfortunately the grant award was rescinded due to unforeseen circumstances. The County will begin exploring other opportunities.
3. Events:
 - a. Past
 - i. PEEC Earth Day Festival - April 18
 - ii. County Earth Day Festival - April 22
 - iii. Jemez Mountain Trail Run - May 8
 - iv. Foxtail Flats Solar Array Groundbreaking - May 14
 - v. DPU and PEEC Water Festival - May 18 and 19th
 - b. Upcoming
 - i. Farmer's Markets (need to determine frequency)
 - ii. Science Fest - September
 - iii. Clean Up LA Day - September

Attachments

A - Residential Sustainability Report - April 2026



Residential Sustainability Report

Service Period: April 2026

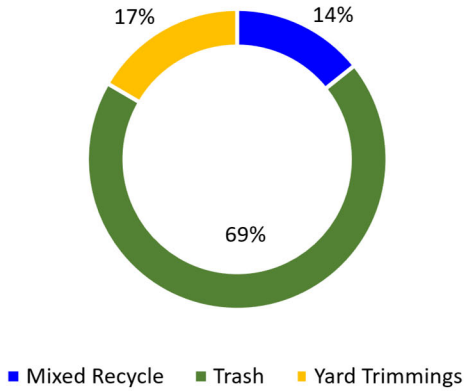


LOS ALAMOS

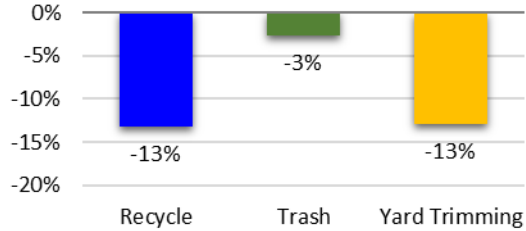
April Diversion Rate: **31%**

The *diversion rate* is the percent of recyclable and compostable material diverted from the landfill.

Monthly Collection Report

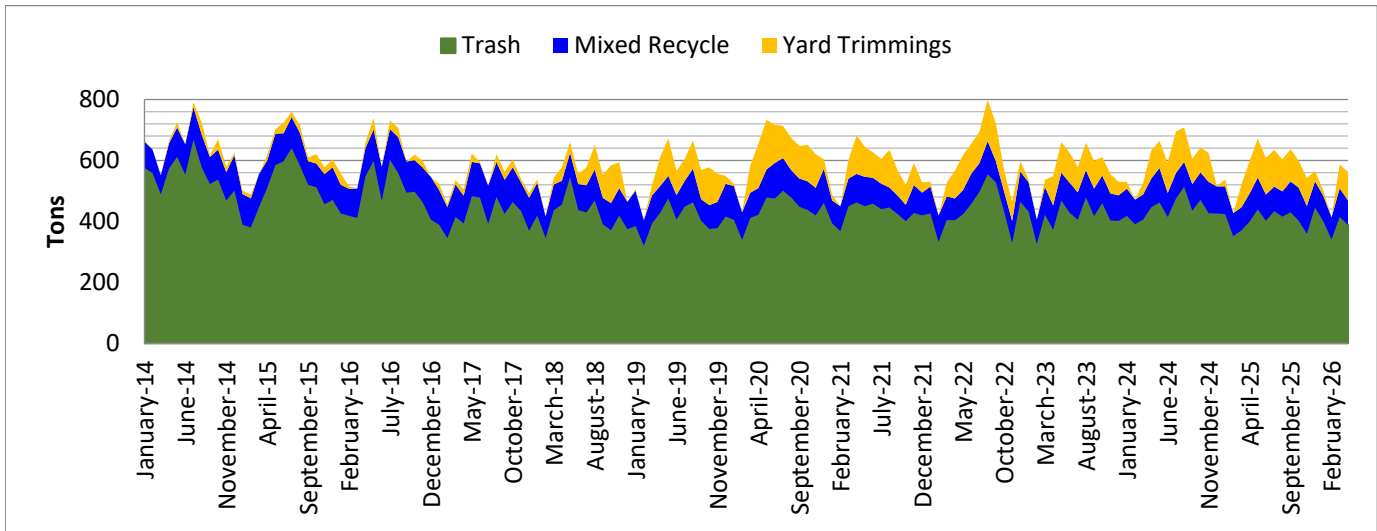


% Change Previous Year



	Apr-25	Apr-26
Yard Trimming	106.91	93.11
Recycle	92.36	80.21
Trash	399.04	388.49

In April by recycling and composting Los Alamos County reduced GHG emissions by ~457 tons*



In 2026 by recycling and composting Los Alamos County reduced GHG emissions by ~1,509 tons*

- **8 trucks of recycle and 9 trucks of yard trimmings** were diverted from the landfill.
- **18 trucks of trash** were transported to the Valencia Landfill costing **\$34,489.44** in transport and tipping fees.