



LOS ALAMOS  
where discoveries are made

# FY24 Work Plan for Los Alamos County Boards and Commissions

**Fiscal Year 2024: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**

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

**Date prepared: January 16, 2023**

**Date approved by Council: TBD**

**Prepared by: Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB)**

**This work plan will be accomplished in the following time frame: July 01, 2023- June 30, 2024**

**Chairperson: Shannon Blair**

**Members and terms:**

Member	Start/End Dates	Term
Dina Pesenson	8/1/2022 – 7/31/2024	2
Erik Loechell	8/1/2022 – 7/31/2024	2
Armand Groffman	8/1/2022 – 7/31/2024	1
KokHeong McNaughton	8/1/2022 – 7/31/2024	1
Shannon Blair	8/1/2022 – 7/31/2024	1
Hermann Geppert	8/1/2021 – 7/31/2023	1
Vacancy		

**Department: Steven Lynne, County Manager**

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

**Staff Liaison: Angelica V. Gurule, Sustainability Manager**

**Administrative Support provided by: Joshua Levings, Office Manager**

**Council Liaison: Suzie Havemann**

**Reviewed by Council Liaison? Y**

**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.**

- Greatest accomplishment of the ESB was contributing as key stakeholders in Environmental Services municipal food waste composting feasibility study and recommending to County Council the implementation of a windrow composting program at Bayo Canyon and providing drop off collection points for residents and curbside collection for commercial customers. Council approved this recommendation in September 2022.
- ESB contributed to the roll out of Operation Save the Bears – the distribution of bear resistant dumpsters (260 or 100%) to businesses and carts to North Community 3 (480 or .06% of total county households)
- Continued supporting and monitoring implementation of the Yard Trimming Roll Cart Program to 75% of households (5,104) and diverted 884 tons of yard trimming material in 2022.
- Continued implementing Zero Waste Initiatives, which included: Maintained the Zero Waste Los Alamos Facebook group, published articles in PEEC Nature Notes as well as published monthly Zero Waste articles and tips focused on food waste prevention, backyard composting and other waste reduction methods.
- Received the following presentations:
  - ✓ Creating a Pollinator Habitat by Dana Ecelberger and Kaitlin Haase
  - ✓ How to Increase Recycling by Hermann Geppert
  - ✓ Water and Energy Conservation Plan by Abbey Hayward
  - ✓ Extended Producer Responsibility & Product Stewardship by Sarah Pierpont
  - ✓ Climate Solution, Bridging Environmental Physics and Design by Dr. Senna Sevanto
  - ✓ How Do We Get More People on Bikes Presentation by Hermann Geppert
  - ✓ Open Meetings Act and Information Public Records Act Presentation by Katie Thwait
- Continued promoting Recycle Coach App to Los Alamos residents to reduce recycling contamination, provide real time notifications and educate residents on Environmental Services programs (3,208 users).
- Conducted education and outreach activities at the following events:
  - ✓ Farmer’s Market Booths
  - ✓ Coop 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

- ✓ Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) Bear Festival
- ✓ Recycle Fashion Show Workshop
- ✓ Science Fest
- ✓ Clean Up Los Alamos Fall 2022
- ✓ Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) Earth Day Celebration
- ✓ Water Festival with PEEC and DPU
- ✓ Summer Concert Series
- ✓ Zero Waste Champion of the Year Celebration
- ✓ 20<sup>th</sup> Clean Up Los Alamos Day- Spring 2023

**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.)* PRIORITY FOCUS ITEMS**

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

- On an annual basis obtain and review data gathered periodically (i.e. 6 months, annually, and eighteen months) on the change from using glyphosate to staff for weed control. Work with the Parks and Recreation and Code Enforcement staff when evaluating its cost-effectiveness, the impact on staff safety, input from citizens, etc., and present findings to Council for discussion.

**2.2 List the guiding documents/plans (with approval or revision dates listed) used by this Board or Commission.**

- LARES Final Plan February 22, 2022
- Food Composting Feasibility Study approved by Council September 2022

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

- Contribute as appropriate to the development of a rate increase to maintain a balanced budget for Environmental Services operations.
- Contribute as appropriate to the implementation of the municipal food composting program and receive regular updates

- Continue monitoring the Integrated Pest Management Plan and provide input as necessary
- Continue monitoring Bayo Canyon Composting program
- Evaluate LARES Final Report recommendations and contribute as necessary to the implementation of those actions
- Contribute, as appropriate, to the development of the Greenhouse Gas Baseline Analysis and Climate Action Plan
- Contribute as appropriate to the County Canyon restoration efforts
- Contribute, as appropriate, to the implementation of the Yard Trimming Collection program (3rd bin for organic yard trimming material).
- Contribute to and monitor the distribution and implementation of the bear resistant roll carts and dumpster program
- Continue supporting LA public schools in their efforts towards resiliency and sustainability
- Continue to increase participation/users for the Recycle Coach application.
- Continue providing education and outreach on food waste prevention and diversion:
  - ✓ Promote back yard composting for food waste diversion.
  - ✓ Promote participation in the municipal food composting program.
  - ✓ Monitor existing bio-solid composting program.
- Community Education/Events:
  - ✓ Collaborate with organizations such as Chamber of Commerce, PEEC, LAPS, and UNM-LA to educate about environmental and sustainability initiatives.
- Work with Schools:
  - ✓ Collaborate with LAPS as a stakeholder for the GHG baseline analysis and Climate Action Plan development. Educate LAPS on environmental and sustainability initiatives.
  - ✓ Partner with Utilities and PEEC at Water Festival.
- Continued Research Areas:
  - ✓ Research and become knowledgeable about Project Drawdown in support of carbon reduction goals
  - ✓ Bee City Team to explore Bee City programs.
  - ✓ Explore and understand surface water run-off from Los Alamos County.
  - ✓ Explore options to increase diversion (recycling) rate in Los Alamos County.
  - ✓ Research funding and incentive opportunities for environmental sustainability initiatives.

**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 the Board of Public Utilities and the Department of Public Utilities to support procurement of clean energy, water and energy conservation, and drinking water quality.
- Continue to collaborate with other Boards and Commissions regarding pesticides and herbicide use.
- Contribute as a key stakeholder to the Transportation Board Bicycle Infrastructure Subcommittee
- Participate in the process of code development updates, specifically related to green building requirements or incentives.
- Continue to be available to other county boards and commissions regarding environmental sustainability.

**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, bill insert, newspaper insert, LAVA Flyers, and/or County Line Newsletter. The ESB may also utilize County Open Forum Survey, Poll Co, or Survey Monkey as a resource to solicit public input. The cost for the ESB public outreach efforts are budgeted in the County Manager's Office budget.
  - ✓ Earth Day Festival
  - ✓ Clean Up Los Alamos Day
  - ✓ PEEC and DPU Water Festival
  - ✓ Zero Waste Team Event for County employees\*
  - ✓ Science Festival
  - ✓ Farmer's Market (2 events)
  - ✓ The Peoples Eco Challenge\*
  - ✓ Decarbonization, weatherization, energy and water efficiency, 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:

- There are no subcommittees.

**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 Planning & Zoning Commission:**

**Attachment A**

**ARTICLE X. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD**

**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:

- (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)

**Secs. 8-234—8-280. Reserved.**

**Attachment B**

<b>Quality Governance</b>	
Quality governance is participatory, consensus-oriented, transparent, accountable, effective, efficient, and responsive to the present and future needs of stakeholders.	
<b>Communication and Engagement</b>	
Inform, educate, and engage community members on County projects, policies, and goals to promote a culture of open communication and collaboration and foster exceptional customer service.	X
<b>Intergovernmental and Regional Relations</b>	
Collaborate and problem-solve with the County’s major employers; community partner organizations; neighboring Pueblos; and regional, state, and national governmental entities.	X
<b>Fiscal Stewardship</b>	
Maintain fiscal sustainability, transparency, and compliance with applicable budgetary and financial regulatory standards.	
<b>Operational Excellence</b>	
Operational excellence involves having structures, processes, standards, and oversight in place to ensure that effective services are efficiently delivered within available resources and that services continuously improve to anticipate and meet future needs.	
<b>Effective, Efficient, and Reliable Services</b>	
Deliver customer-focused, accessible, reliable, and sustainable services to the community through sound financial management, collaborative decision-making, effective communication, and efficient implementation.	X
<b>Infrastructure Asset Management</b>	
Evaluate the County’s assets and infrastructure to first prioritize funding to best maintain and protect those investments and second to inform new investments.	
<b>Employee Recruitment and Retention</b>	
Attract and employ diverse and highly qualified staff, retain staff through development and growth opportunities, and promote staff to address increasingly complex challenges.	
<b>Economic Vitality</b>	
Economic vitality encompasses the ability of the community to diversify, develop, grow, and sustain the many elements necessary for a local economy to flourish.	
<b>Housing</b>	

Increase the capacity for new housing development and the amount and variety of housing types to meet the needs of a growing population, particularly middle- and lower-income households.	
<b>Local Business</b>	
Encourage the retention of existing businesses, facilitate the startup of new businesses, and assist in their opportunities for growth.	
<b>Downtown Revitalization</b>	
Revitalize the downtown areas of Los Alamos and White Rock by facilitating development opportunities in accordance with the Los Alamos and White Rock downtown master plans.	
<b>Tourism and Special Events</b>	
Continue sponsoring special events and promoting tourism to support the local business economy by enhancing amenities and utilizing facilities.	
<b>Community Broadband</b>	
Provide community broadband as a basic essential service that will enable reliable high-speed internet services throughout the County at competitive pricing.	
<b>Quality of Life</b>	
Quality of life is a reflection of general well-being and the degree to which community members are healthy, comfortable, welcomed, included, and able to enjoy the activities of daily living.	
<b>Health, Wellbeing, and Social Services</b>	
Improve access to behavioral, mental, and physical health and social services and amenities to address identified issues and to sustain Los Alamos County's rating as the healthiest county in New Mexico.	
<b>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity</b>	
Promote diversity, equity, and inclusivity through awareness training, targeted events, and expanded opportunities for diverse interests.	X
<b>Mobility</b>	
Improve and expand access to alternative modes of travel including public transit, cycling, and walking amenities and services.	X
<b>Educational, Historical, and Cultural Amenities</b>	
Promote educational and cultural opportunities, in coordination with community partners, and provide for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings and the protection of archaeological sites.	

<b>Open Space, Parks, and Recreation</b>	
Protect existing open space and maintain and improve parks and recreation facilities and amenities as defined by adopted plans and approved projects.	X
<b>Public Safety</b>	
Ensure overall community safety through proactive and sustained implementation of police, fire hazard mitigation, and emergency response plans.	
<b>Environmental Stewardship</b>	
Environmental stewardship is the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through active participation in conservation efforts and sustainable practices that enable interaction in productive harmony with the natural environment.	
<b>Natural Resource Protection</b>	
Take actions to protect open space, the wildlife and wildland interface, safeguard water, and mitigate tree loss in the community.	X
<b>Greenhouse Gas Reduction</b>	
Establish targets for and promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, integrate sustainability and resiliency practices into County operations, and encourage energy-reduction enhancements for new and remodel building projects in the community.	X
<b>Carbon-Neutral Energy Supply</b>	
Achieve carbon neutrality in electrical supply by 2040 through diversified carbon-free electric sourcing and promote energy efficiency and reductions in natural gas usage.	X
<b>Water Conservation</b>	
Reduce potable water use, increase non-potable water use and water harvesting for irrigation where suitable.	X
<b>Waste Management</b>	
Manage waste responsibly by diverting waste from landfills through recycling, re-use, composting and waste reduction programs, and zero-waste education campaigns to promote a circular economy.	X