

Environmental Sustainability Board Update to Los Alamos County Council

Shannon Blair, Chair
Angelica Gurule, ESB Staff Liaison
October 21, 2025



Environmental Sustainability Board

Left to Right (Back Row): Angelica Gurule (Staff Liaison), Rebecca Paley-Williams, Erik Loechell, Shannon Blair (Chair), Joe Chandler
Left to Right (Front Row): Sue Barns (Vice Chair), Ryn Herrmann (County Council Liaison)

The Environmental Sustainability Board

Purpose: The Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) was 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.

The ESB gathers and provides citizen input to staff and council on ways to improve the county's environmental sustainability.

Authorization: The County Council adopted Ordinance 02-094 in June 2008 establishing the Environmental Sustainability Board. The scope of work was realigned on March 14, 2023. County Council voted that the ESB work with the new Sustainability Manager in support of implementing the recommendations of LARES. The charter language would not need to be changed but the Board staff Liaison would be the Sustainability Manager and ESB would then fall under the County Manager's Office for support.

The ESB currently has five teams/working groups:

- Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance
- Plastic Bag Working Group
- Education and Outreach Working Group
- Fleet Conversion and Community EV Charging Working Group

2025 ESB Accomplishments

- Supporting the solicitation Climate Action Marketing and Engagement Services RFP. Specific tasks include reviewing and providing input on the scope of work.
- Supporting the Fleet Conversion Study and Community-Wide EV Charging Infrastructure Plan.
- Evaluating 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.



2025 ESB Events and Outreach

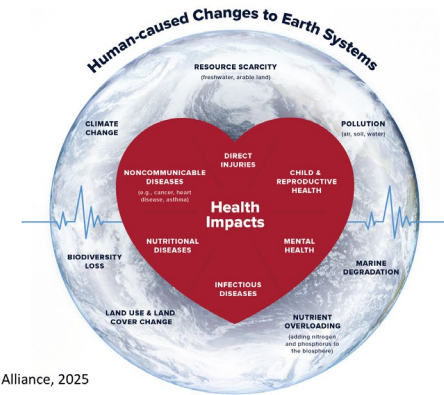


- Site Visit of BRAIN at City of Albuquerque
- PEEC Earth Day Festival
- County Earth Day Celebration
- Supported the LAHS Youth Climate Summit
- Science Fest
- Farmer's Market Booths
- DPU/PEEC Water Festival
- Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance Facebook
- Support Environmental Day for Leadership Los Alamos
- Community Visioning meeting for EV Charging
- Clean Up Los Alamos Day
- Recruited new board members

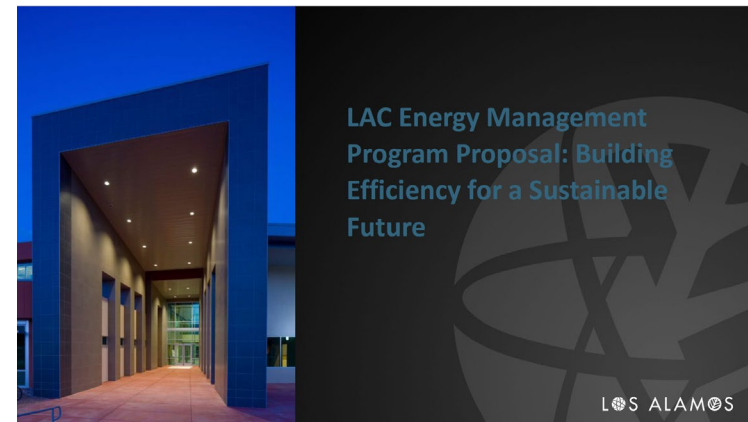
2025 Presentations to ESB

- **Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records** by Katie Thwaits
- **Communication Strategies Work Session** by Anne Marie Cleary Rauker, Senior Communication Officer from ICLEI USA
- **Water and Energy Conservation Plan Biennial Update** by Abbey Hayward
- **Introduction to Fleet Conversion Plan and Community-Wide EV Charging Plan** by Angelica Gurule and Stantec Team
- **LAC Energy Management Program Proposal and Net Zero Airport** by Gary Goddard
- **Planetary Health: An Overview** by Heidi Rogers
- **Plastic Bag Working Group Update** by Shannon Blair, Hermann Geppert-Kleinrath and Rebecca Paley-Williams
- **Bicycle Working Group Update** by Herrmann Geppert-Kleinrath
- **Artificial Turf Study** by NV5 Consultant Ania Pastuszezwska and Wendy Parker, Parks Superintendent

Ecological Determinants of Health



: Planetary Health Alliance, 2025



Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance



Activities include:

- Ongoing activity coordination and support between Alliance members and agencies (PEEC, DPU Energy and Water Conservation, LAC Environmental Services, LAPS, LA Daily Post, Bee City, Community Seed Library, Citizen Climate Lobby, Gaia's Pantry (food rescue), Sustainability Manager, ESB).
- Support Sustainability Manager in formulating and providing content for new LAC Sustainability Newsletter
- Participated in outreach for EV study, climate action, recycling and food waste prevention
- Maintained LASA Facebook page and contributed content.



Future Plans/Priorities

2026 Proposed Work Plan

ATTACHMENT A

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Priorities

- Work to implement Council priorities including Climate Action Plan, enhancing climate literacy, and advise on LAC Fleet Conversion Plan and Community-Wide EV Charging Plan and monitoring federal and state climate landscape.
- Provide community education and outreach on sustainability initiatives.
- Continue to research, update, and modify items in line with community priorities.
- Continue monitoring waste diversion, yard trimmings, and recyclables for the county.
- Collaborate with the Board of Public Utilities and the Department of Public Utilities as they implement priorities from the Climate Action Plan.
- Contribute as appropriate to the implementation of the municipal food composting program and receive regular updates.
- Investigate and advance additional topics in sustainability as requested
- Contribute as necessary to Plastic Bag Fee Research

Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges:

- Implementing recommendations from the Climate Action Plan and ensuring alignment with community priorities.
- Increasing educational initiatives across the community to raise awareness of important environmental concepts and practices.
- Helping to bridge the gap between environmental quality goals and practical cost proposals for implementation.
- Uncertain changes in sustainability landscape may impact what level of financial support is available for new projects or programs.

Opportunities:

- Opportunities exist for more collaboration between the board and County Council to report on progress and gauge the community's pulse on sustainability topics.
- Potential to use the board to help secure additional grants or funding to implement proposals.
- Work to identify common sense initiatives and implement proposals without polarizing the community.

What would the County Council like help with?



Questions

