

Environmental Sustainability Board Update to Los Alamos County Council

Shannon Blair, Chair
Angelica Gurule, ESB Staff Liaison

August 22, 2023



Environmental Sustainability Board Members

Left to Right (Back Row): Joseph Chandler, Armand Groffman, Hermann Geppert(Vice-Chair), Dina Pesenson, Erik Loechell

Left to Right (Front Row): Shannon Blair (Chair) and Kokheong McNaughton



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

Review all environmental sustainability related matters submitted to the board by Council

The ESB serves as an advisory board to County Council for matters involving 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.

ESB has four teams:

- Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance (formerly Zero Waste Los Alamos)
- Bee City Team
- Green Schools Task Force
- Bicycle Working Group

FY23 ESB Accomplishments

- 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.
- Supported and provided recommendation to County Council for the Environmental Services Rate Proposal
- 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.
- Contributed environmentally focused articles to 2023 Earth Day Tabloid



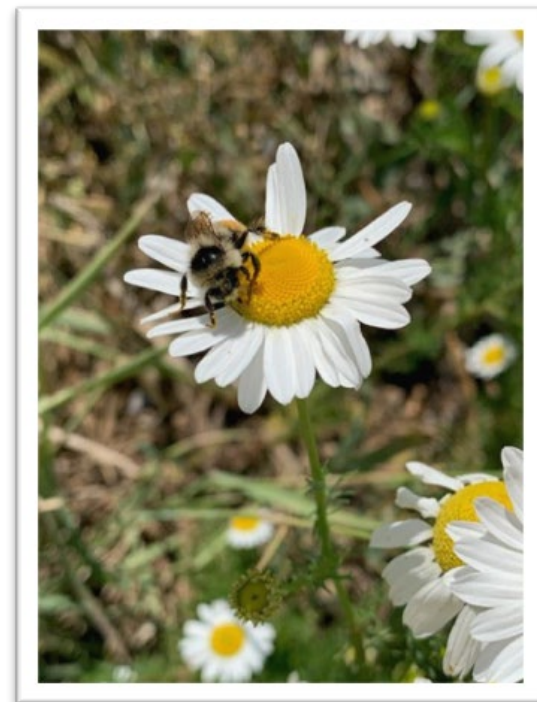
FY23 ESB Events and Outreach

- PEEC Earth Day Festival
- LAC Earth Day Celebration
- Clean Up Los Alamos Day at LA Airport
- PEEC Bear Festival Booth
- Farmer's Market Booths
- Summer Concert
- Science Festival
- DPU/PEEC Water Festival
- Bee City Facebook Page
- Zero Waste LA Facebook Page



PRESENTATIONS TO ESB

- **EV Presentation** by Matt Heavner
- **Environmental Services Rate Proposal** by Juan Rael
- **Bailing Twine Recycle Proposal** by Lisa Reader
- **Food Composting Feasibility Study Project Updates** by SCS
- **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. Sanna Sevanto
- **How Do We Get More People on Bikes** by Hermann Geppert
- **Open Meeting Act Presentation** by Katie Thwaits
- **Integrated Pest Management Presentation** by CSD



Zero Waste Team Accomplishments

Recently Changed to Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance

Team activities include:

- Supporting Environmental Sustainability Board and DPU's Energy and Water Conservation Initiatives
- Zero Waste Los Alamos Facebook Posts
- Monthly Zero Waste articles published in the LA Daily Post and Los Alamos Reporter. Articles include tips focused on food waste prevention, backyard composting, energy and water conservation, how to recycle right and other environmentally sustainable methods.



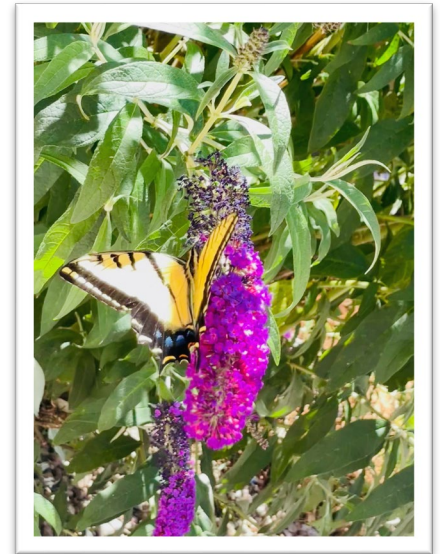


Future Plans/Priorities

FY24 Work Plan Overview

FY24 - Top 5 Priorities

1. Contribute, as key stakeholders to the development of the **Greenhouse Gas Baseline Analysis and Climate Action Plan**
2. Evaluate **LARES Final Report recommendations** and contribute as necessary to the implementation of those actions
3. Contribute as appropriate to the implementation of the municipal **food composting program** and receive regular updates
4. Continue monitoring the **Integrated Pest Management Plan** and provide input as necessary
5. 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.**



FY24 ESB Events and Outreach

Recent and Upcoming:

- Farmer's Market Booths
- Science Festival
- Conservation Conversations
- LAPS Welcome Back
- County Fair
- Eco Book Club – Braiding Sweetgrass
- Environmental Awareness Film Screenings – 2040 and Before the Flood
- Los Alamos Summer Concert Series
- Clean Up LA Day 2024
- Earth Day 2024
- DPU and PEEC Water Festival (May 2024)





CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Challenges:
 - Transitioning to new scope of work of ESB
 - Interacting with other boards on environmental sustainability issues
- Opportunities:
 - Expanding our scope brings many possibilities for the board to research and engage
 - Opportunities for the board and County Council to create positive and lasting sustainability impacts
 - Interacting with other boards on environmental sustainability issues

Questions

