Good Evening ESAC,

            We had a great meeting earlier this week. I’ve included the highlights below. Please get in touch if you have any ideas to share or want to get involved; we have an exciting month coming up.

            On April 18th, Capital will be co-hosting, along with the city, Tree City USA. Additionally, the Chamber of Commerce has a few upcoming events.

            Regarding composting, City Hall has extra bags and rubber hands. There are currently 1000 households utilizing the service, with 145 new households signing up in the past month. The city is working on creating drop off points for apartment residents.

            Our inaugural Green:Bexley Fair will be April 27th from 11-1. We hope you all can attend. Joana and Victoria will each work at our ESAC table to answer questions about the ESAC. **Please let me know if you can help as well.**

            We will be kicking up our community outreach, beginning with monthly information in the *Blast*.  Carol had the idea for us to host regular meet up events**; let us know if you have any ideas for names** (another organization already hosts “Green Drinks.”) Our first event will be on April 26th at Giuseppe’s and will feature discussion about trees and the Green:Bexley Fair. We also had an idea for a May event at House Wines featuring organic drinks with a summer theme and we want to have another meet up in July. **We are looking for people to help coordinate these, please let me know if you can assist.**

            Originally, we planned to alternate these meet ups with an educational event. Currently, Franklin County Soil and Water is scheduled for a presentation on June 4th from 6-7:30 and we are planning to host an August event at the library. However, then Ben came up with an idea of an adult boot camp this fall. We didn’t determine whether or not we would plan a formal series of educational events prior to the beginning of the bootcamp, however, I will create a community poll for residents to let us know the topics on which they would like more information. We will also work on professional development for teachers at the library and a bootcamp for kids this summer.

            Lesli shared information about Chamber of Commerce’s meeting with restaurant owner and indicated CoC would like to partner with the ESAC for reusable cups/water bottles at the Food Truck Festival. Paul also shared a multitude of exciting initiatives taking place at Capital. Jim put me in touch with a few teachers from the elementary schools; I will be doing presentations in at least two classrooms the week of April 22nd. Lesli and Joanna are looking to feature businesses on our Facebook page, website, and Chamber of Commerce website, as well as an informal audit to determine green practices.

            Mayor Kessler and I will be looking at the ESAC membership to determine if we want to restructure the committee with regards to members and organizational representatives. Currently, Drew’s, Carol’s and my appointments will be ending this year. As always, anyone is able to watch a meeting. Our meet ups will provide ways for people to learn more about the ESAC, and we will create community meetings to create working groups for people to become involved, even if they are not a member. For those who want to become more involved, our Boot Camp will be a “feeder” to becoming an ESAC member.

            We will have our next meeting on April 16th, where we will look at a draft of the single use plastic ban ordinance. I look forward to seeing you them, but hope you’ll be in touch in the meantime!