Hi everyone,

First, please let me congratulate Elizabeth again for her very deserved new position as the sustainability director for the city of Bexley. Woot!!

Lori Ann Feibel joined us. She is the new ESAC representative from city council. Welcome, Lori Ann! Also, new to ESAC is Ashley Harvey from Capital University. Thank you, Ashley and welcome!

**Please note:**

**We will need many volunteers for April 23 and 24 for the Green Bexley Fair and the Clean up day. Please keep those dates in mind.**

**Also, please see the links at the end of this email plus the attachment of the "trash sent to landfill" graph.**

1. ESAC will need a new chair now that Elizabeth has moved into a paid position with the city. Please send Mayor Kessler an email if you are interested in chairing ESAC.The chair will continue to plan and lead ESAC meetings.

2. Legislative agenda:

- Aggregation: the city has been working on this for a while. Good news -  there was an overall positive reaction to the survey; bad news - currently a tough market to lock in pricing. Once we move forward with aggregation, there will need to be a lot of outreach and education.

- Universal Recycling: hoping to move forward soon with recycling for all businesses and apartment buildings in Bexley. Several ESAC members have been working with a consultant on DEI training as it pertains to sustainability practices in Bexley; rolling out recycling to apartment complexes in Bexley has been a focus of this training.

- Single Use Plastic Ban: Starbucks no longer hands out plastic drink stoppers! Mayor Kessler mentioned the need of a general campaign to encourage the use of reusable grocery bags.

-Proposed small engine phase out: small engines are very polluting - 2-cycle and 4-cycle leaf blowers are the biggest offenders; there are great alternatives available! (Sidenote: Today I actually saw 2 different people using a leaf blower to blow snow off the sidewalk!! ARgh. It was SO easy to push a shovel in this snow!)

 - Fully electric landscape crew to be set up in the city of Bexley by the end of 2022

- Litter pick up - the city added a new street sweeping position and is looking for a betere contractor to deal with the litter on highway ramps. This spring, proposing some general messaging about litter.

- Climate action plan: short term goal is to create a finalized plan on Bexley's emissions.

3. 300 lbs of Christmas lights were collected to be recycled and almost an entire trailer full of collected styrofoam was sent to Hilliard to be recycled.

4. Food waste composting - to date, 1,658 people have signed up to participate in curbside food waste composting. (We are hoping to learn how many are still participating and how much waste is put out each week) Jo Anne and Steve are still distributing literature to residents and claim that 45% of the homes they have visited are participating. Good work, Steve and Jo Anne! Bexley Middle School students are interested in helping get the word out about this program. Earth Peak Organics is the new name of the company (Innovative Organics). They are now producing fertilizer instead of compost and the market is growing.

5. Dog Waste - Rebecca reported that the stickers are in and they look great. They say "Yes you can, Use my can" and we have 1,000 of them. There was some discussion about how to distribute these stickers to residents who want them: hand out at Earth Fair, farmers market, Pet People, Library,City Hall, add them to the reusable bags we are hoping to give away.

6. Litter Clean Up - Bexley HS student John Laing hosted a pick up on 1/21 for his Eagle Scout project. I saw on the Bexley Buzz that a resident applauded him and his crew for cleaning up the Livingston/70 ramp. Nice! Next Green Bexley litter pick up will be Saturday, 1/28 at 4:00 on the bike path just north of 5th Ave. There was discussion about possibly surveying Bexley residents on social media to ask which parts of Bexley they would like to see get cleaned up.

7. Sustainability news from around town: Reynoldsburg is interested in banning single use plastics; at Temple Beth Shalom, a sustainability group is forming; there is currently a "global scholars diploma program" focusing on food waste.

8. Mosquito Abatement Plan - Tuesday, January 25 at 6:00, City Hall - meeting with an entomologist about doing an abatement pilot program. Thanks to Rebecca for her dedication to this proposal!

9. Love Your Alley - Rebecca has secured a $5,000 grant from BCF and will be ordering native plants. A committee for this years LYA event is forming; first meeting is 2/1. Please let Rebecca know if you are interested in joining.

10. Sustainability Forum - Next meeting is March 3 at 6:00 or 6:30; in person or virtual TBD. Steve is hoping to have someone from ESAC talk about Love Your Alley and the mosquito abatement plan.

11. Chamber of Commerce update - Tracy Baum is the new director. Nothing new to report as the events have been virtual.

12. CSG - Jennifer reported that students and staff are continuing to compost food waste in the dining hall. Teachers monitor the disposal. Jennifer stated it is easier to do this at CSG because the plates and silverware are not single use so it is more straightforward. Jennifer is moving to another school so a new rep will be joining ESAC. Good luck to you, Jennifer!

13. BHS - a grant was secured for bottle filling stations.Great news!

14. St. Charles - there is the possibility that the new building at St. Charles will have solar panels on the roof? That would be awesome!

15. Capital - Ashley reported that all the dorms have new trash, recycling and compost bins in the hallways. :)

16. Feet on the Street is a program to inspire people to make changes to how much trash they produce. Volunteers(?) get out on the streets and "audit" trash cans. Hoping to get this started in Bexley with help from SWACO

17. Restaurant food composting - currently Brassica and Newfangled Kitchen are on board!

Announcements:

**Craig Ness is hosting a discussion at the library on Wednesday, 1/26 at 7:00 regarding the Link Us Columbus plan for sustainable transit. Professor Harvey Miller from OSU and a rep from COTA will be speaking. Hope to see some of you there!**

Elizabeth introduced the idea of rented Christmas trees. Perhaps someone might have interest in contacting Oakland Nursery about this? Please let Elizaeth know if this is something you want to do.

For Valentine's Day, highlight sustainable gift ideas from local shops? Fair trade items? Locally grown flowers?

April Earth month - all month Elizabeth would love to see activities. Please let her know if you have any ideas! Themed weeks?

Thanks, everyone! Please see links below.

<https://www.franklinswcd.org/conservation-mini-grants?fbclid=IwAR3OosofAViiLIVHRCsScA2xkx0520wmtFDZGwbZVoVcAwQ2k7w1lTYiB1E>

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eitnuek98e79d9c2&oseq=&c=&ch=>

<http://bexley.org/sustainability>