

# Committee on the Environment

City of Takoma Park, Maryland

# Agenda — May 2020

Monday, May 4, 2020 [insert zoom info]

11 members

John Ackerly  
Denis Borum  
Jeffrey Brokaw  
Sharon Cohen  
Colleen Cordes

Michael Feldman-Wienczek  
Hellen Gelband  
Seth Grimes  
Kopal Jha  
Kirsten Stade

Elizabeth Thompson  
Gina Matthias—Sustainability manager

Item	Notes
Preliminaries: 7:15 – 7:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Approve March minutes (see CommEnv_Mar_2020_NOTES.doc).</li><li>Review and approve agenda.</li></ul>
Public Comments: 7:25 – 7:30	
2020 Sustainability and Climate Action Plan: 7:30 – 8:15 (Gina Matthias)	Gina will share an update on how she is framing the <a href="#">Climate Action Plan</a> and Budget considerations in light of COVID-19. The other related docs are available <a href="#">here</a> .
Discussion	<p>To tap the collective intelligence and get actionable results together as we work to reframe our Climate Action Plan, please review news from the City and County using the links below and your own research on sustainability and GHG reductions in this time. Please pick one of the topics below, and prepare a 1-3 minute statement and proposal that includes your thoughts on the topic and 1 action item that you and/or the CoE can advance within the next 12 months. Please include budgetary research as needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What opportunities for GHG reduction, stormwater management, and resilience - particularly those outlined in our climate action plan - has COVID-19 made more possible?</li><li>Given Takoma Park's changed landscape due to COVID-19, how can residents and the city/county/state support local, sustainable business and supply chains?</li><li>Given Takoma Park's changed landscape due to COVID-19, how can residents and the city/county/state support each other's health and social support?</li></ul>
Event Updates: 8:35 – 8:45	CoE members and the public are welcome to share updates from spring events and upcoming May events.
Adjourn: 8:45	

**Next Meeting: Monday, June 1, likely via Zoom**

To understand a few things that the city is doing now, see:

- The [presentation from our Mayor, Community Development Manager, and Tom Hucker](#)
- Our City's COVID-19 [Information and Resources](#) page
- Stormwater fee considerations are documented [in this agenda item](#) from April 22nd and [this message from our City Manager to Councilmembers](#) on the same date, where she outlines an option for reduced fees that continues to take impervious area into account in the fee calculation
- The Mayor's [Earth Day Proclamation](#) which speaks to international research on urgency and need to protect our most vulnerable populations
- The [Takoma Park Virtual Community Center](#) offers sustainability ideas for what residents can do in this time.
- Emergency Assistance Fund [Mini-Grants](#)
- [The Takoma Park Together Campaign](#)

Some ideas in the larger sustainability community nationally and internationally on COVID-19 and sustainability:

- [ACEEE's "What the COVID crisis can teach us on Earth Day"](#) and [another article](#) which touches on this time's challenges and opportunities
- WRI on how to [Build Back Better](#), a podcast, and [Thoughts from WRI on how cities are coping with COVID-19 including increasing sanitizing public transit and creating healthy and green alternatives to public transit](#) (see #2 and #3) and [this article](#) specifically on healthy green transit
- [Van Jones on why COVID-19 is hitting the black community harder and what to do about it](#)
- [Arriana Huffington on How to Expand the Conversation around Prevention](#)
- Thoughts on green jobs in support of [trees](#), [weatherization](#),
- Grist's [The World is On LockDown, so Where are all of the Carbon Emissions Coming From](#)
- [Foreign Policy's article on why we need fundamental shifts away from an oil/gas economy](#)
- \*\*These links are - of course - just a small selection of the information and ideas circulating. Please feel free to share your own with the group by sending links and/or a brief synopsis through our CoE list serv or discussing them at the meeting. It will be great to share our collective ideas and shape a vision of a better world, with steps we can take while in this time of crisis.\*\*