



Environmental Quality & Public Works (EQPW) Committee

June 10, 2025

Summary and Motions

Chair Hannah LeGris called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Committee Members Dave Seigny, Tyler Morton, Emma Curtis, Liz Sheehan, Denise Gray, Joseph Hale, Amy Beasley, and Hil Boone were present. Committee Member James Brown was absent. Vice Mayor Dan Wu and Council Member Shayla Lynch were present as non-voting members.

I. APPROVAL OF MAY 13, 2025 COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Motion by Gray to approve the May 13, 2025 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary. Seconded by Curtis. Motion passed without dissent.

II. EMPOWER LEXINGTON UPDATE

Jada Griggs, Sustainability Program Manager, presented the Empower Lexington Plan as it pertains to the Emissions Reduction Plan and the *Race to Net Zero*. Sustainability in Lexington means meeting the needs of our generations while ensuring future generations can enjoy our urban communities, tree-lined rural roads, equine farms, and countless other physical and social elements that contribute to what makes Lexington, Lexington. The plan focuses on three main areas: environment, people, and the economy. Griggs reviewed the timeline from the Council's 2008 resolution to join the voluntary Cities for Climate Protection Program through the August 2024 update and subsequent resolution approving the Empower Lexington Plan. She shared that Lexington received the silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Cities award in November 2024.

As part of this Emissions Reduction Plan and *Race to Net Zero*, stakeholders reviewed information across six sectors: Materials and Resources, Natural Systems and Ecology, Transportation and Land Use, Quality of Life (including Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion), Water Efficiency, and Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions. These sectors align with LEED for Cities Certification. The Emissions Reduction Plan also includes an updated GHG emissions inventory. Achieving net zero means balancing emissions produced by human activity with those absorbed or offset. Griggs reviewed the national risk index for *the Race to Net Zero* and discussed associated climate vulnerabilities. She also highlighted partner organizations focused on building resiliency and noted that the GHG emissions inventory was reactivated in calendar year 2021.

Abby Terry from Tetra Tech, the consultant responsible for working on the Emissions Reduction Plan, described reduction measures as shifts from high- to low-emission activities, including changes in stationary energy, transportation, waste, tree canopy, and industrial processes. Griggs shared that next steps will include a focus on shaping the kind of city we want Lexington to be for future generations, which will require a collective effort from all of Lexington-Fayette County. **No action was taken on this item.**

III. URBAN FORESTRY / STREET TREES UPDATE

Heather Wilson, Urban Forestry Section Manager, provided a summary of last year's Urban Forestry presentation and reviewed the responsibilities of the Urban Forestry team. She explained that street

trees are the responsibility of the adjacent property owners. Wilson explained that the City offers a financial incentive program to remove and replace trees in the public right-of-way easement. The Hazard Street Tree (cost-share) Program provides a 50% reimbursement to eligible homeowners (the property must be owner-occupied) for the cost of tree removal, stump grinding, and planting a new tree to replace the one being removed. There are provisions for 100% funding for low-income to moderate-income assistance for those who qualify. Funding is limited to a first-come, first-served basis. Wilson discussed the budget for the program and its allocations, highlighting the benefits and goals of the initiative. She also highlighted the seasonal street tree clearance and pruning program and shared district-level statistics. Wilson provided a snapshot of tree canopy locations and concluded with future initiatives. When asked about additional funding, she noted interest in establishing a separate program specifically for tree replacements. **No action was taken on this item.**

IV. HB 443 UPDATES: DIVISION OF ENGINEERING AND DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

Doug Burton, Director of the Division of Engineering, presented updates to the Stormwater Manual. House Bill 443 establishes a new section of KRS Chapter 100, requiring local laws related to subdivision plats and development plans to follow objective standards that are applied ministerially. Furthermore, local laws governing development plans may permit the approving authority to exercise discretion in certain instances. The Division of Engineering's Stormwater Manuals have been revised to reflect these changes, with language updated as needed. These amendments become effective on July 1, 2025.

John Howard, Deputy Director of the Division of Waste Management, summarized the proposed changes to Chapter 16 concerning standards for dumpster service. The requested revisions aim to codify the Division's existing requirements for truck maneuvering, concrete pads, and dumpster enclosures, ensuring ADA compliance and alignment with the Division's Dumpster Service Guide, which will be updated and retitled *Dumpster Service Standards*. These standards are intended to protect public health and safety around dumpsters and enclosures. Division Enforcement Officers are responsible for inspections, re-inspections (when ownership or location changes), and permit approvals. Currently, Chapter 16 requires a one-time \$25 fee for a Dumpster Permit, with no renewal unless there is a change in ownership or location. The Division may consider a future proposal to require permit renewals every two years, with re-inspections conducted by Code Enforcement Officers.

Motion by LeGris to accept the changes to several engineering manuals, effective July 1, 2025, to comply with HB 443, which requires that objective standards be applied ministerially, as presented at today's EQPW committee meeting and as set forth in the committee packet, and to suspend the rules to report this out at the June 10, 2025 Work Session. Seconded by Seigny. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by LeGris to approve an ordinance, effective July 1, 2025, amending certain sections of Chapter 16 of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Code of Ordinances related to dumpster service standards as presented at today's EQPW committee meeting and as set forth in the committee packet, and to suspend the rules to report this out at the June 10, 2025 Work Session. Seconded by Gray. Motion passed without dissent.

I. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

No Action was taken on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.