



# ***Environmental Advisory Board***

## **Meeting Agenda**

May 27, 2026, 3:00 P.M.

Centennial II, Griesel Conference Room, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Virtual Attendance through Microsoft Teams

### **Order of Business**

**I. Public Comment**

**II. Call to Order**

**III. Administrative Action\***

- Approval of April 29, 2026 – Meeting minutes

**IV. Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments**

- House Bill 15 Update- Ollie Kroner
- Leveraged Fund Update

**V. Information/Updates**

- Motion for becoming Welcoming City has advanced- Dave Schmitt
- Two new Lead Gold Certified Homes in South Cumminsville- Dave Schmitt

**VI. Items for Vote\***

- None

**VII. Open Discussion**

- Meeting topic ideas from board members

**VIII. Presentations**

- Climate Migration Readiness Plan- Howard Miller, Lauren Clark
- BuildReady- Andrew Halt, Abby Couch, Department of City Planning and Engagement
- Climate Migration- Michael Roman

**IX. Next Meeting**

- The next EAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 3:00 PM.

**X. Adjournment**

**Agenda Packet Materials:**

-Draft meeting minutes from 04/29/2026

- Motion: Exploring the Welcoming City Accreditation

# Environmental Advisory Board

## Minutes of April 29, 2026

### **Members Present:**

- **In Person:** Carla Walker; Dave Schmitt; Douglas Walton; Ericka Copeland; Michael Roman; Van Sullivan
- **Virtual:** Andrew Musgrave; Ashlee Young; Briana Mazzolini-Blanchard; Emmy Schroeder; Kylie Johnson; Megan O’Keefe; Monica Perdomo; Nathan Alley; Nayana Shah; Sarah Kent; Susan Sprigg; Yasmine Allen

### **Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Oliver Kroner; Amanda Testerman; Erin Kabel; Nikki Vandivort, Howard Miller

**Meeting:** A meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was held on April 29, 2026, at 3:00 PM at Centennial II HR Conference Room B, 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

### **Meeting Agenda:**

#### **I. Public Comment**

- Larry Falkin- Impervious surface
- Yasmine Allen- How are humans allowed to interact with green spaces?

#### **II. Call to Order at 3:14 PM**

#### **III. Administrative Action\***

- Approval of March 25, 2026 – Meeting minutes

#### **IV. Presentations- Nikki Vandivort, OES**

- Presentation on Brownfields in priority investment areas

#### **V. Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments- Ollie Kroner, Howard Miller**

- **Energy Updates – Oliver Kroner**
  - Groundbreaking at Center Hill Landfill Solar Array on 4/24
  - Electric Aggregation Program selected a rate for 6-months instead of traditional 12-months due to fluctuations in energy market.
- **Recycling Update - Howard Miller**
  - USDA SWIFR Grant in final agreement on award of \$5 million dollars which will allow for replacement of 80k green residential recycling carts and recycling the old carts.
  - Focus on multi-family recycling through grant. Goal to provide recycling to 3000 multi-family units.
  - Program is focusing on expanding recycling in business districts with corner cans.

#### **VI. Information / Updates**

- EAB Memberships Update
  - Rico Blackman has resigned, leaving open term Jan 2026-Dec 2028

#### **VII. Items for Vote**

- None

#### **VIII. Open Discussion**

- Leveraged Fund Update

#### **IX. Next Meeting**

- Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 3:00 PM

#### **X. Adjournment at 4:21 PM**

### **Agenda Packet Materials:**

- Draft Meeting Minutes
- Presentation on Brownfields in priority investment areas

# City of Cincinnati



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**Meeka D. Owens**  
Cincinnati City Council

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**MOTION: Exploring the Welcoming City Accreditation**

**WE MOVE** that the City Administration be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to pursue the Certified Welcoming designation from Welcoming America on behalf of the City of Cincinnati.

Councilmember Meeka D. Owens

Councilmember Ryan James

## STATEMENT

The City of Cincinnati has a long and established history of welcoming immigrants and refugees whose contributions strengthen the civic, cultural, and economic fabric of the community. Data documented by Cincinnati Compass, a collaborative of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, the City of Cincinnati, and more than 65 community partners, demonstrates that recent population growth in the region is driven largely by immigrants and refugees relocating to Greater Cincinnati, underscoring the importance of a proactive and coordinated welcoming strategy for the City's long-term vitality.

In 2017, Cincinnati formally affirmed its status as a welcoming city and has since taken meaningful steps to support immigrant and refugee residents, including sustained investment in legal services through the Immigrant and Refugee Law Center beginning in 2018. These actions reflect a strong foundation upon which the City can further institutionalize immigrant inclusion.

The Green Cincinnati Plan includes a strategic priority to develop a "Climate Migration Response Plan." This work includes efforts to make newcomers of any background feel welcome and have ease in navigating our city and culture.

Welcoming America's **Certified Welcoming** designation provides a nationally recognized, evidence-based framework for local governments to assess and strengthen immigrant inclusion efforts across seven core areas: Civic Engagement; Connected Communities; Economic Development; Education; Equitable Access; Government and Community Leadership; and Safe Communities. The program's tiered one-to-five-star structure allows municipalities of varying capacity to demonstrate progress and continuous improvement.

The certification process—consisting of a self-assessment, desktop review, evaluative audit, and final report—offers an objective, third-party evaluation that highlights community strengths and identifies opportunities for growth. Cities such as Detroit, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Dayton report that achieving Certified Welcoming status has increased accountability, attracted regional and national investment, and embedded welcoming practices across government operations.

Cincinnati already benefits from a robust ecosystem of immigrant-serving organizations, faith institutions, schools, workforce development entities, legal aid providers, and business leaders whose work aligns closely with Welcoming America's standards. Leveraging this existing capacity through a formal certification process would provide a shared framework to align City departments, strengthen partnerships, and guide future policy and investment over the four-year certification period.

DR  
CAL-CCSTI  
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