



## Green Practices Commission

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 862-6767, Fax: (314) 863-9146

**MEETING OF THE GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Thursday, March 11, 2021  
5:30 p.m.**

**IMPOTANT NOTICE REGARDING  
PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING & PARTICIPATION**

**Green Practices Commission will Meet Electronically on March 11, 2021**

On March 20, 2020, City Manager Gregory Rose declared a State of Emergency for the City of University City due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due to the current order restricting gatherings of people and the ongoing efforts to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the March 11, 2021 meeting will be conducted via videoconference.

**Webinar** via the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86109266386?pwd=aXBRRXNOaTIYWEIBWVUeRQWk5MW1OZz09>

Passcode: 903919

**Audio Only Call:**

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +19292056099,,86109266386#,,,,,0#,,903919# or +13017158592,,86109266386#,,,,,0#,,903919#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 861 0926 6386

Passcode: 903919

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86109266386>

**Citizen Participation**

Those who wish to provide a comment during the “Public Comments” portion as indicated on the Green Practices Commission agenda: may provide written comments to Jenny Wendt ahead of the meeting.

ALL written comments must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.** Comments may be sent via email to: [jwendt@ucitymo.org](mailto:jwendt@ucitymo.org) or mailed to the City Hall – 6801 Delmar Blvd. – Attention Jenny Wendt, Senior Project Manager. Such comments will be provided to the Green Practices Commission prior to the meeting. Comments will be made a part of the official record and made accessible to the public online following the meeting.

Please note, when submitting your comments, a **name and address must be provided.** Please also note if your comment is on an agenda or non-agenda item, and a name and address are not provided, the provided comment will not be recorded in the official record.

The City apologizes for any inconvenience the meeting format change may pose to individuals, but it is extremely important that extra measures be taken to protect employees, residents board/commission members and elected officials during these challenging times.



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# AGENDA

## GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday March 11, 2021 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Round
3. Approval of Minutes: 02/11/2021
4. Special Presentations
  - a. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes for individual's comments and 5 minutes for representatives of groups or organizations)
5. New Business
  - a. Missouri Department of Conservation's Community Conservation Grant: Barbara Brain
  - b. Earth Day
6. Old Business
  - a. Anti-Litter Initiative
  - b. Oops Program Update (Feet on the Street)
7. Council Liaison Update
8. Closing Round
9. Adjournment



## Green Practices Commission

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Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

February 11, 2021 **DRAFT**

Location: Heman Park Community Center

Attendees Present: John Solodar (Chairperson), Barbara Brain, Jonathan Stitelman, Timothy Dugan, Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison), Stacy Clay (Council Liaison)

Attendees Absent: Liz Essman, Adam Staudt

1. Meeting called to order at 5:31pm
2. Opening Round
  - a. Barbara Brain indicated she watched Jenny present about the Mississippi River Plastic Pollution Initiative at the River des Peres Watershed Coalition annual meeting regarding a plastic waste reduction initiative.
3. 01/14/2021 meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections
4. Special Presentations
  - a. Blackbird Foundation Food Waste Audit results: Danielle Korman with the Blackbird Foundation reported the results of the Food Waste Audit (See attached slides).
  - b. Perennial City Composting Food Waste Composting Operations and Growth Ambitions: Tim and Beth Kiefer, owners of Perennial City Compost discussed their food composting operations. Many of their customers are University City residents. This is a service available for all University residents for approximately \$20 per month. Perennial City is looking for warehouse space as well as additional land for composting.
5. New Business
  - a. None
6. Old Business
  - a. None
7. Council Liaison Update:
  - A presentation was given to Council, MSD has proposed a rate increase; in April there will be a 3% increase in the MSD rates over the next 3 years on the ballot. This is bond financing. If this bond does not pass, the rates will increase 15% over the next 3 years. The council agenda packet is online with more information.
8. Closing Round
  - a. Barbara Brain mentioned that Mitch Leachman, Director of Programs for St. Louis Audubon Society, is leaving his position at the end of February. The St. Louis Audubon Society will still be committed to the Bring Conservation Home Program.
  - b. Jenny reported March 13<sup>th</sup> is the next electronics recycling event funded by a Solid Waste Management Grant. The first 100 TVs will be recycled free of charge.
9. Adjournment at 6:30 pm.

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# University City Food Waste Audit

The Blackbird Foundation

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# Review of the Process

1. Recruited Volunteers
  2. Distributed Kitchen Diaries, Instructions, and Kitchen Scales to each house
  3. Each house recorded food waste (edible and inedible) for 7 days over 4 weeks (10/25-11/19, skipping Thanksgiving week)
  4. Picked up materials
  5. Participants filled out online survey about food waste behaviors
  6. Sent out a gift card to a local business to each household upon completion of a kitchen diary and survey
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# Numbers

**49** households

**134** individuals

**5.54** lbs per household of discarded food parts (edible and inedible)

**2.69** lbs food waste per household of edible food

**3.95** lbs edible food per household (corrected)

**.98** lbs edible waste per person

**140** lbs edible food waste per household in 1 year

**41,609** lbs edible food waste in U City every week

**2,163,668** lbs edible food waste every year in U City

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# Survey: Barriers to reducing food waste

**5** main themes for “What do you think is the biggest barrier for reducing food waste?”

1. **Planning and Leftovers** (30% of responses)
  2. **Composting** (26%)
  3. **Buying too much** (26%)
  4. **Kids/Family** (11%)
  5. **Resources** (7%)
-

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### **Planning and Leftovers**

- Meal planning
- Storing leftovers
- Making smaller portions

### **Buying too much**

- Stores quantities too big for small households
- Many people struggle with eating produce before it goes bad

### **Kids/Family**

- Kids are hard to predict in what they will or won't eat and portion sizes
- Hard to control other family members' food waste habits

### **Composting**

- Not having time, knowledge, or space for a home compost
- Not wanting home compost to attract animals
- Not wanting to pay for a compost service
- Not having compost services provided by the city

### **Resources**

- Time
  - Knowledge
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# Composting

**30%** of

households  
compost at home

**2%** of households  
use a composting service

**5.9 lbs** total food wasted per household in 1 week that  
did not compost

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## Reasons participants list for not composting:

1. Time and/or knowledge (**47%**)
  2. Pests/smell (**23.5%**)
  3. Space (**20.5%**)
  4. Cost (**9%**)
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# COVID-19's Effect on Food Waste

**47%** thought COVID had **not affected** their food waste habits

**26.5%** thought their food waste **decreased** during COVID

**26.5%** thought their waste **increased** due to COVID

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# Food waste behaviors

**80%** had thought about reducing food waste before the study

Do you think the amount of edible food you throw out is more than, the same as, or less than the average American?

**41%** a little less

**44%** a lot less

**15%** the same

Considering the food thrown away in your household in the average week, how much of that food disposal do you think could be avoided (e.g. through planning meals ahead of time, changing food shopping habits)?

**33%** “A fair amount”

**44%** “A Little”

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## Food waste behaviors (cont.)

- **Most** participants made a shopping list consistently before going to the store
  - Most did **not** plan their meals before shopping
  - Respondents **mostly** tried to estimate how much of each item they would need before shopping
  - People did **not** usually stick to their shopping lists once at the store
  - **Fairly often** they would buy something unplanned because it looked good at the time
  - Purchasing more than they needed of an item because it was on sale or because it's cheaper to buy in bulk was **somewhat** of an issue
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## Food waste behaviors (cont.)

For most types of food, most participants smell or look at it to determine if it's good.

Top 3 types of food people said they would throw away if it was past the expiration date:

1. **Yogurt/sour cream**
  2. **Meat/fish**
  3. **Milk (tied with meat/fish)**
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# Campaign Partners



# Food Waste Campaign

**don't waste food.**

**'BEST BY' DOESN'T MEAN 'TOSS BY'!**

**OH SNAP!**

**Leftover portions today can be an emergency dinner tomorrow!**

Pop any extras from your meal into an airtight container, and store them in the fridge or freezer for another day. Pro tip: let them cool down before you store them away. This will stop our fridge/freezer getting too warm, and keep your food fresher for longer!

**#LoveFoodHateWaste #KeepCrushingIt #WasteLess #FoodTips #Food #Recipe #List #Shopping #Food #WasteLessFood #ReduceWaste #Foodwaste #Zerowaste #Zerowasteliving #Freeze #Storage #TopTips #FoodStorage #KitchenTips #EatSmart #KeepYourFoodFresh**

**savethefood** • Follow

savethefood If you've tossed food before it's gone bad, you're not alone! 90% of food gets thrown away too soon. Let's start reducing food waste this season. Get started at SaveTheFood.com! Link in bio! • .

**#SaveTheFood #Food #FoodWaste #EndFoodWaste #ZeroWaste #RescueFood #Reclaim #CookWithScraps**

58w

susanyazarlou @rasheen.a see, we're going to be fine!

58w Reply

186 likes

DECEMBER 23, 2019

Add a comment... Post

**lfhw\_uk** • Follow

lfhw\_uk Leftover portions today can be an emergency dinner tomorrow! 🍴👉👉

Pop any extras from your meal into an airtight container, and store them in the fridge or freezer for another day. Pro tip: let them cool down before you store them away. This will stop our fridge/freezer getting too warm, and keep your food fresher for longer!

**#LoveFoodHateWaste #KeepCrushingIt #WasteLess #FoodTips #Food #Recipe #List #Shopping #Food #WasteLessFood #ReduceWaste #Foodwaste #Zerowaste #Zerowasteliving #Freeze #Storage #TopTips #FoodStorage #KitchenTips #EatSmart #KeepYourFoodFresh**

45 likes

NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Add a comment... Post

THINK LIKE A  
FOOD WASTE  
WARRIOR



savethefood • Follow



savethefood 🥰 Start to think like a food-saving warrior. It's not as hard as you might expect!  
[Link in bio]  
#Savethefood #linkinbio #reducefoodwaste

81w



provisionstonourish 🌱 small changes easily become habits.



177 likes

JULY 17, 2019



Add a comment...

Post



Ifhw\_uk • Follow



Ifhw\_uk When it's chilly outside, winter warmer recipes are the perfect option 🍲

Stews, casseroles, and soups are great warming dishes which will also help you use up any leftover ingredients! Whether it's veggies, meat, stock, or beans, just add them all to the pot - you're bound to end up with something delicious 🥰🍲

What are your go-to stew ingredients?

#LoveFoodHateWaste #WasteLess #FoodTips #Food #Recipe #List #Shopping #Food #WasteLessFood #ReduceWaste #Foodwaste #Zerowaste #Zerowasteliving #TopTips #KitchenTips #FoodSaver



54 likes

NOVEMBER 25, 2020



Add a comment...

Post



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# Questions?





## **Public Works Department**

6801 Delmar Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

### **STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: March 11, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Missouri Department of Conservation Community Conservation Grant

Barbara Brain will discuss a proposed joint effort by U City in Bloom, the Green Center, and residents to apply for funding to remove invasive plants from Ruth Park Woods and return it to a healthier condition. Barbara would like to provide a summary to the Green Practices Commission for input and backing if applicable.



**Public Works Department**

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**STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: March 11, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Earth Day Activities

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The Commission will discuss possible COVID-friendly activities that can be supported for Earth Day, April 22, 2021.



## Public Works Department

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### STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 11, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Anti-Litter Campaign

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This topic been discussed in Green Practices Commission meetings since March 2020. The discussion at this meeting is to determine which activities that were proposed pre-COVID are still applicable, what resources are needed to successfully accomplish the activities, and a forward action plan.

#### **Background:**

- A commissioner drew up a draft plan of action. A follow-up meeting was held at City Hall. Participants of this meeting included a green practices commissioner: Liz Essman, Public Works staff: Jenny Wendt, Dennis Luckett, Code Enforcement: Tim Scott, Rachel White, Allison Bamberger, and several concerned citizens: Joel Minor, Naomi Silver, Beth Metzler, Emma Scharff, Sharon Logan (Lions Against Litter).
- Three action areas were identified: actions by the City, actions by citizens, and actions by private businesses. Actions to be discussed with private businesses will be coordinated with the Director of Economic Development.

#### **Proposed City actions are as follows:**

- Additional trash containers on Olive and crossroads of busy intersections, including North and South, Hanley, and Midland. The Sanitation Superintendent will determine the cost for new containers and if they can be budgeted.
- Municipal code property maintenance requirements will be reviewed to determine what businesses must do to keep property clean, as well as what can be encouraged. Multiple sections of code refer to litter, <https://www.ecode360.com/28290233>, <https://www.ecode360.com/28291137>, <https://www.ecode360.com/28291136>. Planning will investigate further.
- Create or reuse successful antilitter PR for roadway signs, signs for private business, and for schools. Public Works will work with Communications Director on this task and bring proposed signage back for approval consideration.
- Install anti-litter signs on Midland, Hanley, and North and South near Olive where litter tends to accumulate. Public Works/Streets will install these signs.
- Promote Adopt-a-Stop (bus stops), Adopt-a-Highway (MoDOT/Olive Blvd.), Adopt-a-Roadside (County roads). This can be promoted by Public Works and Communications.

- Invite Washington University to support this campaign. Public Works will initiate this conversation with JoAnna Schooler.
- Inquire about community service needs with U City courts and County courts to determine if there are people available for litter removal and what logistics are involved. Public Works will initiate this conversation.
- Promote the importance of property maintenance to businesses, including encouraging businesses to post signs on private property about litter. Economic Development will reach out to businesses about this.

**Proposed citizen actions are as follows:**

- Host clean-up events (with the city's support). One event already took place on October 30<sup>th</sup> by Christ the King 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and one is tentatively scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> by high school students. Public Works Sanitation Division supports these events by providing tools and supplies as available.
- Promote anti-litter campaigns at schools. Emma Scharff, the president of the High School's environmental club will discuss this with staff. Beth Metzler will discuss this with Catholic School staff, and Joel Minor will discuss this with his children's schools.
- Promote to schools the various contests that are currently available through MoDOT and the Missouri Department of Conservation, the "Trash Can contest" and "No More Trash! Bash" programs <https://www.nomoretrash.org/trash-can-contest>, <https://www.nomoretrash.org/trash-bash>. Emma, Joel, Beth, and Jenny can work on this.
- Lions against Litter will continue its successful actions (March – October monthly clean-up events).
- Encourage organizations possible litter removal events.

**Proposed private business actions are as follows:**

- Daily/regular litter removal.
- Sign up for an "Adopt-a" program.
- Add trash receptacles around property.
- Post anti-litter signage.

All the private business actions can be encouraged by Economic Development.

Litter is an issue everywhere. It will take a multi-faceted campaign to make changes. Making small changes with the involvement from multiple groups can add up to noticeable change. All parties mentioned above are aware of this plan and have agreed with their part of the action plan.

The order of proposed actions and a kick-off date needs to be determined.



**Department of Public Works**

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

**STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: March 11, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Recycling Anti-Contamination Program “Feet on the Street”

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The Commission will discuss the upcoming “Feet on the Street” anti-contamination program for a review of activities involved and proposed changes due to COVID.

**Background:**

Contamination is the number one cause of the increased cost of recycling. It is what caused China to discontinue accepting recyclable materials from the United States, and it is what is keeping commodity market values down. Education is always helpful, but a more robust campaign is what is needed for full effect.

The Recycling Partnership is a national nonprofit organization with many private partners. It has developed an anti-contamination program (the Oops! Program) that has proven to be successful in many cities, including Atlanta Georgia. This is a 5-step program; it starts with data gathering, creating communication materials, training staff (volunteers), deployment of program, and finally tracking, evaluating, and adjusting.

A toolkit provides step by step instructions and materials needed for the campaign. The preparation for the program takes 8 weeks, and the program itself takes another 8 weeks.

Utilizing \$45,000 in grant funds (approved by council 6/24/2019), the City will work with Republic Recycling Services to audit University City’s recycling loads to determine the “top issue” contaminants. Next will begin a vigorous educational campaign about these contaminants and the “Feet on the Street” Program. This campaign will clearly indicate the tagging and rejecting protocol of the program. This audit piece of the program will consist of staff, interns, and volunteers reviewing contents of carts and tagging them with an “Oops” tag if contamination is found. The resident will be notified that they will need to remove the unacceptable material and the container will be serviced on their next recycling service day the following week.

Through the Recycling Partnership’s experience, the tagging and rejection policy and has been proven to be the most effective process for long-term contamination reduction. This procedure of not returning to empty carts until the following week will no doubt result in displeased residents. However, with proper pre-education, consistent messaging and explanation for residents with questions, and strict adherence to the tag/reject/return the following week protocol, the program will run successfully as designed.

The “Feet on the Street” program is anticipated to be discussed with City Council at an upcoming Study Session. The deployment of the program is still being determined.