

**Village of Gurnee  
Environmental Sustainability Committee  
Minutes**

**DATE:** February 6, 2026  
**TIME:** 3:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Conference Room A at the Gurnee Village Hall located at  
325 N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee IL

**1. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**2. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- A. Karen called the meeting to order at approximately 3:34 p.m.
- B. Roll Call: Chair Karen Thorstenson, Brian Penticoff, Dan Helgren, Zoe Zweifelhofer, Anya Polanski, Emily Mokrzycki and Anissa Chaudhry
- C. Public in Attendance: None
- D. Officials in Attendance: Austin Pollack, Assistant to the Village Administrator

**3. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**4. Approval of the November 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Zoe made a motion to approve the minutes and Brian made a motion to second it. The group approved the minutes.

**5. New Business**

**6. Discussion Items**

**A. Upcoming Recycling Events:**

- 1. Shred Event - Saturday, April 11 from 10am to 12pm at the Village Hall**
- 2. Styrofoam Recycling - Saturday, April 18 from 10am to 1pm at the Public Works**
- 3. Compost Giveaway - Saturday, May 9 from 10am to 3pm at the Public Works**

Austin announced the events and stated that volunteers will be needed for both. Karen explained the details of each event and asked for volunteers as well.

**B. Green Gurnee Business Award Program Revamp**

Austin stated that we haven't got any applications in a while and said the past two awardees applied a while ago and were asked to. He stated that award was made under the old committee and this group has the opportunity to revamp it. Karen stated that the award has been around for a while and the awardees have make sure that they meet specific criteria. Karen asked the group to share information with businesses around town if committee members see a business carrying out sustainability efforts.

Anissa asked what do the businesses receive? Austin stated that they receive a certificate, sticker for a window and marketing in the newsletter and on the website.

### **C. SWALCO News: The Battery Network and Special Material Collections**

Austin stated that SWALCO had an article in its newsletter stating that beginning January 1st, all single-use and most rechargeable batteries will be accepted at some retail and government locations throughout the state. Austin said that SWALCO also had in its newsletter that they take fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and single use propane for a fee through their household hazardous waste recycling program. Brian stated that Best Buy and Home Depot also takes batteries.

### **7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **8. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:14pm.