



# INDEPENDENCE ★ MISSOURI ★

A GREAT AMERICAN STORY

## Sustainability Commission Minutes

January 15, 2026 5:00 PM

Truman Memorial Building - 416 W. Maple Ave

### CALL TO ORDER

Tony Sommer called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

### ROLL CALL

1. Attendance: Tony Sommer, chair, Madalyn Osborn, secretary, Maureen Kennedy, Carly Young, Dan McGraw, Cassandra Krul, Karen from KC Can Compost, two guests, and Josh Eis, staff. **The commission has one vacancy.**

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. December 10, 2025, Meeting Minute Approval

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as distributed. (Kennedy, Krul).

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Award for local business or individual update
  1. Commission to review 2025 submissions and vote on award recipients during the next meeting.
  2. Josh to purchase awards.
2. Award information:  
<https://form.jotform.com/240734299067060>

<https://www.independencemo.gov/government/city-departments/municipal-services/environmental-programs/sustainability-award>

Sustainability Commission information:

<https://www.independencemo.gov/government/city-departments/boards-and-commissions/current-boards-and-commissions/sustainability-commission>

3. Bike Ride of Historic Places – Postpone to 2026

1. Frontiers museum
2. Railroad Museum
3. Bingham Waggoner
4. Chicago Alton Depot

1. Postponed until next spring

4. KC Can Compost Information Update

1. Carly invited Karen to discuss Prairie Village vs KC composting initiatives.
2. About 25% of landfill waste is organic matter that could potentially be composted
3. KCCC has 2 main goals - education and advocacy and composting initiative, and green jobs program.
4. Encouraging backyard, at home composting is very important, along with services that KCCC provide.
5. Four Main Service types
  - i. Curbside pickup
    1. More expensive, higher emissions
  - ii. Dropoff location
    1. Centralized collection site, ideally somewhere people are already going, with cans (each can is about 3'x3', 64-gal)
    2. Can require a 'membership' with monthly fee (cost taken on by members)
    3. Can be municipally sponsored (city or region pays fee, accessible to those who live in those municipalities) - typically a flat monthly fee (ballpark guess, \$200-\$300), for weekly collection per can. Potential add-on fee for additional pickups per can. Could potentially use a custom billing approach.
      - Prairie Village example - using smart cans (ballpark cost \$400-\$500 monthly fee for weekly pickup) that require a person to register for the program, which uses an app to unlock cans. Allows for more data tracking but can be a barrier to entry. One of the more successful partnerships because PV had done a lot of prior work to 'socialize' the idea of residential composting and educate the community before the

bins opened. Data collected includes name & email of user when drop off occurs, weight of compost collected. Smart cans tend to have less contamination.

iii. Commercial collection services

1. KCCC picks up from businesses or organizations that contract the service.
  - KCMO Municipal buildings are doing this in conjunction with Mill collection bins.
  - Commercial customers in Independence include Chipotle and Starbucks, and one other local org.

iv. Education and advocacy events

2. KCCC recommends trying a mix of different services and can types to see what works best.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2025 Commission priorities

No discussion

**ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting Wed, January 15th, 2026 5PM

Meeting adjourned at 6:00PM