Environmental Affairs Board

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BOARDS, OR SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARDS, WORK TO ADVISE THEIR COMMUNITIES ON POLICY AND NEXT STEPS TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE OUTSIDE ENVIRONMENT IN THEIR SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES WHILE INCREASING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT.

Application Process

Members are usually recommended by another person on the board or by someone with a relationship to the board. Their application is then reviewed. They may be asked to interview and then they are approved by City council.

Joining the Board

The boards range from 7-12 members. Members must be members of the county in which the board goeverns. Board members come from a diverse professional and personal background interacting with the environment

Time Commitment

Public meetings are typically held once per month and usually last two hours. Community members are highly encourgaed to join and engage witht he efforts of the board.

Challenges of the Board

Lack of funding is often a challenge for the board to push their wishes along. All communication must be public so meetings are typically when they get the most accomplished. Community engagement is also a challenge.

Relevance to the Local Food System

These boards often interact with food waste, community gardening and composting efforts in the community.

Terms of Service

Each term lasts for three years. Members can be on the board for two terms if they wish.

Success in Sanford

A hazardous waste site was planned to be put in Sanford, NC. This waste site was going to be used to dispose of hazardous household waste such as insecticides. Sanford's Environmental Affairs Board came together and helped to prevent this site from being established in Sanford. The Board researched similar situations and their negative effect on the environmental health of other communities and shared their finding to prevent the site from being established. Through hard work and tenacity, Sanford's Environmental Affairs Board made an enormous positive impact on Lee County!