



**Environmental Advisory Board
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
3:30 PM**

130 Kearns Road
Small Conference Room
Snowmass Village, CO 81615

You can watch the meeting live online on our website at tosv.com.

Minutes

1. Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 4:08 pm.

Board Members Present: Gina McCrackin, Rebecca Paschal, Shashi Neerukonda, Mike Steiner, Joseph Goodman, Morgan Fixel.

Board Members Absent: Andrew Wickes.

Others present: Greg LeBlanc, Town Staff Board Liaison, Darryl Smith of Snowmass Water & Sanitation, Tom Fridstein, Town Council Liaison, Greta Brown, Theresa Cook and Rick Carroll, Town Staff.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.A. 12-02-25 EAB Draft Minutes

Rebecca Pascal moved to approve the Draft minutes. Joseph Goodman second.
Minutes approved.

3. C.O.R.E. Update

Gina McCrackin presented a comprehensive update on CORE's activities in 2025, reporting that of the \$300,000 contract, approximately \$96,550 in incentives were awarded (of \$200,000 available). This included six heat pump installations, one induction stove fuel switch, and one programmable thermostat. CORE completed three residential home energy assessments with three more pending, and one commercial building assessment.

McCrackin also noted that CORE led a grant application for the town totaling \$135,000 for the Green Goddess Building (not received) and submitted an Impact Accelerator grant application with ten other municipalities that could potentially bring up to \$400,000 to Snowmass for building retrofit projects.

Three funding proposals were considered by the board for CORE's 2026 funds. After

lengthy discussion, the board agreed to propose council provide an additional \$102,000 to the remaining funds from 2025 (\$50,000 for residential rebates, \$27,000 for energy advising, admin overhead, and \$14,000 for community engagement). They also agreed to propose an additional \$15,000 to develop a mandatory building performance standards program through CORE.

4. H.C.E. Update

Mike Steiner announced a rate increase effective April 1, 2026, affecting small commercial and residential members with a new \$1 demand charge. This is the first rate increase in approximately eight years, estimated at about 5% overall, driven by transmission project costs from Xcel Energy.

5. Items for Discussion

5.A. Snowmass Water & Sanitation Presentation

Daryl Smith presented a proposal to upgrade the Town Park irrigation system at a cost of \$80,000, with \$20,000 already committed by Snowmass Water & Sanitation as matching funds and \$10,000 in the town's department budget. The proposal requests \$50,000 from sustainability funds to complete the project, which would save approximately 1.5 million gallons annually and reduce water charges by approximately \$7,000 per year.

5.B. Town Council Meeting Update Preparation

The board compiled a recommendation for allocating the \$300,000 sustainability budget for 2026. After much discussion, the majority of the board agreed to recommend:

- \$115,000 for building efficiency and electrification through CORE (including \$15,000 for building performance standards)
- \$50,000 for the Town Park irrigation system upgrade
- \$25,000 for a composting consultant study
- \$15,000 for a construction/demolition waste pilot program
- \$100,000 for a sustainability coordinator position Board member

Joseph Goodman strongly objected to the CORE funding allocation, arguing that the emissions reduction impact (25 metric tons annually) was insignificant compared to the town's total emissions (144,000 metric tons).

6. Upcoming Agenda Items

7. Next Meeting Date

February 3, 2026.

8. Non-Agenda Items

Snowmass resident John Wilkinson inquired about the about the status of a potential ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. Greg LeBlanc clarified that the EAB had made a recommendation to Town Council to explore such a ban, but Council was waiting on potential state regulations before taking action. The resident was advised that he could appear at a Council meeting to express his support for moving forward with the ban.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:16 pm.