

City of Cincinnati

MSS

An Ordinance No. _____

EESW/EEF
-2023

ORDAINING Chapter 1041, “Environmental Advisory Board,” of Title X, “Environmental Code,” of the Cincinnati Municipal Code to establish the Environmental Advisory Board as a resource for the City in its ongoing commitment to enact policies, practices, and procedures that combat climate change, improve the health and well-being of our citizens and our environment, and position Cincinnati to be a leader in sustainability policy and city-level climate change initiatives.

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati established an Environmental Task Force in 1972 to advise and make recommendations to Council regarding actions the City could take to improve the environment; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 1975, the recommendations of the Environmental Task Force led to the establishment of the Environmental Advisory Council, with the City Manager selecting 25 citizens as members; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 1976, Council passed a resolution ratifying and approving creation of the Environmental Advisory Council to identify both immediate and long-term environmental issues and to alert City leaders regarding such issues; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Advisory Council was further tasked with developing and providing advice on specific issues, both internally generated and as requested by the City; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Advisory Council has served the City for nearly fifty years; and

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the Environmental Advisory Council, the City established the Office of Environmental Quality, which later became the current Office of Environment and Sustainability, whose mission is to advance the sustainability, equity, and resilience of our City; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the City adopted the first Green Cincinnati Plan, which has been renewed by the Mayor and Council three times; and

WHEREAS, the Green Cincinnati Plan is the City’s sustainability blueprint and set the groundwork for Cincinnati being recognized as an international leader in sustainability policy and city-level climate change initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Council again moved for renewal of the Green Cincinnati Plan in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Council would like to continue the City's productive engagement with community partners, stakeholders, and advocates to implement and oversee implementation of the recommendations in the Green Cincinnati Plan; and

WHEREAS, Council believes that the Green Cincinnati Plan should continue to be renewed from time to time, with the advice, assistance, and expertise of sustainability leaders and community stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Advisory Board will be tasked to oversee and advise on implementation of the Green Cincinnati Plan of 2023, working with the staff of the Office of the Environment and Sustainability, to solidify prioritization, timelines, partners, and potential funding sources for the Green Cincinnati Plan's recommendations; and

WHEREAS, consistent with these aims, Council wishes to refresh the purpose and role of the Environmental Advisory Council to assist the Office of Environment and Sustainability with implementation and oversight of the Green Cincinnati Plan, and to align its purpose with modern environmental sciences and policies by formalizing its mission and responsibilities in the Cincinnati Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Advisory Board authorized by this ordinance therefore will succeed the Environmental Advisory Council with the new purpose, mission, and structure set forth herein; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That Chapter 1041, "Environmental Advisory Board," of Title X, "Environmental Code," of the Cincinnati Municipal Code, is hereby ordained as follows:

Chapter 1041. – Environmental Advisory Board.

Sec. 1041-1. – Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the words and phrases defined in the sections hereunder shall have the meanings therein respectively ascribed to them, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the context.

Sec. 1041-1-G. – Green Cincinnati Plan.

"Green Cincinnati Plan" shall mean the Green Cincinnati Plan adopted by Council in 2018 and any successor plan approved by council.

Sec. 1041-1-O. – Office of Environment and Sustainability; Office.

“Office of Environment and Sustainability” or “office” shall mean the city’s office of environment and sustainability and any future city office or department that succeeds to the responsibilities of the office of environment and sustainability.

Sec. 1041-3. – Mission and duties of board.

- (a) The mission of the environmental advisory board is to promote awareness of environmental and sustainability issues in the city, serve as a public advocate for the office of environment and sustainability, and assist the office of environment and sustainability in implementing the recommendations of the Green Cincinnati Plan, including measuring the impact of the programs and initiatives identified therein.
- (b) The environmental advisory board shall have the following functions and duties associated with environmental and sustainability issues and programs:
 - (1) Recommending policies and strategies to implement the recommendations of the Green Cincinnati Plan;
 - (2) Measuring implementation of and impact to the community and region of the recommendations of the Green Cincinnati Plan;
 - (3) Preparing and distributing reports, which shall be filed with the clerk of council and the city manager, including at least an annual report regarding the city’s progress in implementing the recommendations of the Green Cincinnati Plan; and
 - (4) Providing advice and guidance regarding environmental and sustainability issues and policies, including implementation of the Green Cincinnati Plan, at the request of the director of the office of environment and sustainability, other members of the administration, or elected officials.

Sec. 1041-5. – Board membership, meetings, and governance.

- (a) The city manager shall appoint the members of the environmental advisory board. The environmental advisory board shall consist of a minimum of nine and a maximum of fourteen members, with a majority of currently serving members creating a quorum. The members shall be diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, and age, and shall be professionally involved in environmental and sustainability projects and issues or community advocates for such projects and issues. Members shall serve without compensation. The city manager shall take into account and reflect the priorities of the Green Cincinnati Plan when appointing members and shall prefer stakeholders who are personally or professionally focused on such priorities for appointment.
- (b) The director of the office of environment and sustainability or the director’s designee shall be an ex-officio board member who shall not vote and shall not count as one of the fourteen board members appointed by the city manager.

- (c) In the environmental advisory board's first year, the city manager shall appoint up to five members for a term of three years, up to five members for a term of two years, and up to four members for a term of one year, so that approximately one-third of the positions shall be eligible for renewal or replacement each year. Upon the expiration of the initial term of each member, each member's appointment may be renewed for up to two additional three-year terms. Members may hold over until the appointment of a successor member, but for not more than a period of six months. The city manager shall make appointments to fill vacancies caused by the death or resignation of members in unexpired terms.
- (d) The environmental advisory board shall meet on a quarterly basis or more frequently as needed. All meetings shall be public meetings.
- (e) The environmental advisory board is authorized to pass by-laws or other regulations governing the board, provided that such bylaws or regulations do not conflict with any provision of the municipal code.
- (f) The environmental advisory board, through its bylaws, shall establish a structure of standing committees with specific areas of responsibility for accomplishing the mission and duties of the board. The board shall elect a chair, who shall be responsible for setting the board's agenda. The chair shall consult with the director of the office of environment and sustainability in developing the board's agenda.

Section 2. That the proper City officials are authorized to do all things necessary and proper to carry out the terms of Section 1.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: _____, 2023

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk