

AGENDA

Orange County Commission for the Environment January 12, 2026

7:00 p.m., Bonnie B. Davis Environment and Agriculture Center

<u>Time</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Title</u>
7:00	I.	Call to Order
7:01	II.	Additions or Changes to Agenda
7:03	III.	Approval of DRAFT Meeting Summary – Nov. 10, 2025 The CFE will consider approval of meeting summary from the last meeting. <u>Action needed</u> (Attachment 1)
7:05	IV.	Nature of Orange Photo Contest Abby Mattingly will present the winning photos for this year's contest and request the CFE continue sponsorship. <u>Action Needed</u>
7:20	V.	CFE Annual Report and Work Plan The CFE will discuss the edits and inclusions for the Annual Report and Work Plan. Final Draft to be approved for January submittal. <u>Action Needed</u>
7:40	VI.	Climate Action Grant Petition The CFE will discuss supporting a petition written by BOCC member Sally Greene to expand the CCAG funds from the BOCC to include Climate Adaptation as well as Mitigation. <u>Action Needed</u>
8:00	VII.	State of the Environment Report Round Table The CFE Members will discuss status of SOE sub-topics, missing materials, and decide on emerging issues to cover. Tree Canopy Study explained. The study will require help from whole CFE.
8:15	VIII.	Sub-Committee Breakouts The CFE will break out into committee assignments and discuss goals/projects for the year. Committees will report on projects upon returning to the main meeting.
8:50	IX.	Updates and Information Items Staff and/or CFE members will provide updates on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee Summaries• CFE Environmental (RIPPLE) Awards Any other new information from CFE members and staff
9:00	X.	Adjournment <i>* Next Meeting Date: February 9, 2026; (Bonnie B Davis Environment and Agriculture Center)</i>

Orange County Commission for the Environment
Meeting Summary
November 10th, 2025; 7:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting

Present: Kristie Mather, Ian Morse, John Bucher, Regina Baratta, Aimee Vandemark, Patrick Fn’Piere, Mark Randall, Matthew Ferguson, Jeff Ryan, Margot Lester, Lily Schacht, Leto Copeley, Veronica Penn Beattie (Teams)

Absent: Mayur Lodaya, William Branch

Staff: Chris Hirni, Kalani Allen, Wesley Poole, Amy Eckberg, Melony Gilles, Karina Nabors (Teams)

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

Chair Regina Baratta called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

II. Additions or Changes to Agenda

None.

III. Approval of DRAFT Meeting Summary – October 13th, 2025

Motion to approve by Matthew Ferguson; seconded by Mark Randall; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed.

IV. CFE Membership and Introductions of New Members

Chair Regina Baratta introduced the newest member to join the CFE, Leto Copeley. The group went around the room and introduced staff and current members. The group then discussed next year’s Chair and Vice-Chair. Aimee Vandemark motioned to keep Regina Baratta as Chair; seconded by Jeffrey Ryan; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed. Lily Schacht motioned to keep Ian Morse as Vice-Chair; seconded by Kristie Mather; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed. Chair Regina Baratta asked recent addition members to be thinking about which sub-committee they would like to join.

V. CFE Environmental Awards

Amy Eckberg notified the group that everything was ready to go on the CFE Environmental Awards. The Ripple awards are on track to roll out the first of December and the application submittal timeframe will be December 1st thru February 1st.

VI. 2025 Climate Action Grant

Orange County Commission for the Environment
Meeting Summary
November 10th, 2025; 7:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting

The group finished up grant application discussions and decided how to allocate the \$267,750 between the selected applicants. Chair Regina Baratta motioned to approve the selections / allocations; seconded by Lily Schacht; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed. The group will continue working on feedback comments for the applicants. They also began discussing potential improvements needed for next year's scoring, but they tabled that to a later date.

VII. CFE Annual Report and Work Plan

The group began discussing the Annual Report and Work Plan. Chris Hirni showed everyone the new, simplified template and noted that it was more focused on goals and recent achievements vs. more dated achievements. They will work on it in preparation for a deadline to the Clerk's office by Friday, January 16, 2026.

VIII. Sub-Committee Breakouts

The CFE decided to skip Sub-Committee Breakouts due to a time shortage.

IX. Updates and Information Items

- Chair Regina Baratta asked for volunteers to help her began sorting through the State of the Environment Report data and several members volunteered.
- Melony Gilles reminded the group of the upcoming Repair Café on November 15th.
- Amy Eckberg notified the group that they were co-writing an Agrivoltaics Grant with Cooperative Extension for \$765,000.
- Amy Eckberg notified the group of the projects that their (3) Sustainability Interns were currently working on.
- Chair Regina Baratta asked if members would like to bring refreshments to the December meeting and most said they were interested.
- Chair Regina Baratta notified the group that the Hillsborough Climate Challenge would be happening again in 2026 and encouraged partnering for ideas.
- Kalani Allen reminded the group that the Trees for the Triangle Giveaway would be happening on November 30th in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation.

X. Adjournment

Chair Regina Baratta motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 pm; seconded by Margot Lester; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed.