



Environmental Commission
Township of Teaneck
Bergen County, NJ

May -December 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Goals

May -December 2024* Annual Report and 2025 Goals of the Teaneck Environmental Commission were approved during the Environmental Commission Zoom meeting [held on December 18] 7:30 pm.

*The Teaneck Environmental Commission [2023 Annual Report](#) includes January 2023-April 2024 activities.

May – December 2024 Environmental Commission Annual Report:

- May 19. The EC participated in the Bergen County Earthfest in Overpeck Park. The table included a recycling game to guess which plastics *were not* recyclable, a Leave the Leaves flyer and held a raffle to give away compost bin.
- The EC reviewed and approved the [Teaneck Environmental Resource Inventory](#) (ERI) on March 12. EC Chair submitted the ERI to the Teaneck Planning Board (PB) for approval in March and, on May 9, the PB approved the ERI and agreed to include it as an appendix to the current draft and final version of the new Teaneck Master Plan.
- The EC and Teaneck DPW implemented two successful Town Clean Ups on April 14 and October 6. Together, the EC and DPW promoted the event through the Township website, Nixle, social media and through community organizations. The DPW staff provided shuttle buses to the Clean Up locations, all pick up equipment and a Pizza party after the Clean-up. A significant amount of trash was picked up. In addition to litter, residents discovered most of the Clean Up locations contain illegally dumped large household appliances and other large items including bicycles, tires, mattresses and mattress springs, shopping carts. Resident Clean Up volunteers requested the DPW install no Dumping and Littering signs at the Clean Up locations and fines imposed for illegal dumping. They also requested the DPW schedule a third Clean Up be scheduled on a Saturday in 2025.
- In July 2024 Dillon was appointed as EC Chair and Gillers as EC Vice Chair.
- In anticipation of the launch of a new Township website, EC members Browning, Dillon and Turner submitted new EC webpage content and design suggestions to the Township clerk. The new website and [EC webpage](#) launched in August 2024.
- On August 13, on behalf of the EC, EC member Klatsky, submitted public comments (publicly solicited by the Township Manager) via email to Jaclyn Hashmet, Township Manager and publiccompliance@dep.nj.gov requesting specific environmental mitigation strategies for the rebuild of the Route 4 bridge over Palisade Avenue, CSW

and Belle Avenue. EC strategies included pedestrian and bicycle pathways and with the proposed Green Acres diversion acquisition of additional land for Argonne Park as an opportunity to clean up the area and the adjacent woods, develop quality pathways and quiet spaces for these precious lands. A copy of these comments is available from envcomm@teanecknj.gov.

- On November 26 EC submitted recommendations to strengthen the language regarding Stormwater Management and Mitigation strategies for the new Master Plan. A zoom call was held December 2nd with EC members Dillon, Klatsky, Kohn and Spielman, members of the planning Board and a representative from Phillips Preiss to discuss the EC 's comments for the Master Plan and align on a final draft. [The final draft](#) was posted publicly December 5th on the Township website. The next Planning Board Master Plan public hearing (canceled December 12 with tentative reschedule on January 30, 2025)
- During the EC meeting on November 20th Neighborhood Compost presented options for Teaneck to pilot a resident compost program. The EC will draft a proposal and budget to submit Township Council to pilot this program in Teaneck.

2025 Teaneck Environmental Commission Goals:

- Organize and implement three Township Clean Ups with the Teaneck DPW
- Provide Public Education on topics such as recycling, composting, resident lawn management, sustainable lifestyle strategies
- Continue advocating for improvement of Township Stormwater Infrastructure and Management
- Renew/Upgrade Sustainable NJ status
- Seek funding for Pocket Park initiatives to improve resident access and/or usability of Teaneck open spaces
- Pilot neighborhood compost program