

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Committee Chair Kaul called the committee to order at 7:23 p.m.

PRESENT: 11        ATKINS, CASWELL, GILES, KAUL, METZGER, MUNN,  
POLASEK, REDL, SHAH, VALDÉS SMITH, WINSBY

ABSENT: 1         ALEXANDER

PRESENT/LATE: 0

QUORUM PRESENT

**Presentations and Reports**

Chair Kaul reported that the Earth Day celebrations throughout the County were very successful.

**Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items**

Sandy Stratton-Gonzalez of Fishkill spoke in favor of Resolution 86.

Nancy Severns of Poughkeepsie spoke in favor of Resolution 86, on behalf of the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council.

Regina Klein of Poughkeepsie spoke in favor of Resolution 86.

Leila Klayfat of Wappinger spoke in favor of Resolution 86.

Theo Reisen of Poughkeepsie spoke in favor of Resolution 86.

**Resolutions considered out of numerical order will be placed in numerical order for fluidity**

**2026083** Consenting to the Issuance by the Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority of Its Service Agreement Revenue Notes and Bonds

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Legislator Lawler asked if someone from WWA could speak to the Resolution.

Jonathan Churins of the Wastewater Authority explained that there is a PFAs contamination in the Quaker Hill water system.

The Environment Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislator Alexander absent.

**2026084** Appointment to Water and Wastewater Authority

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Legislature Chair Valdes Smith spoke in favor of the Resolution and clarified that the appointment is a joint appointment between the Legislature Chair and the County Executive.

The Environment Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislator Alexander absent.

At this time, Committee Chair Kaul invited Committee Vice Chair Winsby to Chair the remainder of the Committee Meeting.

**2026086** Re: Local Law No. \_\_ of 2026, a Local Law Requiring Food Service Establishments to Provide Single-Use Foodware and Condiment Packets Only upon Request

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Legislator Lawler spoke in favor of the Local Law.

Committee Chair Kaul spoke as author of the Local Law in favor of the Local Law.

Legislator Shah spoke in favor of the Local Law and thanked Legislator Kaul for bringing it forward.

Leader Polasek thanked Legislator Kaul for the legislative intent and for productive conversations on this Local Law. He expressed concern about the impact on the customer experience.

Leader Metzger expressed concerns but optimism that the Local Law will succeed.

Leader Atkins spoke in favor of the Local Law.

Legislator Drago spoke in favor of the Local Law.

Legislature Chair Valdes Smith spoke in favor of the Local Law and thanked Legislator Kaul for bringing it forward. She highlighted a win-win for businesses and the environment.

Legislator Brendli spoke in favor of the Local Law.

Chair Kaul spoke about the intent of creating a behavioral shift.

Legislator McHoul asked why health care facilities would be exempt.

Legislator Kaul replied that the exemption is due to medically-oriented reasons.

The Environment Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislator Alexander absent.

There being no further business, Committee Chair Kaul adjourned the Committee meeting at 8:00 p.m.