

Public meetings on leaf burning scheduled for Elkhart County

Although the autumn season is a distant memory now, discussions about leaf burning in Elkhart County are just getting started. Public meetings on the topic are scheduled for early January.

Leading the project is consulting firm enFocus, working in close partnership with the Elkhart County Solid Waste District and the Elkhart County Commissioners. As part of the effort, a small Task Force of governmental, education, and residential representatives has been discussing potential alternatives since November.

“As the population of Elkhart County densifies, and with an increasingly large aging population susceptible to respiratory issues, we’re hoping to find a cost-effective alternative to leaf burning that will enhance public health and quality of place,” remarked Allison Turner, an enFocus fellow working on the project. “We have a few ideas already, and are now excited for the public to provide their feedback and let us know which options they think we should test next year.”

The goal is to execute small-scale tests of potential options in the spring, and then to roll out the most effective options county-wide in the fall.

The public is welcome to attend one of three meetings:

- Thursday, January 11, at 6:30pm at Elkhart County Fairgrounds – Ag Hall (17746 County Road 34, Goshen, IN 46528)
- Tuesday, January 16, at 6:30pm at Elkhart County Public Services Building (4230 Elkhart Road, Goshen, IN 46526)
- Thursday, January 18, at 6:30pm at Osolo Elementary School – Library (24975 County Road 6, Elkhart, IN 46514)