

Village of Atlantic Beach Sustainability Committee 2026 Initiatives

MARCH 9, 2026



MEETING PROGRAM



- Bring Back Native Plant Species
- Revise the Approved Street Tree List
- Restore Ocean Beach Dunes
- Reduce Noise and Air Pollution
- Protect the Health of Residents and Pets
- Expand Recycling Options and Promote Composting
- Upgrade the West AB Walking Trail
- Enforce AB's Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags

A stylized, monochromatic illustration of a plant branch with several large, rounded leaves and a central cluster of smaller, pointed leaves. The illustration is rendered in a golden-brown color against a solid, darker orange background. The leaves are arranged in a fan-like pattern, with some overlapping.

Bring Back Native Plant Species

Reviving Native Plant Life

Ecosystem Support

Native plants provide vital resources for birds, bees, and butterflies, strengthening the beach ecosystem and promoting biodiversity.

Low Maintenance Beauty

Native species are attractive and durable, requiring minimal water and upkeep for sustainable landscape solutions.

Enhanced Public Spaces

Planting native species at entrances, parking endpoints, and Village Hall boosts habitat health and visual appeal.



A stylized, semi-transparent graphic of a tree branch with several large, rounded leaves, positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page. The graphic is rendered in a golden-brown color against a solid, muted orange background.

Revise the *Approved Street Tree List*



Expanding Street Tree Choices

Limited Tree Options

Only three small ornamental tree species are currently allowed, restricting resident choices and landscape diversity.

Benefits of More Choices

Expanding the approved list gives residents more options and encourages a mix of tree species on streets.

Promoting Tree Health

Greater tree diversity reduces the risk of widespread disease and creates healthier, more beautiful residential streets for the future.



A large, stylized graphic of a leaf or plant branch, rendered in a golden-brown color, set against a solid orange background. The leaf has several large, rounded lobes and a central vein structure.

Restore Ocean Dunes



Restoring Ocean Beach Dunes

Impact of Superstorm Sandy

Superstorm Sandy caused severe damage to beach dunes, weakening their natural protective function for coastal communities.

Dunes as Natural Barriers

Beach dunes act as essential barriers against storms, minimizing property loss and safeguarding coastal habitats and plant life.

Importance of Restoration

Restoring and managing dunes ensures long-term coastal resilience and secures their role as vital infrastructure for barrier islands.

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Reduce Noise and Air Pollution

Reducing Noise and Air Pollution

Impact of Noise Pollution

Gas-powered leaf blowers generate disruptive noise, causing distress and lowering quality of life for communities.

Health Risks from Emissions

Toxic emissions from gas-powered leaf blowers threaten the health of landscape workers and nearby residents.

Community Action for Clean Air

Restricting or banning gas-powered leaf blowers helps promote a healthier environment without losing essential benefits.



A large, stylized, golden-brown leaf graphic is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image. The leaf has a central vein and several smaller veins branching out, creating a detailed but soft-edged silhouette. The background is a solid, dark orange color. The text is located in the lower left area, below the leaf graphic.

Protect the Health of Residents and
Pets



Safeguarding Health Together

Protecting Residents and Pets

Reducing chemical fertilizers and pesticides minimizes health risks for both people and their pets in the community.

Supporting Beneficial Insects

Harmful chemicals can impact pollinators and other helpful insects, disrupting the natural balance of the environment.

Switching to Organic Alternatives

Organic options are affordable and accessible, empowering homeowners to build a healthier community for everyone.



A large, stylized graphic of a leaf or branch, rendered in a golden-brown color, set against a solid orange background. The leaf has several pointed lobes and a central vein structure.

Enhanced Recycling of Glass and Plastic



Enhancing Waste Management

Expanding Glass Recycling

Including glass products in recycling programs can greatly decrease the amount of waste sent to landfills and support sustainability.

Advocacy for Policy Change

Lobbying local authorities to allow glass recycling supports environmentally friendly practices and aligns with modern waste management goals.

Promoting Home Composting

Distributing free composting bins encourages residents to reduce organic waste and adopt eco-friendly habits at home.



Upgrade the West AB Walking Trail

Enhancing AB Walking Trail

Scenic Views and Wildlife

The trail provides breathtaking views and is home to various sea birds, making it attractive to nature enthusiasts.

Accessibility Challenges

Currently, parts of the trail require scrambling over rocks, limiting access for many visitors.

Benefits of Trail Upgrades

Improving the trail would enhance access while preserving the dune environment, inviting more people to explore this hidden gem.



A large, stylized graphic of a leaf or plant branch in shades of orange and yellow, positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page. The background is a solid, muted orange color.

Enforce AB's Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags

Enforcing Plastic Bag Ban



- Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags
 - Strict enforcement of the ban on single-use plastic bags ensures compliance with environmental regulations and reduces plastic pollution in the community.
- Fee for Alternative Bags
 - Retailers and restaurants can charge a five-cent fee for alternative bags, encouraging customers to bring their own reusable bags.
- Switching to Paper Straws
 - Encouraging businesses to transition from plastic to paper straws increases sustainability and reduces further environmental harm.



Conclusion