

# UPCOMING IN 2022...

-  **RECYCLING:** Data collection, trip to the regional recycling facility, increased educational efforts for residents
-  **TREES:** Arbor Day celebration, Fall tree giveaway, activities in partnership with Keep Belmont Beautiful, tree ordinance review
-  **BEES:** Pollinator garden installation/completion, pollinator event for National Pollinator Month, pesticide training for Bee City USA
-  **ENERGY:** Data collection, continued research for smart saving opportunities for the city, and potential energy rebates

- ## BOARD MEMBERS
- ROB WILHITE, *chair*
  - DOUG EHLERS, *vice chair*
  - BECKY CARPENTER
  - JENNIFER FORTENBERRY
  - SHARON JOHNSTON
  - TED MCGAVRAN

### SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

- TEDDI DANIELS  
*bee subcommittee*
- JONATHAN TAYLOR  
*tree subcommittee*
- JULIE WYATT  
*tree subcommittee*

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES WITH ESB REPRESENTATION

- Open Space Steering Committee
- Pedestrian Plan Update Steering Committee

# 2021 YEAR END REPORT






The Environmental Sustainability Board serves as an advisory board to the City Council regarding environmental sustainability issues such as tree protection and urban forestry, recycling, pollinators, and energy.

## AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- TREE CITY USA** for the **14<sup>th</sup>** year in a row
- TREE CITY USA GROWTH AWARD** for the **2<sup>nd</sup>** year in a row
- BEE CITY USA** for the **2<sup>nd</sup>** year in a row

In 2021, the ESB pushed out its annual survey to receive feedback from the community on the board's initiatives and priorities.

-  A majority of respondents (**67%**) said they have a good understanding of what should/should not be in the recycling bin.
-  Out of all respondents, 60% expressed interest in **existing home and business energy efficiency tips and tricks**.
-  Less than half of respondents were aware of the **tree protection ordinance** and our **Tree City USA** designation.

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

When asked for the ESB's top priority, **44%** of respondents chose trees, **28%** chose recycling, and **14%** chose energy.

## SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

In 2021, the ESB wanted to increase its presence online by sharing educational resources.

- 25 POSTS**
- 32 COMMENTS**
- 330 LIKES**
- 103 SHARES**





## BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

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-  704.901.2084
-  [www.cityofbelmont.org/environmental-sustainability-board/](http://www.cityofbelmont.org/environmental-sustainability-board/)

# SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES





## RECYCLING

MEMBERS: BECKY, DOUG, ROB, & JENNIFER

-  In 2021, the recycling subcommittee assisted city staff throughout the **recycling provider** selection process. This included reviewing the RFP document/contracts and helping select the city's provider.
-  During the recycling contract renewal process, the subcommittee focused on the types of **educational material** offered and ensured that was a priority for the city.
-  Throughout the 2021, the subcommittee continued to work to educate residents on **recycling smart** with the goal of keeping Belmont's contamination rates low.
-  This year, the subcommittee began to monitor and track the city's **recycling rates** to better help educate in the future.

## TREES

MEMBERS: BECKY, DOUG, SHARON, JULIE, & JONATHAN

-  In 2021, the tree subcommittee held three events to celebrate Earth Day/Arbor day. These events contributed to the 2021 Tree City USA requirements and now, designation.
-  **Contactless tree giveaway** The subcommittee celebrated North Carolina's Arbor Day in March by giving away almost **100** redbud saplings to Belmont residents.
-  **Virtual Live Panel Discussion** The subcommittee hosted a virtual live panel discussion with local environmentalists, which focused on "Getting the most out of your outdoor space."
-  **Virtual Art Contest** The subcommittee hosted a virtual art contest with local elementary school students. The theme was **Tree Creatures** and winners were presented awards and gift cards at the May city council meeting.




## BEEES

MEMBERS: SHARON & TEDDI

-  In 2021, the bee subcommittee hosted a virtual live panel discussion (themed **How To: Bees 101**) to celebrate **National Pollinator Month**. This event consisted of both local and national bee experts to help residents be more "bee friendly" in their backyards.
-  The subcommittee partnered with Belmont Community Garden to install a water line to serve both the community garden and future pollinator garden. Together, the group raised **\$1800** through private donations for the water source.
-  Now that the water source is installed, the **pollinator garden** planning has begun. This includes funding, site layout, and installation.
-  The subcommittee is working to establish gardens throughout town by partnering with **local schools** and educating the students about bees.

## ENERGY

MEMBERS: ROB, JENNIFER, & TED

-  The energy subcommittee hosted a live webinar in October to celebrate **National Energy Awareness Month**. The panel members consisted of representatives from Duke Energy and Dominion Energy. The webinar focused on how to invest in reducing residents' **energy costs** and **environmental footprint**.
-  This subcommittee assisted city staff with the location selection for the **electric vehicle charging stations** grant the city received.
-  In 2021, members of this group worked on gathering the city's **energy usage data** and explored potential energy rebates, with the intent of reducing the city's energy usage over time.