



Sustainability Commission

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Sustainable Kent News

The latest on sustainability efforts in Kent



Happy Earth Month to all! Earth Day (April 22nd), and the associated Earth Month of April, is a great time to reflect on and celebrate sustainability efforts in Kent and our region.

Did you know that the first Earth Day was organized as a demonstration in the Spring of 1970? It was created by Senator Gaylord Nelson to highlight issues of pollution and the need for legal and regulatory mechanisms to help protect our environment. The resulting demonstrations led directly to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in December of 1970, and the eventual passage of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. Learn more about the important history of Earth Day at <https://www.epa.gov/earthday> .

Here in Kent, and in the spirit of Earth Month, the City is excited to share some updates on its Climate Action Plan work and other sustainability efforts. Be sure to read on below for those highlights!

This edition also has a great line-up of articles, events, and additional program information. The Calendar section is chock-full of wonderful ways to enjoy our vibrant downtown, the beautiful Cuyahoga River, and sustainable ways to connect with our community.

Should you ever have questions, comments, and/or suggestions related to the City’s Climate Action Plan or other sustainability work, please feel free to contact the City’s Sustainability Coordinator, Julie Morris, at: julie.morris@kentohio.gov.

CHRONICLING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Earth Month Celebration! A round-up of highlights on various sector strategies for the City’s Climate Action Plan work.

The City has been working hard on implementing the Climate Action Plan (CAP) that was adopted in April of 2023. The following are a few highlights from several of the plan’s strategic focus areas, and a look at where we’re headed.

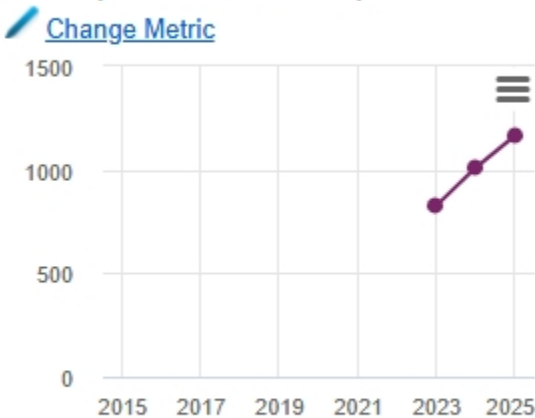
- **Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHG) Update:**

- The City’s last GHG update was completed in 2023 for the data year 2022. The update indicated the City’s largest areas of emissions are to be found in the Stationary Energy and Transportation sectors. As such, much of our implementation work so far has focused on CAP strategies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in these sectors. The City will be conducting another GHG Inventory update this year for the data year 2025 in order to check our progress and inform future CAP and sustainability planning. Be sure to visit the City’s [Greenhouse Gas Inventories webpage](#) to learn more about our completed inventories and stay tuned for more information on the latest update!

- **Stationary Energy Strategies Highlights:**

- Energy Star Portfolio Manager – The City works to track the energy use of a select group of City-owned facilities. This benchmarking allows the City to view progress of energy efficiency and other initiatives related to those facilities over time. The City began tracking this data in 2024, with 2023 annual electric and natural gas usage data providing the baseline. 2025 usage data has been finalized and entered into the system, revealing the increase in GHG emissions we expected to see with the construction of City Hall beginning in 2023, and bringing it online into the City’s facility portfolio for 2025. We expect the increase trend to level off, and eventually drop as we continue to reduce emissions through CAP work over the coming years.

Total (Location-Based) GHG Emissions Trend (Metric Tons CO2e)



Portfolio Average Total (Location-Based) GHG Emissions Intensity

+0.92 ▶ Change in Average Total (Location-Based) GHG Emissions Intensity
6.4 ▶ Current Average Total (Location-Based) GHG Emissions Intensity
5.49 ▶ Baseline Average Total (Location-Based) GHG Emissions Intensity

Properties Included: 13

(Chart current as of 04/14/2026 11:11 AM EDT)

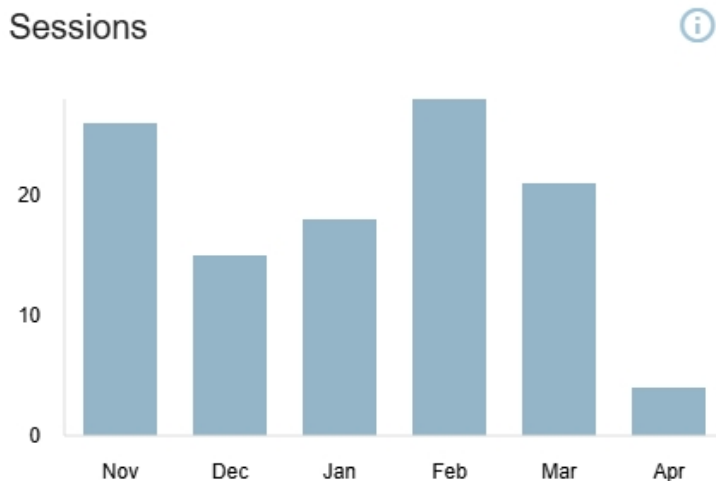
Refresh Chart

- **Stationary Energy Strategies Highlights continued:**

- LED transitions for municipal lighting – The City has a current policy to replace lighting that has reached its end of life with LEDs, and a downtown lighting study is currently underway by the City’s Engineering Department.
- The City continues to work with consultants Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) to explore a solar project at the 800 Mogadore brownfield site here in Kent. CEC is working on a proposed solar array configuration for the site. The project will be subject to State legal and legislative viability, and associated legislation is currently under State committee review.

- **Transportation Strategies Highlights:**

- The Electric Vehicle Stations at City Hall continue to offer charging benefits to those using them, and are providing beneficial emission offsets! As of April 13, 2026, the following images show the trends of station session use for the last six months, and the amount of GHGs avoided since the stations came online in April 2025.



Environment

Lifetime

Here's how EV charging has helped:



You've avoided 1,513kg greenhouse gas emissions



That's like planting 39 trees and letting them grow for 10 years

- **Transportation Strategies Highlights:**

- The City of Kent—working alongside valued community partners—is enhancing connections between neighborhoods and key destinations across the region. The goal is to provide residents with more convenient options for getting where they need to go, including safe and sustainable ways to travel without relying on a car. In recognition of these continual efforts, the League of American Bicyclists honored the City of Kent with a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community Award on January 29th, 2026. This is a significant improvement from its Honorable Mention designation awarded by the League of American Bicyclists to the City of Kent in 2020. Read more about this exciting achievement at: [Biking and Active Transportation | City of Kent](#)



- The Engineering Department has several ongoing projects that will work to improve active transportation, pedestrian safety, and contribute to GHG emission reduction in Kent. Learn more about and follow updates for these projects at the following links:
 - [East Main Street Project | City of Kent](#)
 - [North Mantua Street Improvement Project | City of Kent](#)
 - [St. Rt. 59 Alternative Transportation Improvements | City of Kent](#)
 - [Active Transportation | City of Kent](#)

- **Waste Strategies:**

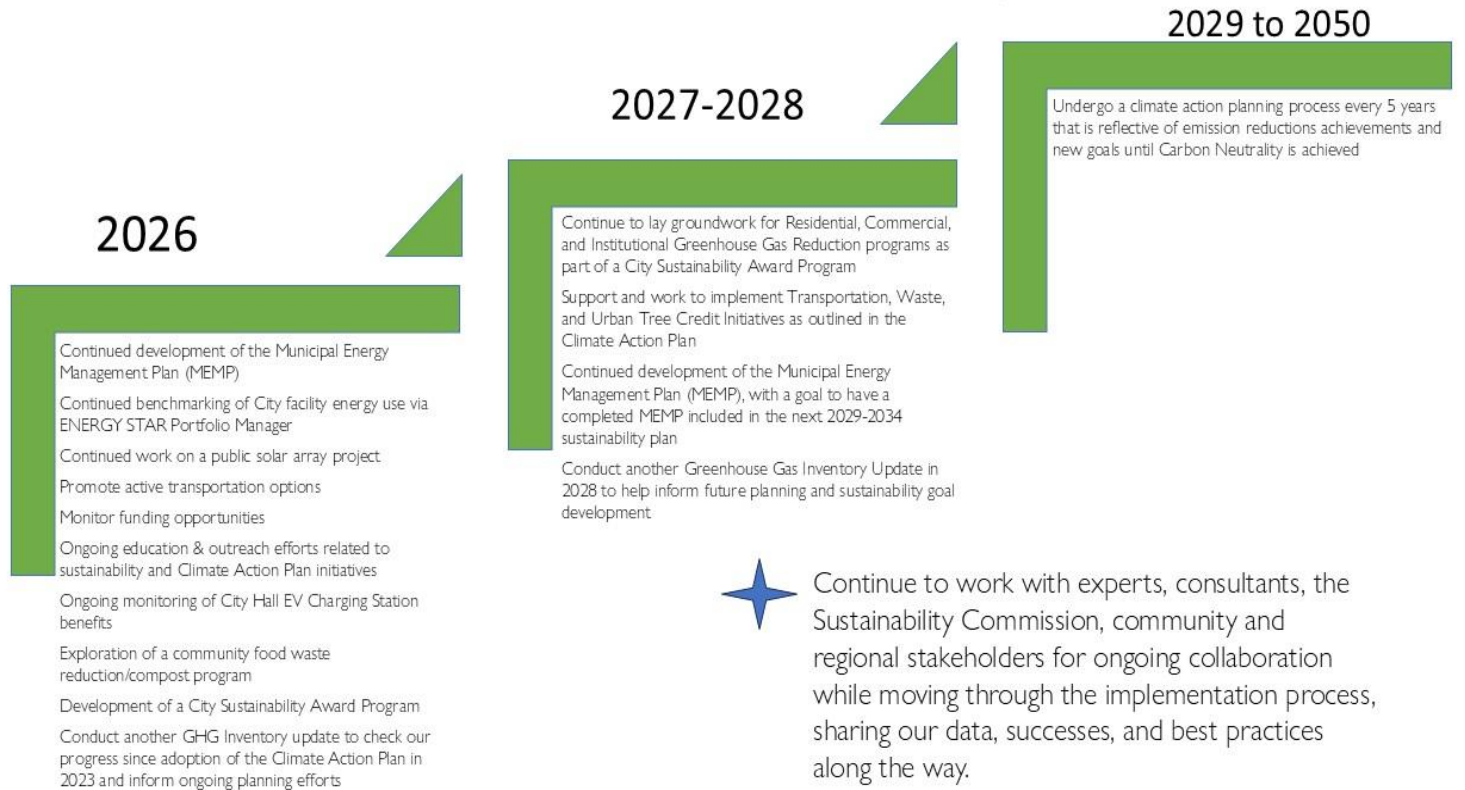
- The City is part of a group of local and regional stakeholders exploring the development of a food waste diversion program. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available to share!

- **Education & Outreach:**

- The City’s Sustainability Commission is working to raise awareness around issues of light pollution, encourage sustainability efforts in the community, and is working to provide educational events around different aspects of sustainability. Stay tuned as more activities and information for Summer 2026 and the Fall’s October Sustainability Month become available.
- The City continues to share information about the CAP and other sustainability efforts at a variety of tabling events throughout the year.
- The City’s Sustainability List-serv continue to grow! Currently, there are 210 folks signed up to receive the Sustainable Kent e-newsletter, as well as additional information and updates about the City’s sustainability work via the list-serv. If you know of anyone who would like to sign-up, please direct them to <https://www.kentohio.gov/business-building-development/sustainability-overview/sustainable-kent-e-newsletter/> for further instructions on how to sign up.

These are just a few interesting highlights from current CAP work, and there is so much more on the horizon! Please view our timeline in larger detail online at [CAP Implementation Timeline | City of Kent](#).

Where We're Headed: 2026 and beyond

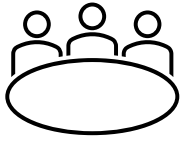


VISIT OUR SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW WEBPAGE!

The City has a webpage to highlight its sustainability work and keep the community posted about related Climate Action Plan implementation progress, programs, news, events, and more!

Visit: <https://www.kentohio.gov/business-building-development/sustainability-overview/>

AROUND THE CITY



Go Dark: International Dark Skies Week | April 13-20, 2026
By: MaryJayne Stone, Sustainability Commission Member

Have you ever stepped outside into the dark of night hoping to observe the moon, planets and stars above but can only see a handful of the very brightest celestial bodies? Then we are faced with deciding if we should get into our cars and drive to a darker place to increase our chances of enjoying the beauty of the night sky. The problem here is finding a darker place is becoming harder to find due to increasing light pollution, and many of us are unable to see the billions of stars in our Milky Way above.

According to DarkSky International, [light pollution](#) is “the human-made alteration of outdoor light levels from those occurring naturally.” Some examples of light pollution include: **Sky Glow** which is the brightening of the night sky preventing us from seeing more than the moon, a planet or two and a few stars. **Light Trespass** is unwanted light spilling onto properties and into bedroom windows. **Glare** caused by excessive brightness that actually reduces visibility and causes visual discomfort.

[International Dark Sky Week](#) is held every year during the week of the new moon in April ensuring a darker night sky for ideal stargazing and this year it will be observed from April 13 to 20th. Below are some ideas to help celebrate International Dark Sky Week and bring awareness of the importance of protecting the dark for birds, pollinators, plants, animals and humans.

- **Plan a Night Sky themed party:** Invite friends over for a low-light indoor/outdoor party. Make moon & star decorations, celestial inspired foods, or costumes. Play games, tell stories, set up a telescope. Look up!
- **Request your local government to make a proclamation:** Raise awareness about light pollution and the importance of making responsible lighting choices.
- **Do a Lighting Audit:** Evaluate lighting around your home or business choosing to use low-color temperature bulbs of 3000 K or lower. Add shields, direct light downward and consider using timers and motion sensors.

- **Visit a Dark Sky Park in Ohio:**
 - Observatory Park
10610 Clay St., Montville Township, OH 44064
(440) 286-9516
<https://geaugaparkdistrict.org/park/observatory-park/>
 - Fry Family Park
2533 Farber St SE, Magnolia, OH 44643
(330) 477-3552
https://starkparks.com/parks_and_trails/fry_family_park.php
- **Create a piece of art:** Write a poem, make a painting, or compose music inspired by the dark of night.
- **Learn about the major constellations:** Check out a book, star gazing kit, or telescope from your local library or use a free app on your phone.
- **Keep a Nature at Night Journal:** Spend some time sitting outside after dark and list bird and insect sounds and night blooming flower scents, sketch the moon and constellations, look for fireflies, glow worms, bats and moths. Record the date, time, and weather.
- **Visit a local Planetarium & Observatory:**
 - Kent State University
103 Smith Hall Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242
(330) 672-2246
<https://www.kent.edu/physics/kent-state-planetarium-and-observatory>
- **Go on a nighttime nature walk:** Grab a friend or two and use safety precautions while venturing out to observe nocturnal flora & fauna. Is that an owl, fox, or frog? Practice quiet observation and use a red filtered flashlight (free apps available) to preserve the dark.
- **Make a wish upon a star!** Our wish is to lessen the light pollution in and around Kent by making responsible lighting choices.



**It's Time for a Plastics Revolution
By: Kent Environmental Council**

In the 1967 movie, “The Graduate”, there’s a memorable scene. A youthful Dustin Hoffman gets career advice from his older neighbor. “Benjamin, I have just one word to say to you - plastics. There’s a great future in plastics.” That scene was a prescient warning for the future. Plastics, simply a chain of synthetic polymers, were invented in the mid-19th century. It wasn’t until the 1970s, however, that the use of single-use plastics skyrocketed. Today, industries remain heavily dependent on plastic because of

Sustainable Kent News

its durability, adaptability, and cost-effectiveness. Plastic's inability to decompose and the difficulty in recycling plastic have created an environmental and health crisis.

It is estimated that the equivalent of 2,000 garbage trucks of plastic are being dumped into the aquatic ecosystems every day. Plastic pollution is not only unsightly, but it also alters habitats that support life in and around bodies of water. Marine plastic has a direct and deadly effect on marine wildlife, including seabirds, sea turtles, and seals. Specifically, marine life can become entangled in nets and other plastic materials that are no longer used. Animals can eat plastic, mistaking it for food, leading to starvation as this debris becomes trapped in their intestinal tract.

Plastic contaminates the environment when it's sent to countries with few environmental regulations and inefficient waste management systems. High-income countries like the U.S. have historically imported plastic waste to countries like Malaysia, where overflowing plastic landfills wash plastic debris into waterways, and open burning of plastics generates toxic air pollution.

The most famous collection of plastics and other debris in the world's oceans is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, between Hawaii and California. There are, however, five areas around the world where these gyres, areas where rotating ocean currents collect debris, exist. The term "garbage patch" is a misnomer because much of the plastic is broken down into microplastics, which are less than 5 millimeters long. These microplastics can spread from the ocean surface down to the ocean floor.

Closer to home, Sherri "Sam" Mason, a freshwater scientist and director of Project NePTWNE at Gannon University, found staggering increases of surface microplastic pollution in Lake Erie over ten years. Her team sampled 5 sites in 2014 and then again in 2024. The alarming findings were that, on average, there were 21 times as many microplastics per square kilometer in 2024 as in 2014.

Public health research shows that microplastics are found in many foods, beverages, drinking water sources, cosmetics, and personal care products. They are found in many human tissues, and their concentration appears to be increasing over time. Microplastics can cause damage to cells, DNA, and the immune response. Standing by is not an option when recent scientific studies show an association of microplastics in our bodies with an increased risk of heart attack, stroke, dementia, or early death.

With all the frightening news and statistics about plastics, it's clear that nothing short of a plastics revolution is needed to reduce these risks, not only to the environment but to human health. Much has been written about a plastics "circular economy" for a sustainable future. Environmental groups and the plastics industry don't always agree on how to create that circular economy. Solutions generally fall into four categories: Policy, Producer Responsibility, Waste/Recycling Systems, and Materials Innovation.

Policy

In 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly, with representatives from 175 countries, met to develop a Global Plastics Treaty. Global Plastics Treaty meetings have continued each year, but a strong treaty has remained elusive, with the main disagreement being caps on new plastic production. The European Commission recently proposed a Circular Economy Act that focuses on improved markets and financing for recycling and the uptake of recycled materials, but imposes no limits on plastic production.

Producer Responsibility

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws hold producers accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products. These laws shift the financial and operational burden of managing packaging waste from consumers and municipalities to companies producing plastic products. Seven US states have enacted these laws, and nine others have laws pending.

Waste/Recycling Systems

Improved technology that separates plastics more effectively can increase the value of recycled materials. Artificial intelligence is helping to develop systems that revolutionize traditional labor-intensive waste processing. AI-driven systems equipped with machine learning, computer vision, and sensor technology can sort waste much faster and more accurately.

Materials Innovation

Research and development of compostable plastics is underway; however, viable products that decompose in natural environments are harder to realize. Locally, the University of Akron School of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering specializes in polymer sustainability research, specifically degradable polymers, polymer recycling, and biobased polymers.

Dr. James Eagan, a polymer scientist at the University of Akron, is speaking on this topic at the Kent Environmental Council meeting on April 16th at the Kent Free Library at 6:30 pm. Dr. Eagan serves on the advisory board of the Akron Polymer Industry Cluster and is a member of the National Academy of Inventors.

A future KEC program will focus on: Using Less Plastic, Supporting Plastic Pollution Clean-Up Efforts, and Advocacy for a Plastics Revolution.

An excellent resource is the recent book, “The Problem with Plastics: How We Can Save Ourselves and Our Planet Before It’s Too Late” by Judith Enck, published in December, 2025 Judith Enck is the president of Beyond Plastics (beyondplastics.org)

Plastics Industry Association, “Plastic Product Market Forecast Shows Significant Expansion.” May 25, 2025

Lindwall, C., “Single-Use Plastics 101.” National Resources Defence Council, 24 June, 2025.

Ritchie, H, Samborska, V & Roser, M., “Plastic Pollution”, Our World in Data, February, 2026.

United Nations Environment Programme, “Plastic Pollution: Gameplan: It’s Time to Beat Plastic Pollution.” February, 2026.

Center for Biological Diversity. (nd) “Ocean Plastics Pollution: A Global Tragedy for Our Oceans and Sea Life.”

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Marine Debris Program, “Garbage Patches.” August, 2025.

Krouse, P., “ Plastic pollution in Lake Erie soared over the past decade, research shows.” November 29, 2025.

Laurent, Z., “From Garbage to Gold: How AI Is Turning Trash Into Valuable Resources.” Earth Times, January 8, 2026,

Feldscher, K., Harvard School of Public Health, “Microplastics are everywhere and can harm human health.” October 15, 2026.

Packaging Europe, “Circularity for plastics: the European Commission’s New Year’s Resolution.” January 6, 2026.

Clearyst, “US Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Packaging Laws.” December 1, 2025.

Moon, S. and colleagues, “Aligning development and deployment of compostable plastics for meaningful impact.” One Earth, Vol. 9, Issue 2, February 20, 2026.

So, M., “Yale research questions the promise of biodegradable plastics.” Yale News, February 19, 2026.

Polymer Sustainability Research at the University of Akron School of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, (nd) “Re-Imagining Polymers for the Future.”



City of Kent 2026 Spring Cleanup and additional options for hard-to-recycle material

It's almost time for the City of Kent's Spring Cleanup that will run during the month of May! Please see the excerpt from the [City's Spring 2026 Tree City Bulletin](#) below for the full program details.

We encourage you to donate, find a reuse, or recycle unwanted items before placing them on the curb. Please check out the following list of resources for consideration:

- **Portage County Recycling: Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM)**
CHaRM facilities provide outlets for materials that cannot go in curbside trash or recycling carts. Some of the acceptable items include appliances, scrap tires, cooking oil, plastic bags, electronics, paper shredding, automotive liquids, batteries and scrap metal, as well as some household hazardous waste items. For a full list of accepted items, visit: <https://portagerecycles.com/charm-facility>.
- **Habitat for Humanity Portage County Restore**
The ReStore accepts donations of new and nearly new building supplies, furniture, and appliances --and sells these at huge discount prices. It helps keep usable materials from going into landfills, too. Habitat uses the proceeds to build and rehab houses in Portage County for those in need of decent and affordable housing. For a full list of donation guidelines visit: <https://www.habitatofportage.org/donation-guidelines>
- **Phyllis Zumkehr County Clothing Center**
The County Clothing Center accepts clothing, shoes, blankets, sheets, and small household necessities. Everything must be clean (ready to use) and in good shape. Before donating, you need to call to be sure it is something they will accept and also to schedule a donation appointment. **Items cannot be just dropped off outside! Appointments are needed to donate.** Call 330-296-0503 to schedule, and visit the following website for more information: <https://axessfamilyservices.org/services/community-resources/county-clothing-center/>

The TREE CITY Bulletin

2026 Spring Cleanup

TO GUARANTEE PICK UP, ITEMS MUST BE PLACED ON THE CURB BY 7:00 AM ON MONDAY OF THE WEEK IN WHICH YOUR SECTION IS SCHEDULED

Items will be picked up in the **NORTHWEST** section **beginning Monday, May 4th and ending on Friday, May 8th**
Items will be picked up in the **NORTHEAST** section **beginning Monday, May 11th and ending on Friday, May 15th**
Items will be picked up in the **SOUTHEAST** section **beginning Monday, May 18th and ending on Friday, May 22nd**
Items will be picked up in the **SOUTHWEST** section **beginning Tuesday, May 26th and ending on Friday, May 29th**

See street listing on page 11 to reference your street's location by section.

Please read this article carefully for items that are acceptable and will be picked up. Non-acceptable items will be tagged, rejected, and left on the curb. If you have questions about a particular item please contact the Service Department at 330-678-8105 prior to Monday of your scheduled pickup week for clarification.

PROHIBITED ITEMS: Regular Household Trash, Tires, Yard Waste, Concrete, Household Hazardous Waste (Paint, Batteries, Motor Oil, Pesticides, Aerosol Cans, Gasoline, Explosives, and Solvents), Light Bulbs, Pianos (due to weight), Propane/Oxygen Pressurized Tanks, Railroad Ties and Loose/Broken Glass will not be taken.

RESIDENTS MUST CALL THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT 330-678-8105 IN ADVANCE OF THEIR SCHEDULED WEEK FOR THE REMOVAL OF ITEMS CONTAINING FREON.

ALL APPLIANCES SHOULD BE IN A SEPARATE PILE. DOORS SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM FREEZERS AND REFRIGERATORS. SCRAP METAL SHOULD BE PLACED WITH APPLIANCES. PLEASE PLACE APPLIANCES ON THE CURB BEFORE 7:00 AM MONDAY OF YOUR DESIGNATED WEEK TO GUARANTEE PICKUP.

LOOSE ITEMS MUST BE PLACED IN BAGS OR CONTAINERS. CONTAINERS AND CONTENTS WILL BE PICKED UP. LOOSE ITEMS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP.

TRASH CANS THAT ARE PLACED AT THE CURB CONTAINING ITEMS INTENDED FOR COLLECTION DURING THE SPRING CLEANUP WILL NOT BE EMPTIED AND RETURNED TO THE CURB. ALL CONTAINERS AND/OR CANS WILL BE COLLECTED AND DISPOSED OF WITH THE UNWANTED ITEMS.

TRASH CANS THAT CONTAIN REGULAR HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE PLACED AT THE CURB AS PART OF THE WEEKLY TRASH COLLECTION PROGRAM WILL BE RETURNED TO THE CURB.

Items must be small enough for two men to handle; furniture, electronics, toys, bikes carpet, etc. **All upholstered furniture, mattresses and carpeting placed at the curb must be wrapped in plastic.** Building materials will be collected in small amounts and only if contained for easy handling. Construction materials placed at the curb for pick up must be cut into lengths of four feet or less and bundled to ensure pickup. Construction/demolition debris (drywall, lumber, fencing, etc.) must also be bundled, weigh less than fifty pounds or placed in sturdy containers (no cardboard boxes) that weigh less than fifty pounds for pickup. Both the container and debris will be taken. Construction materials placed at the curb that have not been bundled or put into sturdy containers will be tagged, rejected and left at the curb.

AUTOMOBILE TIRES WILL NOT BE PICKED UP AT THE CURB.

The City of Kent will be collecting automobile tires (rims removed) from City of Kent residents ONLY on Thursday, May 28th from 7:00am until 7:00pm. Four tires per household will be accepted. Tires can be dropped off at 930 Overholt Road, behind the City's Service Administration Complex on Thursday May 29th only (please note time and location for tire drop). Residents will be required to show proof of residency, a valid driver's license or state ID with your City of Kent address prior to dropping off tires. Residents must live in and show proof of residency within the City of Kent Corporation Limits (this will be strictly enforced).

City personnel will be checking ID's and assisting with tire drop off and loading. This program is being run entirely by the City of Kent.

Please try to donate, find a reuse, or recycle unwanted items before placing them at the curb for collection.

Once a rejection tag has been placed on items left at the curb, those items will not be picked up later.

If you have any questions regarding Spring Cleanup, please call the Service Department at 330-678-8105.



ReStore
Habitat for Humanity of Portage County



Dispose of your electronics, Latex paint, American flags ... and more!
Shred all your confidential and legal documents

RECYCLE EXTRAVAGANZA

Wednesday, May 13 | 4-7PM
Kent ReStore
1510 S Water Street

Let's GO GREEN together!

- 1**  **DISCOUNT SHRED**
MOBILE SHREDDING SERVICE
- 2**  **ECOTONE PAINT** Accepting Latex paint ONLY
(for a processing fee of \$2 per gal/5gal, \$1 per pint)
- 3**  **Habitat for Humanity ReStore**
Accepting furniture, appliances, home goods, building materials, tools, aluminum cans
- 4**  **Lions RECYCLE For Sight**
Collecting used eyeglasses & soft plastics
- 5**  **AFS** Accepting clothing, shoes, blankets, towels, sheets
Axess Family Services
- 6**  **PORTAGE COUNTY DOG WARDEN**
Accepting pet supplies
- 7**  **PORTAGE COUNTY SOCIALLY SENSITIVE**
Collecting textiles & yarn
-  **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**
Collecting American flags
- 8**  **GreenBoardIT**
Secure & Sustainable ITAD
Electronics (fee may apply)
-  **PORTAGE COUNTY RECYCLING**
- 9**  **Bob Sumerel Tire Co.**
Accepting tires. Max 10 tires/person. No rims.

Stop inside during the event for:

- ◆ Community Expo
- ◆ Basket Raffles
- ◆ 50/50 Drawing
- ◆ Tree Giveaway Sponsored by **DAVEY** 

Shop the ReStore during the event and SAVE

20% OFF

Valid 5/13/26 from 4pm-7pm. Or save 10% now through 5/31/26
Offer valid for total purchase. Cannot be combined with other coupons;
one coupon per transaction. Max purchase of \$100.

DROP OFF MAP

- 1** Paper Shredding
- 2** Paint
- 3** Home Goods & Cans
- 4** Eye Glasses & Soft Plastics
- 5** Clothing, Shoes, Blankets, Towels
- 6** Pet Supplies
- 7** Yarn, USA Flags
- 8** Electronics
- 9** Tires





Akron Regional Air Quality Management District Lawn Mower Exchange

The Akron Regional Air Quality Management District is offering a rebate-style program for residents in Medina, Summit, or Portage County making the switch from gas to battery or electric-powered lawn care equipment. For more information or to register, please visit their [website page](#) or call 330-926-5600. Register by May 31, 2026.



**Towner's Woods is turning 50!
By: Portage Park District**

Towner's Woods Park, situated on Ravenna Road in Kent, has made its mark on the lives of local residents for 50 years now! Help us celebrate by [sharing your favorite memories and photos](#) of the park as we look forward to the next 50 years!

Check out Portage Park District's [Things To Do](#) page for guided hikes and activities.



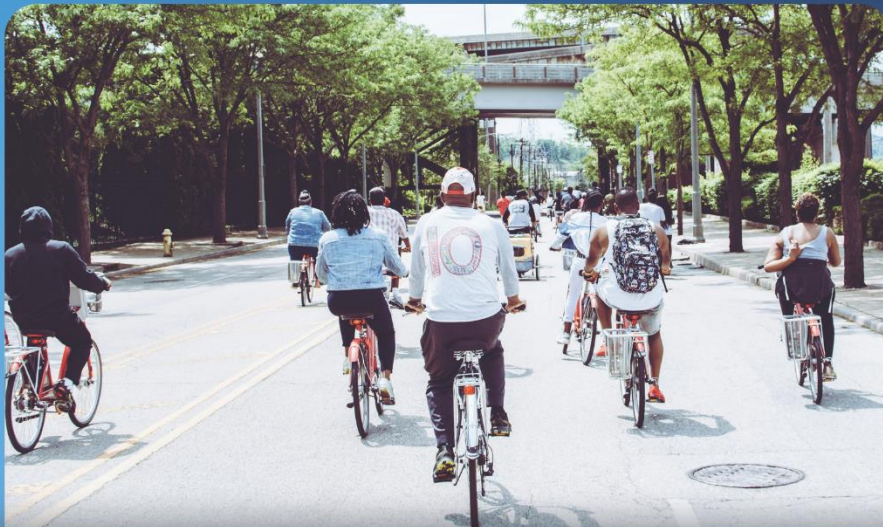
National Ride A Bike Day Events in Kent

The City of Kent and Kent State University are celebrating [National Ride A Bike Day](#) which is Sunday, May 3, 2026. There will be two free community rides in Kent available that day to help you celebrate, and please see the following ride flyers for more information.

National **Ride A Bike Day Event: May 4 Riding Tour**

Let's celebrate National Ride A Bike Day!

SUNDAY, MAY 3 • 1 - 3 PM
TAYLOR HALL 147



Free Event
Registration Required
Spots are Limited

***Explore Kent's campus and downtown on eBikes
while discovering the history of May 4.***

Meet at the May 4 Visitors Center in Taylor Hall for a guided tour, then hop on a bike to explore multiple May 4 locations with a guide.

The bike tour will stop at Capybara Coffee for discounted snack options, then will conclude back at Taylor Hall at 3:00 pm.

EBikes are provided by SPIN, but participants can bring their own bikes if able.

This event is a partnership between the KSU RecWell Adventure Center, Office of Sustainability, May 4 Visitor Center, the City of Kent, and SPIN.



National Ride A Bike Day Celebration Event:

City of Kent Downtown Public Art & Trails Riding Tour

Sunday, May 3 ✦ **3:30pm-5:30pm**
Meet at Kent Cycle: 115 Lake Street, Kent, OH 44240

- Join us for a community bike ride that will tour downtown public art installations, connections to and a ride along, the Portage Hike and Bike Trail.
- The ride will start at Kent Cycle bike shop and end at North Water Brewing for a discounted drink option. Explore additional downtown businesses and restaurants on your own after the ride!

This event is free! Spots are limited and registration is required. E-bikes will be provided by SPIN, but participants can bring their own bikes if able.

Contact Kent Cycle to Register at:



kentcycle@gmail.com



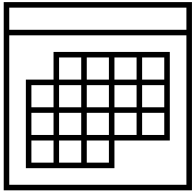
330-677-0600



SPIN



North Water
BREWING CO.



CALENDAR & ITEMS OF INTEREST

Supporting our local businesses and organizations is a key component of Sustainability! Check out the City's Culture & Community section of the website (www.kentohio.gov/culture-community/) for more details about the following:

***Special message from Justine Gallow (member of the City's Sustainability Commission, owner of Sun In Leo shop in downtown Kent, and who helped curate some of the following list) for Earth Month and beyond: "We encourage you to plan your next day outside at one of these FREE Kent and Portage County events!"**

- **Haymaker Farmers' Market**
 - Open year-round, every Saturday morning in Kent: Held **outdoors** in downtown Kent on Franklin Ave. from April through November, 9am to 1pm, and **indoors** at the United Methodist Church (1435 E. Main St., Kent in the UMC Pierson Hall) from December through March, 10am to 1pm. Visit www.haymakermarket.com for full details.
- **Main Street Kent**
 - A non-profit organization that focuses on the promotion, beautification, and revitalization of downtown Kent. The City of Kent, Kent State University, local businesses, and community members support Main Street Kent. Check out their full calendar of events here: www.mainstreetkent.org/events/full-calendar/.
- **Kent In Good Company Podcast**
 - Hosted by Kent resident and small business owner, Katy Thomas, head to the Main Street Kent website at the following link to listen and learn more about Kent's local businesses: <https://mainstreetkent.org/discover/in-good-company/>.
- **The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce**
 - Visit www.kentbiz.com/events/eventcalendar for a full listing of Chamber and Community events.
- **Kent Historical Society & Museum**
 - Learn more about our community at Kent's primary history resource and reference center! Visit www.kentohiohistory.org for organization details and events.
- **Kent Parks and Recreation**
 - Offers a variety of locations, programs, and events for individuals and families to enjoy. They provide quality recreation and entertainment for the community through parks, sports, fitness, education and cultural arts. Visit their full program and event offerings at: www.kentohio.gov/culture-community/kent-parks-and-recreation/
- **Yard Waste Transfer Site Open!**
 - The yard waste transfer site hours are Tuesdays 9am-1pm, Wednesdays 5-8pm and Saturdays 9am-noon. The site is a place for residents of Kent to drop off brush, clippings and other yard waste. It is also the place to get the grindings from the waste, to use like mulch, for free! Stop by near Cherry Street and Mogadore Rd, near the entrance to Plum Creek. Full details at: <https://www.kentohio.gov/living-here/garbage-and-recycling/yard-waste/>

- **Portage Parks Free Outdoor Events**
 - For a full list of events and information visit: <https://www.portagecounty-oh.gov/portage-park-district>

- **Who's Your Mama Earth Day Festival – 4/18/26**
 - Join Standing Rock Cultural Arts in celebrating the 20th annual Who's Your Mama Festival Block Party! It will be held Saturday, April 18th from Noon to 4pm at the corner of Water and Main Streets in Hometown Bank Plaza in downtown Kent. Full details available at: <https://www.standingrock.net/events/20th-annual-whos-your-mama-earth-day-block-party>

- **Kent State University Earth Fest – 4/22/2025**
 - Join on and off campus organizations and departments for a fun-filled Earth Day event with music, student activities, information, giveaways, and more from 11am-2pm on Risman Plaza! (Rain location 2nd Floor Student Center). Full details for Earth Fest and a schedule of additional Earth Month activities at: <https://www.kent.edu/sustainability/earth-month>

- **Branded in Kent's Earth Day Market – 4/25/26**
 - Celebrate Earth Day with a curated vendor market featuring a heavy lineup of vintage clothing sellers plus jewelry, art, accessories, and more! The market will be held on Erie Street in downtown Kent from 11am to 5pm on Saturday, April 25th. For more information visit: <https://brandedinbutler.com/>

- **American Roots Festival – 5/1/26**
 - Enjoy the annual American Roots Musical Festival, with classic Americana, Bluegrass & Country music, all for free from 5:30pm to 11:30pm on Friday, May 1, 2026. For full details visit: <https://www.kentamericanroots.com/>

- **Rotten Peach Studios Community Trash Pickup – 5/3/26**
 - Join us for an Earth Day community trash pickup, Sunday, May 3rd starting at 1pm at 1480 S. Water Street. For full details visit: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DWj2oMoEXAb/>

- **Sun in Leo's Clothing Swap – Held 2nd weekend of every month, next swap May 8-10th**
 - Join us for a clothing swap held the second weekend of every month, Friday-Sunday from 12pm-7pm at the Sun in Leo store located in Acorn Alley, downtown Kent. For more information visit: <https://suninleo.shop/>

- **The Kent Flea – Held the 2nd Saturday May through December 2026, first market of the season 5/9/26**
 - Come visit the Kent Flea & Makers Market located at the historic Marvin Kent Home at 409 W. Main Street in Kent. The first market of the season will be held Saturday, May 9th from 10am – 4pm. Full market details available at: <https://www.facebook.com/kentflea/>

- **Hometown Bank Concert Series – Held select Thursdays May through September 2026, first concert of the season 5/14/26**
 - All concerts are from 7pm-9pm at the Hometown Bank Plaza in downtown Kent, unless noted otherwise. For details and a full list of concerts visit: <https://ht.bank/concerts/>

- **Cuyahoga River Days – May 14-16th, 2026**
 - Full details about the following events can be found at: <https://www.kentohio.gov/culture-community/kent-parks-and-recreation/special-events/cuyahoga-river-days/>
 - **Edith Chase Symposium Lecture:** “How We Got to Now” - This year’s speaker is Dr. Jon Wlasiuk, Lyman Briggs College & Michigan State University. He will present How We Got to Now: Lessons in Local Environmental History on Thursday evening, May 14th, 2026, 7pm, at the Kent State School of Architecture and Environmental Design, Cene Lecture Hall, Kent State University
 - **Edith Chase Symposium Poetry Readings:** Our Natural Cities, Nature in the Urban Setting - Poets from around the State will read original poems at the College of Architecture & Environmental Design on Friday, May 15th at 4pm – 132 S. Lincoln St, Kent Ohio. A new anthology of these poems is available.
 - **River Day Festival @ Haymaker Farmers’ Market-Explore River** themed activities, children’s art, environmental displays, & visit with aquatic animals. Learn about our Cuyahoga River watershed, local pollinators & stewardship opportunities. Discover ways to explore Kent’s trails & Ohio’s Nature Preserves. Saturday, May 16th from 9am-1pm, corner of Frankin Ave and College Street in Kent
 - **River Day Electrofishing Demonstration** - Who says water and electricity don’t mix? Observe an electrofishing (e-fishing) demo at Tannery Park. You will see how fish are captured with e-fishing equipment and documented by experienced aquatic life biologists. There will be opportunities for you to get up close and personal with our local fish species, so be sure to bring the kids! Watch for posted updates. Plum Creek Park is the backup location in the event of high-water conditions. Sponsored by Davey Resource Group. Saturday, May 16th from 10am-4pm, John Brown Tannery Park, 300 Stow Street in Kent

- **Main Street Kent Art & Wine Festival – 6/6/26**
 - Join Main Street Kent for a full day of art, wine, and music in the heart of downtown Kent. The event will be located at N. Water Street & Hometown Bank Plaza on Saturday, June 6th from 11am-8pm. Full details at: <https://mainstreetkent.org/2026-art-wine-festival/>

- **Dan Smith Community Park Concert Series, presented by College Town Kent – Held select Saturdays June through September 2026, first concert of the season 6/20/26**
 - All concerts are held in Dan Smith Community Park from 6pm-8pm and feature live music from area bands. For details and a full list of concerts visit: <https://www.collegetownkent.com/play>

- **Kent Heritage Festival – 7/3/26**
 - Kick off America 250 with the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce Heritage Festival! This free festival will be a day full of fun with vendors, food trucks, live music, fun for the kids, fireworks and more! Located throughout downtown Kent on Friday, July 3rd starting at 11am. For event details, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2095974611027540>

- **Kent Blues Fest – 7/18/26**

- This event features free live blues music at over 20 venues in downtown Kent. For an event schedule and full details, visit: <https://www.kentbluesfest.com/>