



Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting - September 12, 2022

Committee Members in Attendance: Kendra Smith, Chris Greacen, Vince Dauciuinas, Barbara Marrett, Michael Shanks, Renee Koplán

Committee Liaisons in Attendance: Lynn Bahrych, Steve Bernheim, Heather Oaksen

Ex-officio and County Staff: Councilmember Cindy Wolf, Angela Broderick, Debbie Boyer

Members of the public: None

Committee Members absent: Jay Kimball, Janet Alderton, Jerry Whitfield, Adrian Kilpatrick, Luke Fincher

Convene meeting

The meeting was called to order by Kendra Smith. She confirmed that a quorum was present and then opened the meeting with the Coast Salish Acknowledgment.

Public Comment

None

Working Groups

Vince reported that he is involved with two of the Work Groups, “Transform Transportation” and “Retrofit Buildings and Update the Grid”. The Work Groups have met and offer the following:

- Transform Transportation:
Members: Vince Dauciuinas, Jay Kimball, Luke Fincher, Jerry Whitfield, Chris Greacen
 - T-1 Replace State interisland diesel ferry with and electric ferry – continue research, low priority
 - T-2 Establish electric shuttle boat service between Islands – not feasible
 - T-3 Phase out fuel-based County/Town/Districts fleet – continue exploring, added good steps to move forward
 - T-4 Establish electric shuttle bus, school busses, ride share – lots of interest in this topic, suggested reviewing business plans for rideshare and report from Martha’s Vineyards Transit Authority
 - T-5 Replace fuel based private vehicles with electric – great idea but the County infrastructure to implement this may be limited
 - T-6 Increase bike lanes – great idea, requires more studying. Average cost \$130k per mile – may be too costly.
 - T-7 Electric Vehicle construction new building – good idea

- T-8 State emissions on Ferry Fleet – Statewide is 180,000 metric tons of emission, SJC is about 39,000 of that. Noted this probably accounts for about half of our emissions.
 - Barbara offered that the Grant Funded pilot program to ferry people between the Islands and Bellingham in the wintertime about 12 years ago was not successful.
 - Chris brought up the need to be able to bring things back to the Island as a barrier for Islanders using public transportation. Could a lockable truck be used to ferry items if Islander walk or bike onto the ferry?
 - Vince mentioned there is additional information and studies in the Sharepoint folder
- Retrofit Buildings & Upgrade the Grid
 - Members: Vince Dauciunas, Adrian Kilpatrick, Jeff Dyer Jerry Whitfield, Chris Greacen
 - B-1 Install solar at County Buildings – the working group was very much in favor of this, Vince discussed the new solar panels at the fairgrounds
 - B-2 Increase energy efficiency in homes – commented that the Inflation Reduction Act may have some rebates for this program as well as OPALCO’s Switch It Up program
 - B-3 Install solar/wind installations at homes and businesses – working group felt that cash incentives may help with the solar program but to not pursue the wind installations. Opalco analysis found that onshore wind is not viable.
 - B-4 Establish propane tax – state preemption so we can’t do it; only sales tax is possible.
 - B-5 Update building codes to require net zero emissions – the working group favors this idea, look for legislative language
 - G-1 Install pay EV charge stations – needs more research and source of funding. Referred to in Comp Plan and Resolution; needs a plan
 - G-2 Update County Code to define where solar is allowed – High priority. Working group suggested eliminating places where it can’t go which would leave only places it could go. Would be content with 20% of energy coming from Solar but would need 400 acres to accomplish this. Need significant amount of storage backup since solar doesn’t produce at night and produces much less in the winter months.
 - Barbara mentioned the Port is very interested in Solar installations and they want to work with OPALCO
 - G-3 Capture methane at landfills – Working group felt there may not be enough ROI, look at social value of carbon reduction to community
 - G-4 Identify In-pipe micro-hydro power for cascading waters – Vince mentioned that OPALCO is not considering this in their long-term plan because it would not generate a significant amount of power, but they would purchase if available
 - G-5 Tidal/Wind Energy – Tidal actively being explored by OPALCO – they are working with Orbital Marine, looking at permitting, etc. Noted tremendous potential.
 - G-6 Off-grid Solar – the working group is in favor of this, in Opalco’s long term plan
 - G-7 – Opalco has all the info
 - Chris shared a graph that is available in the documents on Sharepoint.
 - Kendra asked how the working group can start digging in deeper, what can we work on while we wait for the GHG report
 - Cindy suggested working with David Williams (DCD) to write a brief for the 2023 plan

- Kendra mentioned she would like to see solar at the Landfills – lots of open space there
- Educate and Communicate
Members: Janet Alderton, Michael Shanks, Luke Fincher
 - Michael reported that the working group has not met recently but had been talking about how to communicate with limited resources, where to target communication, concern about lack of compliance.
- Protect and Restore Nature
Members: Jeff Dyer, Lynn Bahrych, Michael Shanks, Renee Koplan, Janet Alderton
 - Renee reported that only two members of the group have met and agreed that everything on the list is worth pursuing. Noted that rewilding could be tricky as people like lawns, and finding open spaces to increase lands may be hard.
- Realign Food
Members: Steve Bernheim, Lynn Bahrych, Adrian Kilpatrick
 - No report
- Curb Consumption & Manage Population Growth
Members: Renee Koplan, Steve Bernheim, Jay Kimball
 - No report
- Review of responses to ABC/123 Ranking Survey
 - Angela shared voting results, but feels that the survey may need to be redone to discern highest priorities as members were not limited as to how many #1 priority items they could choose.
 - Chris shared a chart showing complexity, strategic value, urgency, and cost. Suggested viewing the Youtube video on Dominica Island (on Sharepoint).
 - Cindy likes the ranking of items; discerns most pressing, most achievable. Asked the Committee to consider taking the list to the public to help prioritize. She mentioned that it is helpful to her as a Councilmember to help direct/focus staff efforts.
 - Vince commented that attacking the GHG may not be the biggest impact, he stated that California GHG in 7 hours is equal to the GHG for San Juan County for 1 year.
 - It was noted that SJC can be a leader, even if our emissions are quite low compared to other places.

Discussion – Comp Plan

Kendra reported that she had drafted verbiage for the Council and solicited feedback.

Vince stated he is in agreement to move the item off the 2023/2024 Comp Plan until such time as we can track and measure progress and not to be in such a rush to get it done. Progress measurement, tracking, and periodic reviews should be a part of element.

Lynn suggested an emphasis on adaptation such as inclusion of preparing for an atmospheric river and heat dome - now we know what's coming and we need to be prepared. She feels we need to be "adapting to a new climate".

Kendra said that by April 2023 all Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans must include climate impacts.

Kendra asked that Committee members send her suggested verbiage, and she will update the draft with language for adaptation for Climate based items.

The next Regular meeting will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2022 with a quarterly focus on liaisons.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55pm