



COMMUNITY CLIMATE STEERING COMMITTEE Minutes

October 15, 2014 | 2:30 – 4:30 pm

1000 E. 11th St., Room 401

Attendance: Jere Locke, Kevin Tuerff, Brandi Clark, Al Armendariz, Roger Duncan, Kaiba White, Mary Dodd, Susan Lippman, Bruce Melton, Nick Van Sant(?), Erin Holyn(?)

Agenda

1. Citizen Communications (10 min.)
 - Bruce Melton: Climate Change Now Initiative. He is reiterating that he's working to enhance advocacy and policy change. IPCC 2013 states that we must move strongly into negative emissions. He is reporting from the academic literature. He suggests that the group read what he has submitted and over the next year he asks that committee suggest to/ask council to form separate committee to evaluate the science and how different fundamentals of climate science have changed since new policy has been enacted.
2. Feedback from charrette:
 - thought it was great way to start narrowing the funnel of ideas and actions.
 - thought it was very productive
 - suggested spreading people out more for logistics
 - enjoyed the Transportation TAG and what they brought
 - suggested to have material from what was presented and added last time
3. Public Input Update:
 - Speak Up Austin Discussion input is on the public website (30+ general comments) and now launching a Speak Up forum to show strategies and actions from each TAG and allow the public to vote. It will be up for about 6 weeks.
 - Kevin and Pam Reed were advocating for qualitative focus groups or quantitative poll of residents. Recommendation to council should come with knowledge of citizen input. Using an online survey tool to ask about specific individual behavior actions and identify where folks would rank priorities and where they would actually take action and what areas they wouldn't. May go live the first week of November.
 - How much behavior change is needed to meet goal?
4. Brief discussion on Roger's letter:
 - Thought it was very well thought out.
 - What about narrowing down to a smaller number of actions to get as close to zero emissions; would group consider that?
 - The concepts in the letter could be part of an introduction to the plan or the process we went through but as we start to build the sections and write out the document, it could end up really long and complicated OR we could dial it back and focus specifically on fewer actions.
 - Broad community education is needed.
 - Is the plan focused on council adoption and what the city can do immediately? Is it focused on next few budgets or longer term? Some like idea to consider scenario based branded direction; where you ask people to do specific actions and get a spirit of it and let details fall in behind. Otherwise it's one hack after another and it's not satisfying but if it was inside a more powerful context.
 - GIS mapping done by city could make it even more exciting for citizens to give input. Should reference resources somewhere so people can find out more about the work and research done.



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5. Divided into two groups to discuss options, pros, cons, and work towards a consensus recommendation on the following topics.

Group one covered:

- A. Definition of Net Zero
 - Offsets – if we do them, should be local (Travis, 6 county, Texas) to achieve additional benefits
 - Maximize local reductions and minimize offsets
 - Local carbon trading → manufacturing to C storage and multipliers (2-1, 3-1, etc.)
 - **Potential recommendations:**
 - i. 100% offset now (verify process – fee and dividend), \$ and politics, \$3-\$100/ton
 - ii. Last resort, close to 0 (2-3%)
 - iii. Wait until we see what can actually occur
 - iv. Define 10% max use of offsets
- B. Discussion of actions, reductions, and cost
 - Symbolic leadership and our fair share
 - Avoid perception of “cost effective versus not”
 - Cost to act versus cost to not act (Int'l scenarios)
 - Cost of not doing anything
 - **Potential recommendations:**
 - i. Lowest cost possible/prioritization of lowest first and expensive later
 - ii. What is necessary – greatest reductions at any cost
 - iii. No action
 - iv. business as usual, cost effective, necessary at what cost
- C. Interim Targets
 - by sector and / or as a whole
 - 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050
 - Trajectory: linear, non-linear, stair step, high reductions upfront, higher reductions on back end

Group two covered:

- A. Reporting
 - Annual reports are too short to do much because focused on report creation – but it keeps it on the mind of decision-makers and community
 - 4 years is too long to wait
 - **Potential recommendation:**
 - Annual brief update on actions and highlight good progress, full update kicks off with the full emissions inventory update every three years to ensure 4/5 year cycle of full plan update
 - Include: trends that are happening compared to projections, progress on goals, \$ save by individuals or community-wide if possible, best practices from other cities
 - Tie to Earth Day or another public event to publicize the report/update
 - Track indicators, consider an online dashboard
 - Complete a survey of individual actions annually to inform the report



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- Feature climate “superstars” that are doing great work as case studies – both individuals and businesses
- B. Full plan revisions
- **Potential recommendation:**
 - The first full plan revision should kickoff after the first 3 year full report is completed – gets us to a 4/5 year revision schedule with updated information
 - Consider the timing of AE gen plan updates, CIP plans, Imagine Austin, Strategic Mobility Plan, State solid waste plan and ARR master plan, Regional water plan, other adopted plans
 - Should provide feedback on any new draft plans or updates and how they relate to the ACCP goals to get to net zero
- C. Discuss council mechanism for ongoing focus
- Ensure Mayor and Council know their options and how they relate to climate goals
 - **Potential recommendation:**
 - Incorporate into departments’ planning process (budget, CIP, etc)
 - Implementation plan is necessary – development of this to follow adoption of this plan
 - Tie to budget performance measures
 - Build a culture of awareness
 - Like the NEPA process
 - Consider climate impact in project decisions
 - Spreadsheet for impact
 - Sustainability Impact Statement related to carbon budget performance
6. Each of the six topics discussed by the full group – agreed to send notes to full group for further input
7. Wrap-up