



COMMUNITY CLIMATE STEERING COMMITTEE Minutes

December 17, 2014 / 2:30 – 4:30 pm

1000 East 11th Street

Attendance: Jere Locke, Roger Duncan, Kaiba White, Mary Dodd, Al Armendariz, Susan Lippman, Francois Levy, Lucia Athens, Lewis Leff, Susan Lippman, Brandi Clark Burton, Joep Meijer, Justin Murrill, Todd Hemingson

Agenda

1. Citizen Communications (10 min.)
 - Robert Murray
 - Discussed the previous council meeting and recommended incorporating the climate plan work into the upcoming Generation Planning discussion. There was no one at the Council meeting that spoke on climate. Robert suggested going through the EUC before they send their final comments to Austin Energy.
 - Joep: Since the climate goal was never discussed in the council meeting, it is still City policy and is still in place. Any comments about natural gas RFP that any members have can be send to the EUC or to Joep by January 8th. Expects 1.5 MMTCO₂e direct emissions annually from new plant.
2. Brief overview of 12/16 results (Brandi Clark Burton)
 - Brandi discussed council election results
 - Conducted interviews with candidates and asked 56 questions in 43 interviews
 - Many of them had environmental endorsements, some had concerning answers to surveys
 - The new committee structure will be a great opportunity for the group to provide input.
3. Materials Management TAG presentation
 - Questions/Comments
 - CoA is already working with the Purchasing Dept. to incorporate sustainability into purchasing. Asking the community to purchase sustainably means that City should demonstrate leadership first.
 - All landfills in Travis County are required by the TCEQ/ EPA to capture methane but it's unsure of how rigorous the regulations are.
 - There is a very significant (positive) difference in the environmental impact of reusing paper vs recycling it after just one use. Must not double count in different scope accounting.
 - Group discussed regulations/requirements for alternative daily cover, in landfills. Discussed biochar and spreading it on the landfill to soak up methane – further research needed on effectiveness.
 - Need to quantify impact of diversion routes (i.e. pushing home composting) – net change – if not at least qualitatively
4. Transportation TAG presentation
 - The TAG looked at Imagine Austin, the Ozone Advance Plan and also took input from forums to develop 300 actions that they reduced to 50.
 - Questions/Comments
 - Cash for clunker programs may have an upward impact on VMT for someone who walks/bikes a lot now and then gets a new car; increase of MPG metric



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Minutes

not enough to be impactful; bus passes/bike subsidy should be considered if a new fund is developed

- Suggestion to look at European and Asian cities that have successful transportation.
- Land-use goals should intersect with low-income housing and meet with the low-income task force.
- Suggested idea of interconnecting and combining electric cars with rooftop solar.
- Land Use 1 seems to be phrased to new development but encouraging accessory dwelling units can create more density. Focus on emissions reductions from the freight sector: compiles overall ideas two one action.
- Regarding electric vehicles: new buildings and condos are not putting in conduits to charge cars.
- Need a pilot for vehicle to grid charging to see if there's a real benefit – some studies showing battery life impact and infrastructure investment balance it out; just do storage?
- Commute trip reduction planning for large businesses is in the plan.

5. Electricity and Natural Gas TAG presentation

- Questions/Comments
 - Discussed options for a newsletter for both mail and online customers to get customers thinking about their energy use.
 - Carbon-based time-of-use may provide an unintentional shift to peak uses
 - Demand response shows 10-20% savings from overall load (300-600MW for AE load)
 - Need to make sure that people can opt out of smart meters, for people that cannot be around electricity.
 - Notification goes out that the smart reader will be installed and it gives customers the options to opt out.
 - Will recommend moving forward with study of utility business model
 - Edit needed: compare to "more expensive generation ~~low-carbon~~ resources"

6. Potential Scenarios for Report

- Ran out of time – will email

7. Next steps

- The first draft of the report will be sent for review in January
- Complete draft in February
- Presentations to Boards and Commissions will begin in late Jan. and February
 - Suggestion to have Steering Committee members present to Commissions, not just City staff