



# City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

## Meeting Minutes Energy Commission

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Monday, November 10, 2014

6:00 PM City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Basement, conference room

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### This is a rescheduled date due to Veteran's Day Special Meeting

#### CALL TO ORDER

Appleyard called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 8 - Wayne Appleyard, David A. Wright, VACANT POSITION 1, Brigit Macomber, Mark Clevey, Erik Eibert, Shoshannah Lenski, and Stephen Raiman

**Absent:** 3 - Charles Hookham, Kenneth J. Wadland, and Mike Shriberg

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda moved by Wright and seconded by Macomber - approved unanimously.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the October 14, 2014 minutes moved by Clevey and seconded by Macomber - approved unanimously.

14-1584

**Attachments:** Energy Commission Minutes 10-14-14.pdf

#### PUBLIC INPUT

No public input.

#### ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Staff updated on the a2energy Loan Fund for Rental Housing launch and a utility benchmarking pilot using the tracking service WegoWise. Both efforts part of the HUD Sustainable Communities grant. The loan fund has \$40,000 for one to four unit rentals and the WegoWise pilot is targeting over 1000 multi-family buildings to get a free one year subscription for the service which is compatible with Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Staff also noted upcoming events: Michigan Energy Innovators Gala (11/12) and MI Advanced Lighting Conference (11/19).

Opportunity to install solar at the municipal airport property with DTE continues. City's partnering on an application for DOE Sunshot grant funding did not come through.

City looking to order two CMAX plug-in hybrid cars for inspection staff and fitting with City Climate Plan and Green Fleets goals.

The City has applied to compete for recognition and future technical support as a Climate Action Champion, a competition recently announced by the White House. Outcome should be known by end of year.

Appleyard mentioned GLREA's annual dinner at the Comfort in Chelsea on December 6. IPCC's latest climate report is out. Solar recently outpaced wind development.

Macomber noted an Mlive article about the AAATA hybrid bus fleet and their upcoming purchase decision. Discussion of whether or how Energy Commission could weigh in. Without federal grant funding conversion it is more difficult to offset the premium expense for hybrids versus newer more efficient conventional diesel buses. Likely going with a couple more hybrids and continuing to pursue more in the future.

#### **Biodigester support**

Staff discussed next phase for the community biodigester feasibility and need for a partner evaluation as well as further analysis on whether there is adequate feedstock to support a digester offsite, largely fed from material from the wastewater treatment plant.

Discussion of Commissioner Hookham adding expertise; Clevey to reach out on status.

Staff looking into getting authors of the last feasibility study in to present to the Commission in early 2015.

#### **Community Solar**

Wright said the group is still evaluating data and looking into third party models. Could provide a sample set of data to the city assessor's office to see how systems of various sizes would be taxed.

Clevey said there is still interest from Renovo to have Commissioners at a ribbon-cutting or tour of their office's solar installation.

Macomber talked of using community solar installs as part of a major gifts campaign for non-profits (to help overcome concerns with payback periods).

Lenski stated that DTE would likely be announcing something soon related to their role in community solar.

#### **Commercial Benchmarking Ordinance**

Staff discussed a meeting of the small team earlier in the day. A three-page whitepaper was developed and shared with Commissioners. Trying to find

ways to reach out to impacted property owners and utilize the City's citizen engagement toolkit. Looking to see how other cities with ordinances are working with some of the larger companies that are complying. Staff is also utilizing our membership with the Urban Sustainability Director's Network (USDN) and user groups focused on energy data issues. An ordinance is not likely to be presented by January so looking to put together an appropriate update for City Council at that time. Technical challenges with automatic data transfer from DTE and the data output system called SEED not being fully online are among the greatest challenges for program to be successful. The Commissioner team is working through the question of whether it makes sense to push the ordinance first before other pieces are in place or wait until they are.

### **Climate Action Plan**

Staff reiterated community energy contract work beginning in the winter around the CAP. Also highlighted again the a2energy pilots coming out of the HUD grant with Washtenaw County.

The Drive Electric Ann Arbor Partnership (DEA2P) emerged from the CAP Land Use & Access Team as a focus area over the next year and shorter term, to bring together U of M and DTE among other stakeholders to advance electric vehicle (EV) readiness and EV adoption.

A Community Outreach CAP Team is also meeting regularly to figure out ways to push info out and to engage to the public in the CAP's implementation.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

No public input.

### **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Raiman discussed nuclear energy's role in supplying non-carbon base load energy and if the Commission should have a position on nuclear power. Local resources at the University could additionally speak to the issue.

Lenski and others stated that the topic would remain controversial no matter the Commission's activities and something not to be impacted one way or the other by taking a stance. Macomber and Appleyard stated the Commission's primary charge and purview is recommendations to City Council and that the scale of topics pursued by the group are driven by the ability for the group to have influence with their time.

Raiman agreed to provide a proposal for direction to the Chair.

Additional agenda topics for future meetings: Biodigester presentation from Swedish Biogas/Quantalux; PACE and a2energy updates from CEC and Ecology Center. The next meeting is a work session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Macomber and seconded by Eibert at 8 p.m.

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Visit [www.a2energy.org](http://www.a2energy.org) for community energy information in Ann Arbor,  
or  
[www.a2gov.org/energy](http://www.a2gov.org/energy) to learn more about the City's Energy Programs

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