



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes

Energy Commission

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
[http://a2gov.legistar.com/
Calendar.aspx](http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

6:00 PM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Second
floor, City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Appleyard called the meeting to order at 6:10pm

ROLL CALL

Shriberg and Hookham present after roll call

Present: 11 - Charles Hookham, Brigit Macomber, Mike Shriberg, Mark Clevey, Shoshannah Lenski, Wayne Appleyard, Kenneth J. Wadland, Noah Levin, John Mirsky, Sarah Paleg, and Carlene Colvin-Garcia

Absent: 1 - Jason Frenzel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mirsky and seconded by Shriberg, that the agenda be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mirsky and seconded by Wadland, that the minutes be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

[17-1043](#) Minutes of the April 6, 2017 Ann Arbor Energy Commission Meeting

Attachments: Energy Commission Minutes 4-6-17.pdf

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council due back on 8/7/2017

PUBLIC INPUT

David Diephuis had comments for the proposed solar ordinance

concerning ground mounted systems. The ordinance should minimize landscape shielding requirements, and no costly site plan reviews and processes should occur if more expedited administrative approvals can instead work.

A representative of the local 350.org effort seeking to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions wanted to address the proposals for the 13 acre County Farm site. He noted that there had been 6 proposals considered by Washtenaw County, but only Matt Grocoff's plan considered net zero potential development. Commissioner Mirsky added that the plan included community geothermal, porous pavement, water treatment features and solar panels on roofs. Commissioner Mirsky added that along with Susan Hutton of the Environmental Commission, they had written letters of support and had spoken at the County Commission meeting.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Staff has arranged for the Energy Commission to review and provide input for the proposed solar ordinance as part of the next month's agenda during a shared session with the Planning Commission. Green Fair occurring June 9th from 6 to 9pm on Main Street. DTE will be announcing the winner of their Power Together community competition at the Green Fair. A solar readiness and LEED-minimum for City facilities renovations and construction resolution introduced by Council-member Smith passed at City Council.

New Commissioner Carlene Colvin-Garcia introduced herself to the Commission with a brief background statement.

Chair Appleyard shared news in Germany around large renewable energy deployment.

DTE Energy Optimization & Home Energy Consultation Program - Jason Kupser & Mylan Stevens

Jason Kupser (DTE) began the presentation by giving an overview of DTE's energy optimization programs and accomplishments. The programs range from commercial-industrial to residential sectors. The majority of his presentation focused on residential program offerings. These include DTE's insight app, appliance recycling program, multifamily program, energy efficiency assistance (a low

income program), ENERGY STAR products program, HVAC and Water Heating Program, audit and weatherization program, online energy audit program, home energy consultation program, schools program, and a home energy report program.

Mr. Kupser talked about the insight app in detail and explained that the insight app only works for residential customers. The app tracks near real-time consumption throughout the day. The app also allows you to set goals, receive alerts and give use readings while positioning your phone over electrical chords. There is also an energy bridge that gives near instant energy usage information.

Commissioner Clevey and Shriberg suggested that the insight app along with the bridge seem to be impaired if your home has solar panels. The Commission also discussed the app as it pertained to multifamily units and the ability to pair the readings with Portfolio Manager data downloads and access. The Commissioners wanted to know the penetration rates for all the DTE programs. They also wanted to know how the Commission could help increase these penetration rates. Mr. Kupser replied that the overarching efficiency targets were set by State legislation and that DTE would be interested in collaborating on projects with the City.

Mylan Stevens (Walker Miller) is a program manager for DTE's home energy consultation program. He explained that the Home Energy Consultation program as an entry level step for residents interested in looking into efficiency. The program provides free products and solutions to save energy. It includes a walkthrough energy audit along with direct product installations for certain improvements.

DTE New Renewable Energy Offering - David Harwood

David Harwood is the director of renewable energy at DTE. He presented on a new voluntary renewable program. The program draws energy equally from two of DTE's newest renewable facilities. These facilities include the Pinnebog wind park and the Lapeer solar array. The energy user can decide how much of their electricity is coming from these plants/renewable. The cost will be higher per kilowatt than directly receiving energy from the grid, but DTE expects with rising energy costs, that the cost will be the same by 2020.

Commissioner Mirsky asked if the two generation sites counted towards DTE meeting the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). David Hardwood responded that the portion of plants that are

subscribed to will be taken out of DTE's RPS fulfillment and must be made up by other generation sources to where additional subscription demands of the program will drive new production of renewables at potential other new facilities. This differs from DTE's earlier "Green Currents" Program that mostly dealt with Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) as a way to offer access to renewables. Commissioners discussed the even split between the wind farm and the solar panels given the relatively cheaper cost of wind generation over solar generation, and so driving up the participant cost from what it could be. David Hardwood explained that focus groups during the program formation were interested in seeing a near even split between the two forms of generation. He also explained that the City or any participant could leave the program at any time. Commissioner Mirksy was interested in seeing a net present value analysis to get a better sense of the benefits and costs overtime. David Hardwood agreed to follow up with this with additional information from the City to do so.

[17-1041](#) DTE Presentation - My Green Power (David Harwood, Director of Renewable Energy)

Attachments: RE 2017 05 09 A2 Energy Commission v4.pptx

Green Fleets Resolution - Mirsky

Commission Mirsky explained that the City had enacted a green fleets policy in 2004, but once initial targets had been met, it was not revived or updated. He explained that the resolution was an attempt to update the policy with an emphasis on recognizing the new growth and availability of electric vehicles.

The Commissioners discussed whether the resolution should give prescriptive advice or give general guidance. They concluded that the language in the resolution should give general guidance but in its current form was still very prescriptive. They decided to redraft a resolution by July. (Subsequently the Environmental Commission received a revised version and passed this up to City Council for approval.)

Climate & Energy Funding Resolution - Mirksy & Appleyard

A draft resolution was discussed that looks at current recurring funding for community-facing climate/sustainability work and how best to allocate the funds. The Environmental Commission had

passed a version of the resolution and Commissioner Mirsky was bringing it before Energy Commission. Specifically the resolution calls for including two new full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and funding additional sustainability programs. Commissioners agreed to table the conversation until July after the City budget was passed.

Volunteer Programming - Mirsky

Commissioner Mirsky explained that he was waiting for further guidance from the City Administrator.

Community Solar Update - Staff & Commissioners

City Council adopted a revised version of the Commission's recent resolution seeking launch of a community solar program(s).

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Climate Action Plan

No update (relation of earlier topics to the CAP)

Renewable Energies

Commissioner Clevey requests an invite for the local Sierra Club to present on their 100% renewable campaign for cities (July's meeting).

Sustainable Funding

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

No additional public comment.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Solar ordinance joint meeting with Planning Commission
Green Fleets Policy updating
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) data update from staff

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

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**City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

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or
www.a2gov.org/energy to learn more about the City's Energy Programs**

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www.a2gov.org/ctn**