



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, October 11, 2016

6:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Appleyard called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Charles Hookham, Brigit Macomber, Mike Shriberg, Mark Clevey, Kenneth J. Wadland, Chip Smith, John Mirsky, and Sarah Paleg

Absent: 2 - Shoshannah Lenski, and Noah Levin

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved unanimously on a voice vote

[16-1444](#) Minutes of the July 12, 2016 Ann Arbor Energy Commission Meeting

Attachments: Energy Commission Minutes 7-12-16.pdf

Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council
due back on 11/10/2016

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input.

ENERGY REPORT - NEWS FROM THE ENERGY OFFICE AND COMMISSIONERS

Staff brought up the possibility of rescheduling the next meeting as it falls on Election Day, November 8th, but will poll Commissioners.

There will be a feasibility study update for the bio digester at the next Commission meeting. The waste water treatment plant will probably provide 90% of the feed.

There is also a possibility that Sean from CEC will be presenting at the next commission meeting.

20 cities including Ann Arbor, make up the Municipal Streetlight Coalition, who have helped reduce DTE's rate change for LED lights by an average of 50% to only 5.3% increase in costs. While rates are still going up for LED lights, they are still cheaper than alternatives and older technologies. The coalition is a good example of what regionalism can accomplish.

At the state level, Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) rate cases are looking at how avoided cost methodologies for qualifying energy generating facilities might be modified as the methods in place go back several years. Ann Arbor's PURPA contract runs out in 2034. Currently, Consumer's Energy is implementing changes to their PURPA contracts, while DTE was likewise directed by the MPSC to evaluate how they would compensate small power producers for generation. In order to follow the proceedings and be able to comment the City is intervening in the case.

The University of Michigan is currently undergoing restructuring of the School of Natural Resources. The new structure may open up the possibility for increased collaboration with the City. Commissioner Shriberg also noted changes to facilities-led level efforts at the University around energy and climate that are now moving under the Office of Campus Sustainability.

Community Resiliency Planning - Hookham

Commissioner Hookham has been working on the coasts where natural disasters like hurricanes have hit causing damage and affecting essential infrastructure. In his work, he sees resilience as the ability to respond to threats from manmade disasters, natural disasters and cyberattacks and have a plan to recover quickly. Some essential facilities like city halls and emergency services have backup power but need a quick recovery period, since the backup power is temporary. Sustainability, adaptation, resilience, and climate change are all interrelated.

There are different ways to ensure resilience through micro grids, on-site generation, and batteries. The micro grid integrates loads at a local level from an energy source or battery source and can still be connected to the grid. Microgrids can also be used to integrate local renewables.

If utilities find benefit in lessening the demand on the grid, utilities can be a partner in setting up micro grids. Customers are generally larger-load universities and companies who are thinking about how they can lower their rates and maintain operations. Resilience should be integrated into an energy plan that puts everyone on the same page. Often, people are working past each other. There should be a system that promotes a unified vision and communication around energy supply. The current energy plan could be rewritten from its current form into a paired down plan that summaries goals and integrates resilience. While there is a great interest in seeing resiliency adapted on the coast, it might take longer for those changes to take hold in the Midwest.

Currently, the greatest issue facing resilience is public right ways as well as project specific problems with location and layout. The City could also integrate resilience into its process through the CIP to ensure that each construction has some form of redundant system. First steps might be to see if there is an interest within City Council for resilience.

Council Member Smith noted that the Commission should provide their technical expertise in several areas. He mentioned the downtown zoning incentives as one of those key areas.

Sustainability Metrics - Mirsky

Commissioner Mirsky presented on the significant gaps between goals set out in the Climate Action Plan and what was reflected in the sustainability dashboard. Furthermore, he noted that the sustainability dashboard does not do a good job of showing where we are really heading. He had a few recommendations on how to work on the system to get us closer to our Climate Action Plan goals, along with suggestions on ways to better reflect our progress.

In addressing the Climate Action Plan (CAP), he explained how most actions are projects that involve multiple tasks and multiple parties, instead of being quick and easy tasks. He suggested that there was

currently no prioritization of those actions. The City could also switch to a widely-adopted system of measurement to compare with other cities, such as the STAR program.

In terms of measurements in the Sustainability Dashboard, Mirsky pointed out that good metrics are specific, attainable, realistic, and time bound. The metrics should have a mix of leading and lagging indicators. The results should be easily understood, contextual, and updated frequently. Moreover, data should be made relative through percentage increases. The current indicators lack a number of these aspects and transparency, all of which contribute to misrepresentations of where we currently stand.

In an attempt to work on the system, he suggested that we improve project management, available resources, and the work process through a Lean Enterprise model. The Lean model promotes continuous improvement for process and results. He also suggested that we need a new position, responsible for advancing CAP within the city administration. The position could be a director or chief of sustainability who would be in charge of operationalizing actions in the CAP in varying departments.

Commissioner Shriberg warned against having two separate messages. The Climate Partnership is currently looking at how the City can best fund and structure sustainability. There was a question as to whether the funding or the position should be prioritized and whether funding should be attained prior to creating the position.

Council Member Smith suggested that both creating a new position and the work done by the Climate Partnership are important. Commissioners decided to arrange a meeting with the City Administrator for further feedback.

Green City Buildings Approaches for CIP

Staff laid out three different approaches for implementing efficiencies into the CIP process. The first would be to internally drive compliance through uniform language. The second would be to change policies, codes, and ordinances. Finally, the third would be to embed efficiency standards into CIP process itself.

Council Member Smith showed apprehension about supporting

LEED certification at the expense of supporting performance-based efficiency standards that would lead to tangible results. Some suggested that by state law, there are limitations to requiring higher efficiency standards but that incentives for efficiencies are currently in place. Furthermore, the City can enforce LEED, which has adopted more efficiency standards into the certification process. Commissioners suggested that LEED be required and premiums can be used tangent. Council Member Smith informed the Commission that first readings on green and other development premiums were coming to Council in November (staff will confirm timing). He would look into formally inviting the Energy Commission to weigh in on the process.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Climate Action Plan

Ecology Center and Partnership supporters will come to the Commission for a Way To Go presentation at a future meeting once the site is launched.

Renewable Energies

The last details are being worked out for the solar group buy program. The launch date is still to be determined.

Sustainable Funding

Commissioner Appleyard suggested that there were several items brought up at the meeting that could be used for the next meeting. Commissioner Macomber wanted to know more about building premiums.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Biodigester Feasibility Study
Green incentives (update from Planning)
CEC solar update (schedule permitting)

ADJOURNMENT

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
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Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.

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

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