



# 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)

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Tuesday, September 12, 2017

6:00 PM

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

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#### Regular Meeting (Changed from originally scheduled Work Session)

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Appleyard called the meeting to order a little after 6:05pm

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 10 - Charles Hookham, Brigit Macomber, Mike Shriberg, Mark Clevey, Shoshannah Lenski, Wayne Appleyard, John Mirsky, Sarah Paleg, Jason Frenzel, and Carlene Colvin-Garcia

**Absent:** 1 - Noah Levin

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved

**17-1465** Meeting Minutes of the July 11, 2017 Ann Arbor Energy Commission Meeting

**Attachments:** Energy Commission Minutes 7-11-17.pdf

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Dave Konkle is president of Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA). GLREA is hosting a renewable energy gathering on September 21st from 5-7pm at Ann Arbor Brewing Company. Installers and GLREA board members will be present and the event is open to the public.

Craig Toepffer of Michigan Solar Solutions gave information on the Michigan drive electric week. He mentioned two events in particular. The first was a ride and drive electric car event on Sunday at the Whole Foods near Ann Arbor – Saline road hosted by the Sierra Club. The second was taking place in Plymouth at a local automotive supplier.

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

Staff Nate Geisler informed the Commission about the Michigan Sustainability Conference held September 14 by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/DEQ](http://Michigan.gov/DEQ).

Staff additionally shared info on Bill Mckibben's 2017 Wege lecture on October 5th at 5pm at Hill Auditorium. Commissioner Mirsky added that the lecture was part of a larger Michigan Climate Crisis series held from October 2nd to 8th

Staff informed the Commission of the Ross School of Business' Energy Conference September 29th on the 6th floor of 701 Tappan Street. The conference will include state and local speakers, including a speaker from the City (himself).

Commissioner Clevey: Michigan Interfaith Power and Light Conference taking place Friday, October 6th in Lansing. Registration is on their website.

Commissioner Hookham informed the Commission about a battery symposium taking place in Novi tomorrow and the next day. The main event includes an opportunity to talk to vendors and see hardware.

#### **Presentation: UM Student Team - Ann Arbor Microgrids**

The group looked at the feasibility of microgrids via solar generation on municipal buildings and some school district properties. Their main focus was looking at resiliency and ways to reduce carbon emissions. The presentation focused mostly on fire stations, landfill, parking structures, and schools. The presenters found that fire stations were a prime opportunity for resiliency, while schools, parking structures, and landfill represented a great opportunity to reduce carbon emissions. Some fire stations even had the potential

to produce surplus energy. The group found that Maynard parking structure was one of the best options. The group also focused on policy hurdles that might make it hard to create a microgrid that connects solar to off-site demand sources or a more spatially dispersed microgrid. These hurdles included zoning, lack of state tax incentives, easement legality, and utility right of way constraints, and other regulatory issues.

The Commissioners were impressed with the work done in such a short time frame, and thanked the group for the time and effort put into the presentation. The Commissioners had a few questions surrounding cost assumptions and whether the different rates for municipal buildings were taken into consideration. The group explained they settled on \$1.75 per watt, but they had heard quotes ranging between \$1.42 to \$3.75. Commissioner Clevey asked if they had considered using electric vehicles. The group explained that they had looked at Maynard as a possibility for electric charging but needed more information about the parking structure. Chair Appleyard talked about the difference in returns on net metering for systems beyond 20kw. Commissioner Mirsky asked if the group had reached out to DTE.

[17-1439](#) UM Student Project - Ann Arbor Microgrids - Energy Commission  
9-12-2017

**Attachments:** A2EnergyCommission\_MicrogridPresentation.pdf

#### Renewable Energy Resolution

Commissioner Clevey explained that the group had been working on the resolution for some time. The latest version benefited from numbers gathered by staff that did not only include electricity used by the municipality but also the energy associated with fleet vehicles and natural gas demand. Staff Nate Geisler explained how the 100% target for municipal operations could be met either through DTE's programs, through use of the City's facilities and landfill for renewable energy generation, or a mixture of alternatives.

The Commissioners discussed Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and how they should be left as an option after initially excluding the option, but that they should also be rigorously vetted. The commissioners also discussed the timing of targets. They agreed on targets that were incremental in nature and settled on a

final deadline of 2035 or sooner. They also discussed timing of the resolution given the budget cycle and made a few more changes to the resolution's effective budget timing.

On a voice vote, the resolution passed unanimously.

**17-1464 Resolution Committing the City of Ann Arbor to Using 100% Clean and Renewable Energy for City Operations**

**Resolution Regarding County Millage and Climate Action Funding**

Commissioner Mirsky explained the millage and how it would promote sustainability if passed. Two-thirds of the money intended for sustainability would go towards an "Energy Smart" program (modeled off a similar effort in Boulder, CO). A little under one-third would go towards Charge up Ann Arbor. The rest would go towards a Solar for All program.

Commissioners discussed the transparency of the millage, whether the millage would be considered part of recurring funds, and if the funds could be used to reach the 100% clean and renewable energy target.

On a voice vote, the resolution passed unanimously

**17-1453 Resolution of Intent Regarding Applications of Potential Washtenaw County Millage to Support Community Mental Health Department, County Sheriff Operations, and Policing Jurisdictions Rebate**

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Climate Action Plan**

No additional update.

**Renewable Energies**

Commissioner Mirsky explained that the community solar group was looking at possible options that would be brought back to the Commission for consideration. Commissioner Mirsky also informed the body about the "Solar Faithful" program that was looking at 10 houses of worship and ways to overcome barriers to all types of

non-profits looking to do solar. Staff Josh MacDonald offered a short synopsis of the effort as being a part of the US Department of Energy's "Solar in You Community Challenge".

**Sustainable Funding**

Commissioners briefly addressed the need for looking at alternative funding if the millage discussed earlier in the meeting did not pass.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Adam Simon urged the Commission to consider how previous goals would be met before creating new goals. He argued that there might be a way to partner with DTE and use the landfill to reduce emissions. Chair Appleyard explained that the Solar Subcommittee had been looking at the landfill for solar. Chair Appleyard brought up the need for the University to also work on their emissions and the fact that the community was on track to meet their 2025 emission target in large part because of DTE's plans.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

There will be a presentation on electric vehicles coupled with solar from Craig Toepffer who spoke during the first public comment period. There will also be an update on the Water Treatment Plant's project to reduce emissions, led by Carol Miller of Wayne State University. There as a request for an update from the Sustainability Metrics Sub-committee at this next or an approaching meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm

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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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[www.a2gov.org/ctn](http://www.a2gov.org/ctn)