

Environmental Commission Policy Agenda Items

December 5, 2019

Staff recommendations:

1. Greater local control over building and electrical codes
2. Adoption of the Zero Energy Code (which will be an appendix to the soon to be adopted ICC code)
3. Ability to install microgrids (certainly for emergency responders and critical facilities, but also for anyone)
4. Support for energy choice
5. Removing the cap for distributed generation (it's currently set at 1% and that needs to go away)
6. Going back to net metering

Current Submissions:

1. State to provide grants and in-kind support to help localities work on climate change mitigation (MA, NY, and CA) [In Partnerships with Energy Commission]
2. State to provide grants and in-kind support to help localities build the resilience of communities that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impact and natural disasters (Florida Adaptation Action Areas) [In Partnerships with Energy Commission]
3. Remove the state restriction keeping localities from legislating the use of single-use packaging like plastic bags and straws
4. State to provide grants and in-kind support to help support active transportation (biking, walking, etc.) and public transit [In Partnerships with Transportation Commission]
5. State to take a comprehensive approach to addressing contamination by PFAS and associated compounds, including increased testing, enforcement, and remediation
6. State to permit localities to enact rent control which would help the City meet its Green Rental Housing goals [In Partnerships with Ann Arbor Housing Commission]
7. Expand composting and recycling programs statewide, possibly funded by an increase in landfill tipping fees
8. Undoing this change, and generally getting back to more of a "polluters pay" type of approach at the state level: <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/06/29/michigan-department-environmental-quality-panel/745625002/>
9. Support and advocate for continued funding for initiatives that protect the Great Lakes system.
10. Support and advocate for the incorporation of water reuse and reclamation systems into the Uniform Building Code.
11. Monitor and pursue opportunities to secure funding to protect, develop, and upgrade water, wastewater, drainage, and natural features resources and systems.
12. Pursue remedies that incent the installation of sustainable and renewable energy resources, including but not limited to residential and community solar and wind systems.
13. Monitor and actively engage with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the US Environmental Protection Agency to expand and accelerate the remediation of contamination at the Gelman/Pall site and the impacted groundwater resources.
14. Monitor and actively engage with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the US Environmental Protection Agency on the funding for and remediation of Volatilization to Indoor Air (VI) sites.

15. Monitor and actively engage with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on revisions to the state solid waste management regulation (PART 115) and creation of new funding sources for local government waste management programs.
16. Pursue legislative remedies to support appropriate local government access to household utility data on gas and electricity use to support the upcoming city investment in community facing energy programs.
17. Support and advocate for the incorporation of high performance building efficiency systems into the Uniform Building Code.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Environmental Commission recommends that City Council adopt these policy agenda ideas as official City policy.