

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA**  
**Climate Action Plan Task Force**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**March 26, 2010**  
**Harrigan Centennial Hall**

**I. Call To Order and Roll Call**

**Time:** 5:00 pm.

**Quorum Present:** David Neel, David Nicholls, Kenyatta Bradley, Michelle Putz, Kerry MacLane

**Members of the Public:** Jack Ozment, Juliet Agne, Jim Dinley, Christopher Wilbur, Christopher Brewton, Mim McConnell, Lexi Fish

**II. Agenda**

- Introductions
- Provide background of the CAPTF and the CAP
- Summarize plan
- Ask for edits/feedback
- Figure out what to do to complete plan and present to Assembly

**A. General Introduction of the Climate Action Plan**

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves to the group and identified their position in the task force or in the community. Michelle then continued to explain how the group was formed, why it was formed, and discussed how the plan was developed through various steps. She touched base on the City's membership with ICLEI and how they were an integral role in getting the ball rolling for the Municipal CAP. In order to get the plan started, the group brainstormed with various City employees on different ways to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Michelle also discussed the group's methodology to get numbers for various items (implementation cost, cost savings, eCO<sub>2</sub> emissions, etc.) in order to get accurate information into the CAP. Michelle also received edits ahead of time from different City employees and these were discussed at the meeting as that section came up in the discussion.

For the Introduction section, the committee discussed and agreed that the summary in the beginning needs to go towards the end of the introduction. This gives the readers more of the info needed to comprehend the document before reading a summary.

**B. Energy Shortfall**

Kerry discussed and showed visuals outlining the dilemma the City will face in CO<sub>2</sub> reductions by 2020. The Electric Dept plans on expanding the Blue Lake Hydroelectric Dam in order to increase the hydropower supply to the City. During construction and filling of the dam, the City will have to rely on the diesel generators to supply electricity for the town. Unfortunately, this means over 500,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> will be released into the atmosphere. This negates the positive impact the CAPTF is trying to produce on the City's emissions. However, the group will not include the emissions from this project in meeting the CAP goal. It will only be noted because it

is a significant event. The emissions from electricity generation will be back to average by 2020 when the goal must be met.

### **C. Building Efficiency**

Kenyatta explained the various projects found under the building efficiency section of the CAP. The buildings included are that of the Sitka School District and Municipal Buildings. Kenyatta discussed the efficiencies of each building and how they can be improved based on the findings of the City's Energy Audits. The CAPTF focused on everything that can help improve building efficiency because that will help in lowering the City's emissions.

The project that got the most focus in the discussion was the "Electric or Optional Electric Heating Option" on various municipal buildings. This project allows buildings to use Sitka's renewable energy source and cuts on atmospheric emissions. However, there is an issue with space at each of the facilities to support an electric boiler. Construction costs to expand boiler rooms to install electric boilers will be included in implementation costs in the plan. An electric boiler is for the Sitka Community Hospital was discussed under adjustments to baseline.

### **D. Transportation**

David Nicholls prepared slides highlighting the transportation section of the CAP. He went over the various proposals to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by "right-sizing" the City fleet, converting some City vehicles (to electric and hybrid), purchasing City vehicles with improved gas mileage, reduce vehicle idling, and commuter transit subsidies. If all of these scenarios were implemented, then the City will save 98 tons of eCO<sub>2</sub> per year. Theoretically, all of these initiatives will be implemented over time at the City's earliest convenience.

David Neel discussed the commuter transit subsidies. Essentially, City employees are encouraged to use some form of public transportation, like the Community Ride. Employees will purchase a day pass for their commute and at the end of the month, submit their receipts in order to be refunded a portion of their commuter costs. This subsidy encourages public transportation as well as reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

### **E. Waste and Procurement**

Kerry prepared more slides to give the members of the meeting a visual of the various waste initiatives found in the CAP. He discussed the pros and cons of each initiative and how they relate to City operations. Many of the proposals included items like implementing a co-mingled curbside recycling program and serving locally caught fish in schools. These proposals maximize the income within the City, lower emissions, and keep the money locally.

### **F. Other**

Michelle presented other initiatives that had a different rating system associated with it in general. These included City policies and other initiatives where it was difficult to calculate a savings of eCO<sub>2</sub> or implementation costs. Michelle also mentioned that when the CAPTF met with City employees, that many wanted to see some sort of educational program/brochure that can help employees reduce their emissions.

### **G. Public Comments**

In general, the members of the public sounded pleased with all the work the CAPTF has done in order to organize the CAP for the City.

Chris Brewton submitted a list of suggestions for the CAPTF to consider when making edits. These included items like how much the public is saving in gas from the newly installed roundabout and information about the streetlights. Chris said he would work with Michelle to complete the Streetlight Section.

Lexi Fish wanted to let people know about some potential funding may be available for efficiency projects. Senate Bill 220 is the bill we need to keep track of for funding opportunities (if it passes).

Chris Wilbur provided some input about the electric heating conversion/optional electric heating. Essentially, the initial costs to purchase and install an electric boiler in some of the locations because of the construction costs is not appealing. Other sustainable heat source options included seawater heat pumps and other heat recovery systems. These items are great suggestions, but Chris mentioned that the paybacks on the systems are not all that great. The City would reduce their emissions, but financial-wise, it might be too much for the City to handle at the moment. Chris offered to meet with Michelle to come up with the best proposal to increase electric heat.

Each member was asked to track individual recommendation and edits to provide them to Michelle for compilation.

### **III. Adjournment 7:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Juliet Agne - Task Force Intern  
AmeriCorps Intern with Sitka Conservation Society/City and Borough of Sitka