CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Agenda
Sustainability Commission

Officers: Chair Katie Riley, Vice Chair Auora Taylor, Secretary Erik de Jong
Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Lilli Garza, Gerry Hope
Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator
Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Monday, April 1, 2024	6:00 PM	Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the March 4, 2024 minutes.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda)*

V. REPORTS

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Updates and Next Steps for Working Groups

VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Recommendation for the Use of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funds
C. Approve Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Energy Education Modules
D. Amend Bylaws Article IV: Meetings Section E: Order of Business

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda)*

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

X. ADJOURNMENT

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Minutes
Sustainability Commission

Officers: Chair Katie Riley, Vice Chair Aurora Taylor, Secretary Erik de Jong

Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Lilli Garza

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Monday, March 4, 2024	6:00 P.M.	Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Acting Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 P.M.
Present: Aurora Taylor (Acting Chair), Erik de Jong, Elizabeth Bagley, Lilli Garza, Katie Riley (telephonic)
Absent: Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)
Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)
Public: Barb Bingham, Larry Edwards, Joel Hanson, Annemarie LePalme, Krystina Scheller

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Bagley proposed addressing unfinished business after new business.
Seeing no objections, the agenda was changed.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the February 5, 2024 minutes.

Bagley moved to approve the February 5, 2024 minutes.
Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda)*

Joel Hanson updated the Commission on the work on the Community Garden initiative by Transition Sitka and the Sitka Local Foods Network.

V. REPORTS

Staff: Gabel announced Commissioners Zermoglio and Voisin resigned and summarized the process for filling their seats. She attended the Climate Planning for Fishing Communities Workshop hosted by the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association and was able to connect with local commercial fishermen and brought attention to the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) and how they can be involved. She summarized her attendance at the Electrification Expo.

Chair: Taylor announced that the 2024 Microgrants for Food Security Program through the Alaska Department of Natural Resources was currently open and could support a variety of initiatives.

Commissioners: Riley reminded those in attendance of the federal tax rebates available through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Bagley brought attention to new resources available through Project Drawdown, including a new seminar.

Tourism Task Force: Barb Bingham summarized the progress status of the directives for the Tourism Task Force and their work schedule for the next two months.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Updates and Next Steps for Working Groups

The Public Engagement and Public Energy Education were combined, and Commissioners indicated their interest in supporting the SCRES technical team in early energy scenario development so they could adhere to their anticipated 3-month work plan. Gabel would follow up with the working groups to arrange meetings with the technical team on their respective topics during the first half of March.

Annemarie LePalme spoke to areas of interest hoped to see included in energy education.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Approve the 2024-2025 Goals and Work Plan

Commissioners edited the wording of the draft 2024-2025 Work Plan and goals to better reflect the progress towards each goal and anticipated next steps for the upcoming year. Gabel explained that the Chair and Vice Chair would present the 2024-2025 Work Plan to the Assembly for approval during March.

Hanson spoke in support of more emphasis being put on municipal solid waste in the upcoming year.

Riley moved to approve the 2024-2025 Sustainability Commission goals as written below:

1. **Continue development of the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES)**
2. **Collaborate with City staff on strategic management of municipal solid waste**
3. **Support the electrification of the municipal fleet**

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

C. Review Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Community Scoping Survey Results

Gabel summarized the initial results of the SCRES community scoping survey and how it would be integrated into the technical team's work plan. She asked Commissioners if there were comparisons or visualizations they would like to see from the responses. Taylor requested comparisons between homeowners and renters. A full report would be presented at the next meeting.

Bagley suggested the Commission reflect on the challenges and successes of running the survey and how it could inform future surveys and/or engagements. Gabel summarized the collection methods and how successful or unsuccessful they were.

D. Review SCRES 3-Month Work Plan

Gabel reviewed the technical team's anticipated 3-month work plan and how the work groups would be utilized to keep the technical team on track to ideally have Sitka's energy history education module ready for review in May. She gave an overview of the concept map tool the team was using to incorporate Commission direction into development of the modules.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda)*

None.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for April 1, 2024 at 6:00 P.M., Harrigan Centennial Hall.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting.
Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at 7:53 P.M.

Minutes By: Erik de Jong, Secretary

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Sustainability Commission Members
From: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator
Date: March 29, 2024
Subject: **Updates & Next Steps From Working Groups- SCRES**

Background

Since the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) transitioned from scoping to execution in February 2024, Commissioners split into working groups loosely related to topics to give direction to the technical team outside of regular meetings while remaining in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. This allowed technical team members to have a group of commissioners available to receive feedback from to deliver a more finalized product for approval at regular meetings rather than only getting feedback at monthly intervals.

Due to varying schedules and availability of both Commissioners and technical team members, the efficacy of this approach is questionable. The significant turnover of Commissioners and vacant seats since the start of the project has also likely exacerbated the difficulties of the current approach to engagement with the technical team. As the work over the next few months becomes clearer and the technical team's goal of beginning mathematical modeling of potential scenarios in October, a different approach has been drafted.

Analysis

This new method of engagement intends to allow Commissioners more flexibility to engage with specific deliverables they deem of personal interest or importance while allowing the technical team enough autonomy to continue developing materials at a pace that will ensure the educational component of the SCRES is delivered promptly and efficiently. The Commission will still see materials regarding the SCRES frequently at regular meetings, but ideally for approval rather than input.

Recommendation

Consider dissolving the SCRES working group and adhere to the SCRES feedback calendar on page 2 for the next 3 months.

Proposed Work for April

- Draft learning session topics, potential presenters, and dissemination method(s) (Page 43, Molokai CERAP)
- Draft community map (Page 45, Molokai CERAP)
- Draft materials for Module 1: Sitka's Energy Today
- Draft learning objectives for learning modules

Proposed Working Schedule for SCRES Development

There are 3 options for involvement in each deliverable. If a Commissioner chooses option 1 or 2, they may request a work session be held for that item if they feel more work is needed from the Commission and tech team to have it ready for approval at the next meeting this request should be made as soon as possible. The request is contingent on Commissioner availability. If Commissioners do not choose an option, they material will default to option 3.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">1st</td><td>Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting 6 PM</td><td>Bri sends Sustainability Commission follow up email with summary of upcoming work</td><td>Deadline for Commissioners to opt into upcoming materials.</td><td>SCRES Tech Team Check-In</td><td>1 or 2: Bri connects Commissioners and tech team members</td></tr>
<tr><td>Approve SCRES materials from previous month/give direction on materials as needed
Bri presents drafts of materials to be worked on for the next month</td><td colspan="3">Options:
1. Collaborate 1-on-1 with tech team
2. Provide feedback on 50% draft
3. Provide feedback on final draft at next commission meeting
Commissioners that do not indicate their option will assume option 3 as default.</td><td>Bri notifies tech team of Commissioner choice selection</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">2nd</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>SCRES Tech Team Check-In</td><td rowspan="3">2. Materials are ready for Commissioner review</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">1. Collaboration window for Commissioners and tech team</td><td rowspan="2">2. Draft materials due for Commissioners</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">2. Tech team prepares materials for Commissioner review</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">3rd</td><td rowspan="2"></td><td rowspan="2"></td><td rowspan="2"></td><td>SCRES Tech Team Check-In</td><td rowspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td>2. Commissioner feedback due</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">1. Collaboration window for Commissioners and tech team</td><td rowspan="2">12 PM Deadline to request work session</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">2. Commissioner feedback window</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">4th</td><td>Optional Work Session as Needed</td><td></td><td></td><td>SCRES Tech Team Check-In</td><td rowspan="2">Bri sends out upcoming regular meeting packet</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">1, 2, or 3. Tech team incorporates feedback and finalizes materials for approval</td><td>Deadline for materials for Commission approval/review</td></tr>
</table>

Blue: Commission actions | **Orange:** technical team actions | **Green:** Bri Actions

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Sustainability Commission Members
From: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator
Date: March 29, 2024
Subject: **Recommendation for the Use of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Funds**

Background

As part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), the City and Borough of Sitka was allocated $75,300 that may be used to be used increased energy efficiency and conservation, or fossil fuel reduction. The U.S Department of Energy (DOE) has identified 14 categories eligible for use under the EECBG. Activities proposed should fall under one of these categories and should bear in mind an equitable distribution of community investment and projects serving disadvantaged communities, in line with the Justice40 Initiative.

To streamline the process, the DOE created a voucher program to streamline application efforts, specifically for local governments receiving less than $200,000. CBS has already selected to apply for a voucher which covers a variety of technical assistance and rebate options.

Analysis

Through internal CBS staff suggestions, discussions, and capacity, existing capital needs, and feasibility of execution with the allocated amount, a list of potential projects includes:

Category 5: Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grants for Government Agencies

- LED lighting at the Performing Arts Center and other municipal buildings
- Heat pumps for the animal shelter

Category 10: Material Conservation Programs

- Revitalize the CBS Recycling Center
  - New/more bins, signage, educational materials,etc.

Category 14: Purchasing, and Installing Zero-emission Transportation and Associated Infrastructure

- Purchase electric vehicle supply equipment for municipal fleet
  - Level 2 charger: $3,000 - $6,300 per charger, including hardware and installation costs*
  - DC fast charger: $55,000 - $120,000 per charger, including hardware and installation costs*
- Reserve to support purchasing municipal EV(s)
  - Enough to cover one Ford F150 Lightning or the majority of 2 light duty commuter EVs

*these numbers were provided by the DOE and have not been adjusted for actual costs

Recommendation

Recommend the use of the EECBG fund that supports CBS's strategic plan, Resolution 22-18: Decarbonize Municipal Operations by 2030, and/or the Sustainability Commission's goals.

Next Steps

The recommendation will be taken to the Assembly on April 23, 2024, for approval to apply to the EECBG program.

Encl: Guidance for Eligibility of Activities Under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

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POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO recommend that the EECBG funds are used to fund *project/item/topic.*

EECBG PROGRAM NOTICE 23-01
EFFECTIVE DATE: April 25, 2023

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR ELIGIBILITY OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Contents

PURPOSE 2

SCOPE 2

LEGAL AUTHORITY AND BACKGROUND 2

GUIDANCE 2

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY CATEGORIES 6

Category (1) Strategy Development and Implementation 7

Category (2) Retaining Technical Consulting Services 8

Category (3) Residential and Commercial Building Audits 10

Category (4) Financial Incentives for Energy Efficiency 12

Category (5) Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grants for Government Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations 14

Category (6) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities 16

Category (7) Conservation of Transportation Energy 18

Category (8) Building Codes and Inspection Services 20

Category (9) Energy Distribution Technologies 22

Category (10) Material Conservation Programs 24

Category (11) Reduction, Capture, and Use of Landfill Gases 25

Category (12) Replacement of Traffic Signals and Street Lighting 26

Category (13) On-site Renewable Energy On or In a Government Building 28

Category (14) Programs for Financing, Purchasing, and Installing Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Zero-emission Transportation (and associated infrastructure) Measures and Capital Investments, Projects, and Programs for Leveraging Public and Private Sector Funds 30

LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF EECBG PROGRAM FUNDS 33

PURPOSE

To provide guidance on the eligibility of activities under the Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

SCOPE

The provisions of this guidance apply to recipients of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) EECBG Program funds.

LEGAL AUTHORITY AND BACKGROUND

The EECBG Program is authorized under Title V, Subtitle E of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), as amended,[1] and signed into Public Law (PL 110-140) on December 19, 2007. All awards made under this program shall comply with applicable laws and regulations including, but not limited to, the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 910 and Section 40552 of IIJA.

GUIDANCE

The purpose of the EECBG Program is to assist eligible state, local, and tribal governments (collectively referred to as "eligible entities") in implementing strategies to:

- Reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and, to the maximum extent practicable, maximizes benefits for local and regional communities;
- Reduce the total energy use of the eligible entities;
- Improve energy efficiency in the transportation sector, the building sector, and other appropriate sectors;[2]
- Build a clean and equitable energy economy that prioritizes disadvantaged communities and promotes equity and inclusion in workforce opportunities and deployment activities, consistent with the Justice40 Initiative.

These stated purposes describe the overall intent of the EECBG Program. Entities may develop various programs and projects that address one or more of the purposes and each activity an entity undertakes is not required to meet all the stated purposes. Entities may choose from a range of eligible activities, as defined in Section 544 of EISA[3] as amended by Section 40552(a) of the IIJA (Public Law 117-58).

DOE updated this guidance from the version issued in 2011 (EECBG Program Notice 10-021) to reflect the changes Congress made to EISA when it signed IJJA into law. This updated version provides guidance to EECBG Program grantees regarding the types of eligible activities that are considered allowable use of funds under one or more of the 14 eligible activity categories for the EECBG Program.[4] Recipients of EECBG Program grants (including entities receiving sub-grants) or vouchers can use this guidance to determine eligible activities that support EECBG Program goals and implementation strategies. The

[1] 42 U.S.C. 17151 et seq.
[2] 42 U.S.C. 17152(b).
[3] 42 U.S.C. 17154
[4] This guidance only addresses categories 1-14 outlined in Section 544 of EISA. Category 15 is defined in law as "any other appropriate activity, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development."

guidance also identifies activities that are prohibited or where limitations on use of funds exist, as established by the EECBG statute or determined by DOE. This guidance is not intended to be exhaustive. If an eligible entity has a question regarding the eligibility of a specific activity, the eligible entity should contact the EECBG Program at eecbg@hq.doe.gov or their Project Officer.

In general, the overall objective of each eligible activity should be the attainment of, or the plan to attain, increased energy efficiency and conservation, or fossil fuel reduction. These activities should bear in mind an equitable distribution of community investment and projects serving disadvantaged communities, in line with the Justice40 Initiative.

Projects related to regular maintenance or repairs are not eligible. Eligible entities may apply their funds to one or more projects, as long as each project falls within one of the 14 categories of eligible uses of funds.

Equity and Environmental Justice

Per President Biden's Executive Order 14008, the Federal Government has established the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities[5] ("DACs").[6] This government-wide effort is called the Justice40 Initiative. The EECBG Program is a Justice40-covered program and thus contributes to the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of federal investments in clean energy and climate solutions flow to DACs. DOE has released General Guidance on Justice40 Implementation designed to help eligible entities and other interested parties incorporate Justice40 Initiative goals into DOE-funded projects.[7]

DOE has identified the following benefits that can flow to DACs as a result of EECBG Program funding. Specifically, benefits include, but are not limited to measurable direct or indirect or positive project outcomes that achieve or contribute to the following in DACs:

1) a decrease in energy burden;
2) a decrease in environmental exposure and burdens;
3) an increase in access to low-cost capital;
4) an increase in job creation, the clean energy job pipeline, and job training for individuals;
5) increases in clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (e.g., minority-owned or disadvantaged business enterprises);
6) increases in energy democracy, including community ownership;
7) increased parity in clean energy technology access and adoption; and
8) an increase in energy resilience.

[5] Also referred to as underserved, overburdened, and frontline communities.
[6] Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad," January 27, 2021, and the Office of Management and Budget's Interim Justice40 Implementation Guidance M-21-28, DOE recognizes DACs as defined and identified by the White House Council of Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), which can be located at https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/.
[7] Final DOE Justice40 General Guidance 072522.pdf (energy.gov)

Further, the EECBG Program encourages eligible entities to include the participation of underserved communities[8] and underrepresented groups in the activities they undertake with EECBG Program funds. EECBG Program eligible entities are highly encouraged to include contractors and sub-contractors from historically underrepresented groups[9,10] in their project scoping. Further, Minority Serving Institutions,[11] Minority Business Enterprises, Minority Owned Businesses, Woman Owned Businesses, Veteran Owned Businesses, or entities located in an underserved community that meet EECBG Program eligibility requirements are encouraged to be considered as sub-recipients for proposed EECBG Program-funded projects.

Blueprints and Technical Assistance

DOE has developed or identified resources to assist EECBG Program recipients with development of their energy efficiency and conservation strategies and project implementation plans, including Blueprints and Technical Assistance available from the EECBG Program and other DOE programs. These resources are intended to supplement the award funding received through either a formula or competitive award from DOE.

Blueprints are step-by-step roadmaps of energy project and programs that guide EECBG Program entities to success. While not an exclusive list, the blueprints highlight a select number high-impact projects and programs based on proven practices that entities can choose to follow. Though entities may use their EECBG Program funds for a wide array of energy-related activities, those that choose to spend their EECBG Program funds exclusively on "key activities" listed in the blueprints should expect a streamlined and expedited application review because these key activities fall within eligible uses of EECBG Program funds, and most of the blueprint activities are covered by NEPA Statements of Work.

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[8] The Office of Management and Budget Interim Implementation Guidance for Justice40 defines a disadvantaged community as either: (1) a group of individuals living in geographic proximity (such as census tract), or (2) a geographically dispersed set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions.

[9] According to the National Science Foundation's 2019 report titled, "Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering", women, persons with disabilities, and underrepresented minority groups— blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, and American Indians or Alaska Natives—are vastly underrepresented in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields that drive the energy sector. For example, in the U.S., Hispanics, African Americans and American Indians or Alaska Natives make up 24 percent of the overall workforce, yet only account for 9 percent of the country's science and engineering workforce. DOE seeks to inspire underrepresented Americans to pursue careers in energy and support their advancement into leadership positions. https://www.energy.gov/articles/introducing-minorities-energy-initiative

[10] Note that Congress recognized in section 305 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act of 2017, Public Law 114-329: "[I]t is critical to our Nation's economic leadership and global competitiveness that the United States educate, train, and retain more scientists, engineers, and computer scientists; (2) there is currently a disconnect between the availability of and growing demand for STEM-skilled workers; (3) historically, underrepresented populations are the largest untapped STEM talent pools in the United States; and (4) given the shifting demographic landscape, the United States should encourage full participation of individuals from underrepresented populations in STEM fields."

[11] Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), including Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Other Minority Institutions as educational entities recognized by the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), U.S. Department of Education, and identified on the OCR's Department of Education U.S. accredited postsecondary minorities' institution list.

The blueprints span a wide variety of topic areas: energy planning, energy efficiency, renewable energy, transportation infrastructure, workforce development, and financing. For more information, see the Blueprints webpage.

Blueprint Topics:[12]

- Blueprint 1. Energy Planning
- Blueprint 2A. Energy Efficiency - Energy Audits and Building Upgrades
- Blueprint 2B: Energy Efficiency and Electrification in Buildings - Energy Savings Performance Contracts:
- Blueprint 2C: Building Efficiency & Electrification Campaign
- Blueprint 2D: Building Performance Standards & Stretch Codes
- Blueprint 3A: Solar + Storage Power Purchase Agreements and Direct Ownership
- Blueprint 3B: Community Solar
- Blueprint 3C: Solarize Campaign
- Blueprint 3D: Renewable Resource Planning
- Blueprint 4A: Electric Vehicles for Fleets and Fleet Electrification
- Blueprint 4B: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for the Community
- Blueprint 5: Unlocking Sustainable Financing Solutions for Energy Projects and Programs - Revolving Loan Funds
- Blueprint 6: Workforce Development Community

National Environmental Protection Act Requirements

DOE must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) prior to authorizing the use of Federal funds. DOE must also consider the effects on historic properties, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Additionally, DOE must consider the impacts to floodplains and wetlands, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 1022—Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements. To streamline these required reviews, DOE carries out each of these reviews under the umbrella of its NEPA review. Grantees should review and follow the NEPA determination (the form that DOE uses to document NEPA reviews) in their award documents for restrictions, and the list of activities that have been categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Statements of Work (SOW) have been created and placed on the EECBG Program Formula Application Hub webpage to provide expedited reviews of blueprints and other activities. The NEPA SOWs apply to different applicants and include either ground disturbing activities or nonground disturbing activities. Applicants should review the SOWs to ensure the correct one is selected, if applicable. SOWs with ground disturbing activities require quarterly reporting for all activities. DOE staff will require submission of an Environmental Questionnaire (EQ1) for a NEPA review through the Project Management Center (PMC) if a NEPA SOW is not utilized.

[12] This list shows proposed Blueprints by topic area as of April 2023. Blueprint topic areas may be added or revised, based on grantee and stakeholder interests, and effectiveness in achieving program goals. For additional information, visit the Blueprints webpage.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY CATEGORIES

EISA, as revised by Section 40552 of IIJA, specifies 14 categories of eligible uses of EECBG Program funds. DOE is providing guidance below regarding the types of eligible activities that are covered by the 14 categories, including examples of eligible activities, technical assistance opportunities, and items for consideration. This guidance on eligible activities is not intended to be comprehensive. If an eligible entity has a question regarding the eligibility or allowability of a specific activity, the eligible entity should contact their Project Officer, or email the EECBG Program at eecbg@hq.doe.gov.

Category (1) Strategy Development and Implementation

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Development and implementation of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- This category only applies to eligible local and tribal governments. State governments are ineligible to apply their EECBG Program funds to strategy development.
- The activity must be for the development, in support of the development, or in support of the implementation of either a strategy submitted pursuant to the EECBG Program or a general strategy that outlines goals for energy efficiency or conservation.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Development of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy if one is not submitted with application
- Development of the energy efficiency and conservation elements of an energy-related plan such as a climate action plan or local or tribal government's sustainability plan
- Expansion of an existing strategy to address new goals

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Blueprint 1: Energy Planning
- The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is providing interested EECBG Program grantees one-on-one technical assistance and customized support to develop their Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies. Grantees can sign up by emailing NREL directly at: EECS_TA@nrel.gov. Funding is limited; requests will be considered based on available funding and type of support requested.

IITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Develop strategies around clearly defined, measurable, and ambitious goals for advancing energy efficiency and clean energy.
- Ensure that strategies are informed by stakeholder feedback and include opportunities for continued stakeholder engagement, with a particular focus on soliciting feedback from underrepresented and disadvantaged communities. EECBG Program recipients are encouraged to actively seek participation and feedback from a diverse range of stakeholders that reflects the demographics of their community.
- Incorporate equity and environmental justice objectives in developing energy efficiency and conservation goals and associated implementation strategies.
- Take a holistic approach that incorporates a variety of technologies and addresses the needs of different populations within the community leveraging tools such as the DOE State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE) Platform, a free, easy-to-use online platform to support data-driven state and local energy and decarbonization planning.

Category (2) Retaining Technical Consulting Services

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Retaining technical consultant services to assist the eligible entity in the development of such a strategy, including—

A. Formulation of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and energy usage goals;
B. Identification of strategies to achieve those goals—
    a. through efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption; and
    b. by encouraging behavioral changes among the population served by the eligible entity;
C. Development of methods to measure progress in achieving the goals;
D. Development and publication of annual reports to the population served by the eligible entity describing—
    a. the strategies and goals; and
    b. the progress made in achieving the strategies and goals during the preceding calendar year; and
E. Other services to assist in the implementation of the energy efficiency and conservation strategy

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- This activity area refers to retaining technical consultant services to assist the eligible entity in the development and implementation of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy, including developing methods to measure progress in achieving the goals identified in the strategy, and developing and publishing annual reports, such as dissemination of energy plans and progress updates.
- This category is only available to eligible entities that are units of local government or tribes that received funds under the EECBG Program.
- The activity for which the eligible entity is seeking to retain technical consulting services must support one or more elements of strategy development and implementation developed under Category 1.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Formulation of energy efficiency, energy conservation, and energy usage goals, methods to achieve those goals or measure progress, and the publication of annual reports discussing progress
- Identification and development of an equity-centered strategy to achieve 2030 carbon neutral goals through the energy efficiency and conservation strategy
- Developing a detailed roadmap, as part of the energy efficiency and conservation strategy, to reduce costs and improve energy efficiency in communities and households with high energy burdens
- Development of internal metrics and evaluation system for strategies and measures in the energy efficiency and conservation strategy that address clean energy and climate resiliency objectives in the community
- Strategic planning for electrification of government transportation fleets

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Blueprints 1-6: Each of these blueprints can be used as a guide towards select EECBG Program activities. The key activities described in each blueprint, including planning and data analysis, can be conducted either by a member of the EECBG Program grantee's internal staff or by external contractors or consultants.
- The National Renewable Energy Laboratory can provide interested EECBG Program eligible entities with direct technical assistance and customized support around energy planning including goal development and options analysis. Eligible entities can submit a request for TA by emailing NREL directly at EECS_TA@nrel.gov. Funding is limited; requests will be considered based on available funding and type of support requested.
- The technical assistance voucher pathway may also be a good option for entities that are primarily interested in obtaining technical support services, such as planning, analysis, and strategy development related to this category.[13]
- Additional technical assistance around specific technology areas is available through various DOE offices and national laboratories. For additional information, visit the EECBG Technical Assistance webpage.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Consider local objectives, staff capacity, and support needs when selecting consultants. Look for firms with prior expertise and knowledge of local or tribal government energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification or sustainability programs, including development of place-based strategies.
- Consider selecting eligible firms that reflect diversity in their business ownership and staff, understand local community needs, and are experienced in place-based approaches.
- Engage underrepresented or underserved groups to ensure that their needs are considered and addressed during technical consultant service delivery (e.g., community input sessions, equitable access to programs and financial opportunities.)

[13] For formula-eligible local governments and tribes only. Entities must select either a grant or voucher for their EECBG formula award.

Category (3) Residential and Commercial Building Audits

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Conducting residential and commercial building energy audits

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- The activity should be for conducting energy audits of residential and commercial buildings;[14,15]
- The activity must occur within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity; and
- Upgrades or improvements to buildings associated with the audits are an eligible use of funds.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Energy assessments to understand usage patterns in a portfolio of buildings and benchmark performance, including benchmarking building energy performance in the ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager Tool
- Installing energy upgrades in homes or commercial businesses recommended as the result of an audit
- Any activities that support or facilitate the conduct of energy assessments of residential or commercial buildings

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Blueprint #2A: Energy Efficiency - Energy Audits and Building Upgrades
- The federal government maintains several tools to assist with building energy efficiency, which are described in the blueprint, including ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager, DOE Building Energy Asset Score, and Home Energy Score™, which are online platforms to collect, organize and analyze energy data for commercial and residential buildings, and identify and prioritize energy efficiency improvements. In addition, DOE developed the Energy Data Management Guide designed to support state and local governments in developing a data-driven approach to energy management.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Consider ensuring that energy assessments are implemented in communities that have traditionally experienced energy injustice or have disproportionate energy burdens by using

[14] Energy audits include assessments of residential and commercial buildings to evaluate the energy performance of the building, and identify and prioritize energy savings opportunities, including operational or behavioral changes. Assessments may include recommendations for installation of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy and/or grid-interactive systems, such as battery storage, and energy monitoring systems.

[15] For the purpose of eligibility under the EECBG Program, "building" generally means a usually roofed and walled structure built for permanent use. Commercial buildings include all buildings in which at least half of the of floor space is used for a purpose that is not residential (used as a dwelling for one or more households), manufacturing/industrial (used for processing or procurement of goods, merchandise, raw materials or food) or agricultural (used for the production, processing, sale, storage, or housing of agriculture process, including livestock), so they include building types that might not traditionally be considered "commercial," such as schools, correctional institutions, and building uses for religious worship.

tools such as the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool and Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool and partnering with relevant community stakeholders.

- Coordinate energy assessment activities with existing federal, state, local, and utility energy efficiency programs, as well as existing and anticipated sources of additional funding. Many utilities offer free or discounted energy assessments (i.e., 'audits') for residential and commercial buildings. Energy assessments can serve as a first step to further energy-saving, clean energy, and electrification measures that could be otherwise publicly funded.
- Coordinate energy assessment activities with energy efficiency and conservation elements of any existing or planned energy-related plan, such as a climate action plan or local or tribal government's sustainability plan. Factor in the energy impacts of long-lifetime building upgrades, and their implications for existing climate or sustainability plans.
- Consider conducting an initial energy assessment to better understand energy usage patterns across a given portfolio of buildings and identify and prioritize buildings for further assessment.

Category (4) Financial Incentives for Energy Efficiency

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Establishment of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- The activity must be for a financial incentive program, such as a rebate, loan, energy savings performance contracts, or other financing program.
- The financial incentive program must be for the purpose of improving energy efficiency; and
- The financial incentives must be limited to resident, non-profits, government entities, or businesses within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.
- The activity may include financial incentive programs established by states, including sub-grants from states to local governments or tribes, such as a revolving loan fund.
- For local governments and Indian tribes only: there is a limitation on utilizing EECBG Program formula grant funds for the development and capitalization of a Revolving Loan Fund of the greater of 20% of the award allocation or $250,000. Eligible entities may contribute grant funding to an existing revolving loan fund – they need not establish a new one.
- EECBG Program funds used for financing programs must be tracked and reported separately from non-EECBG Program funds, including other federal financing programs, such as the Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Capitalization Grant Program available to States.
- While this Category addresses financial incentives specifically for energy efficiency, financing for renewable energy systems may be an eligible activity under Category 14.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs)
- Loan programs such as: revolving loan funds, loan guarantees, loan-loss reserves or credit enhancements, on-bill financing, and energy efficient mortgage programs
- Non-loan financial assistance programs such as: grants, rebates, tax credits, tax exemptions, fee waivers, interest rate buydowns, bonds
- Other financial incentive program for energy efficiency improvements, such as formulation of 501(c)3 Green Bank Entities

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Blueprint #2B: Energy Efficiency and Electrification in Buildings - Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- Blueprint #2C: Building Electrification Campaign
- Blueprint #5: Unlocking Sustainable Financing Solutions for Energy Projects and Programs – Revolving Loan Funds

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- Financial incentive programs should be designed to be self-sustaining.
- Consider opportunities to leverage or coordinate EECBG formula funds with rebates, financial incentives and financing programs funded by the IIJA or Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), such as

SEP Revolving Loan Funds, Home Energy Rebates, and the U.S. EPA's Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Fund.

- Leverage private capital to achieve greater impact by partnering with non-profit Green Banks or other sources of private capital.
- Coordinate financial incentive activities with energy efficiency and conservation elements of any existing energy-related plan, such as a climate action plan or local or tribal government's sustainability plan. Factor in the energy impacts of long-lifetime building upgrades, and their implications for existing climate or sustainability plans.
- Seek to design programs to mitigate historical inequities in access to capital and financing to further environmental justice by addressing barriers to accessing capital, such as credit score and debt-to-income ratios. See the State and Local Solution Center for program design resources and examples, such as:
    - Clean Energy for Low-Income Communities Accelerator (CELICA) Toolkit;
    - State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE) Platform; and
    - Energy Efficiency Financing for Low- and Moderate-Income Households: Current State of the Market, Issues, and Opportunities.

Category (5) Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grants for Government Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

The provision of grants to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies for the purpose of performing energy efficiency retrofits

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- The activity is for energy efficiency retrofits performed by government agencies or nonprofit organizations (these retrofits may be in residential buildings as long as the government or nonprofit is performing the retrofit). The retrofit may be of equipment (e.g., an HVAC system and associated controls, appliances, or lighting) or a building;
- The retrofit must result in energy savings (e.g., kwh/BTUs) or improved energy efficiency;
- The activity must not be for new construction or non-replacement equipment;
- The activity must occur within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Energy efficiency retrofit measures, including weatherization, installation of efficient heating and cooling systems and appliances, cool roofs, and water efficiency measures
- Energy management systems, including grid-interactive equipment such as smart thermostats, battery storage systems, and building energy management systems
- Building electrification measures, including the installation of heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, residential or commercial cooking equipment, and associated wiring and panel upgrades

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Blueprint #2A: Energy Efficiency - Energy Audits and Building Upgrades
- Blueprint #2B: Energy Efficiency and Electrification in Buildings - Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- Blueprint #5: Unlocking Sustainable Financing for Energy Projects and Programs – Revolving Loan Funds

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- Take a whole-building approach to retrofits that recognizes the interactive effects and co-benefits of different technologies, rather than focusing on a specific technology or end use.
- Consider coordinating (also referred to as 'braiding') EECBG Program grant funding with other local, state, and federal programs such as the Better Buildings Initiative, Weatherization Assistance Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, IRA Home Energy Rebates (forthcoming), federal tax incentives or USDA's Community Facilities Program; or utility energy efficiency programs, including financing and incentives for energy efficiency improvements.
- Consider the energy impacts of long-lifetime building retrofits and their broader implications for existing climate or sustainability plans. Perform energy assessments and retrofits in

communities that have traditionally experienced energy injustice or have disproportionate household energy burdens by using tools such as the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool and Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool and partnering with relevant community stakeholders.

Category (6) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs for Buildings and Facilities

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Development and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation programs for buildings and facilities within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity, including—

A. Design and operation of the programs;
B. Identifying the most effective methods for achieving maximum participation and efficiency rates;
C. Public education;
D. Measurement and verification protocols; and
E. Identification of energy efficient technologies

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- The activity must be for the development and/or implementation of an energy efficiency or energy conservation program. An eligible use of funds may include the design and operation of the program and installation of energy efficiency equipment, including building energy management systems and controls.
- The activity must be related to buildings or facilities;[16] and
- The activity must impact buildings or facilities within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Workforce development/training programs supporting eligible activities, such as training community members on green technology installation or residential and commercial energy audits
- Programs for public education including training or workshops
- Development and implementation of building performance standards, including benchmarking and disclosure requirements for the purpose of promoting energy efficiency in commercial buildings
- Development and implementation of measures and verification protocols
- Programs to partner with local non-profits and community organizations to support weatherization, efficiency retrofits and technologies, and installations
- Programs to promote architecture, design, and engineering work for energy efficient buildings
- Non-capital strategies to improve facility efficiency through an Energy Data Management Program and/or operations and maintenance strategies such as Strategic Energy Management (or similar methods)
- Development of an energy rating, disclosure and/or labeling system for the purpose of promoting energy efficiency in residential or commercial buildings

[16] For the purpose of eligibility under the EECBG Program, "facility" generally means an installation, building, group of buildings, or group of structures designed to support a related purpose.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Blueprint 2A: Energy Efficiency – Energy Assessments and Building Upgrades
- Blueprint 2B: Efficiency for portfolio of government buildings: Energy Saving Performance Contracts
- Blueprint 2C: Building Electrification Campaign
- Blueprint 3: Building Performance Standards and Stretch Codes
- Blueprint 5: Unlocking Sustainable Financing Solutions for Energy Projects and Programs - Revolving Loan Funds
- In addition to providing one-on-one customized technical assistance for governments pursuing building code updates, the DOE Building Energy Codes Program also provides technical assistance for jurisdictions interested in exploring Building Performance Standards programs.
- The federal government maintains several tools to assist with building energy efficiency, which are described in the blueprints, including ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager and DOE Building Energy Asset Score which are online platforms to collect and organize building energy data. In addition, DOE developed the Energy Data Management Guide designed to support state and local governments in developing a data-driven approach to energy management.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- Achieve a double bottom line of economic justice and energy justice by prioritizing disadvantaged communities in workforce development training programs.
- Design programs that can leverage other local, state, and federal funding, such as the DOE Better Buildings Initiative, Weatherization Assistance Program, and EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants.
- Coordinate buildings and facilities programs with energy efficiency and conservation elements of any existing energy-related plan such as a climate action plan or local or tribal government's sustainability plan. Factor in the energy impacts of long-lifetime building upgrades and their implications for existing climate or sustainability plans.

Category (7) Conservation of Transportation Energy

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Development and implementation of programs to conserve energy used in transportation, including—

A. Use of flex time by employers;
B. Satellite work centers;
C. Development and promotion of zoning guidelines or requirements that promote energy efficient development;
D. Development of infrastructure, such as bike lanes and pathways and pedestrian walkways;
E. Synchronization of traffic signals; and
F. Other measures that increase energy efficiency and decrease energy consumption

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- The activity must result in or support the conservation of transportation fuel within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.
- Conservation of transportation fuel may be for the population (e.g., privately owned vehicles) within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity or for government purposes (e.g., government fleets)
- Eligible alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) can span a range of transportation fuel conservation technologies and fuel types (e.g., light and medium duty electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrid vehicles).
- A reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that result from transportation fuel may also be considered conservation of transportation fuel.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Improvement of energy efficiency of government vehicle fleets through the purchase of electric, hybrid, or alternative fuel vehicles such as buses, recycling / waste collection vehicles, etc.
- Micromobility programs, devices and associated facilities, including conventional bicycles, e-bicycles, e-scooters, and other personal transport devices for public use[17]
- Addition of bike lanes, pathways, or other alternative transportation infrastructure
- Geomapping for ideal placement of electric vehicle charging stations and infrastructure
- Purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging stations and equipment
- Enhancing commuter lots to encourage increased use of public transportation
- Strategies to reduce vehicle miles travelled, including the use of satellite offices, flex time, telecommuting policies, and implementation of carpooling or vanpooling strategies
- Development and promotion of zoning and siting guidelines or requirements that promote energy efficient development
- Implementing planning measures to improve transportation efficiency, including the development and promotion of alternative transportation infrastructure, synchronizing traffic

[17] For more information on micromobility devices and transportation systems, see: https://highways.dot.gov/public-roads/spring-2021/02# and https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26386/transit-and-micromobility

signals, and mapping the ideal placement of vehicle charging and other alternative fueling infrastructure

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Blueprint #5: Unlocking Sustainable Financing Solutions for Energy Projects and Programs – Revolving Loan Funds

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- For a project to qualify for EECBG Program funds under Category 7, its focus must be for the conservation of transportation fuel within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.
- Consider equity and environmental justice in determining placement of EV charging stations and ensure stations are affordable and accessible to all residents (including multifamily households), to promote equitable access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- An alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) refers to a vehicle that does not rely on traditional gasoline, but rather other power sources, including battery electric vehicles (BEVs), plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs) and hybrid vehicles. Vehicles utilizing biodiesel, ethanol, or natural gas are also considered alternative fuel vehicles.[18] When determining AFVs for purchase, be sure to consider which have the lowest carbon emissions and operational costs.
- Complementary federal funding for transportation efficiency and electrification measures may become available from additional programs, including grant programs administered by DOE, the DOE/DOT Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Many current state and federal programs offer funds for the development and placement of electric vehicle charging. Efforts to place additional alternative fueling infrastructure should be in coordination with these programs to ensure rural and disadvantaged communities and households not yet being served are prioritized.

[18] For additional information on alternative fuel vehicles by fuel type and technology, visit the Alternative Fuels Data Center at: https://afdc.energy.gov/.

Category (8) Building Codes and Inspection Services

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Development and implementation of building codes and inspection services to promote building energy efficiency

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- The activity must be for the development, adoption and/or implementation of building codes, inspection services or trainings/workshops to promote building energy efficiency.
- Programs for development, adoption and implementation of stretch codes that exceed baseline energy codes, such as green building standards, are eligible under this category.
- The development of energy efficiency rating and/or labeling systems for the purpose of promoting energy efficient devices, equipment, or buildings are eligible under this category.
- The activity must occur within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Adoption and implementation of building energy codes, including supporting the adoption and implementation of model building energy codes or stretch codes for energy efficient residential and commercial buildings
- Training and certification support for architects, builders, building inspectors, code officials, and other stakeholders that are responsible for implementing building codes
- Development, adoption, and implementation of a Building Performance Standard, including benchmarking and disclosure requirements
- Conducting an energy code field study, which would document typical design and construction practices, target areas for improvement through workforce education and training initiatives, and quantify energy efficiency and environmental impacts in buildings

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Blueprint #2D: Building Performance Standards & Stretch Codes
- The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) provides technical assistance grants to support the implementation of updated building energy codes to encourage more efficient and resilient buildings. For more information on EERE funding opportunities and resources available to support implementation of updated building energy codes, visit: the EERE Building Codes webpage.
- The Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) plans to provide technical assistance grants to assist states and units of local government that have authority to adopt and implement the latest model energy codes (i.e., 2021 IECC & ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2019), zero energy building codes, or other codes or standards that achieve equivalent or greater energy savings. Up to $1 billion in funding is available, through 9/30/29.
- The DOE Building Energy Codes Program provides $225 million in technical assistance grants to support building code development and implementation, as well as promoting alignment about building codes and performance standards.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- The legal authority for local government entities to develop, adopt, or implement more stringent building energy codes varies by state, with some states prohibiting or limiting local code adoption, whereas others delegate code adoption to local jurisdictions. Other states may provide either a uniform model Stretch Energy Code for municipal adoption, or Reach Codes, which provide optional standards for energy efficiency that exceed the state's mandatory code requirements.[19] The DOE Building Energy Codes Program (BECP) provides information on state and local code adoption, including information on the status of code adoption by state[20] and state code adoption laws (which also includes status of code adoption by jurisdiction).[21] BECP has also developed stretch code modules based on technologies, measures, or practices (or optimized combinations) that can be adopted as a stretch code or directly into state and local building energy codes.[22]
- Due to the limited capacity of local code enforcement officials, eligible entities may consider energy codes with alternative compliance pathways or explore strategies to reduce building officials' workload, such as third-party enforcement procedures.
- Prioritize resources to increase inspection capacity in historically energy-burdened and disadvantaged communities as identified using the Justice40 tools, such as CEJEST.

[19] For additional information on stretch and reach codes, see Stretch Codes (Advanced Codes) - New Buildings Institute. https://newbuildings.org/code_policy/stretch-codes-advanced-codes/

[20] BECP Status of State Energy Code Adoption: https://www.energycodes.gov/state-portal

[21] BECP Municipal Building Energy Policies: https://public.tableau.com/views/Top100MetroDatabase-PrimaryCityCode-V4/MetroResidentialCodeMinandHR_1?:language=en-US&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link

[22] BECP Stretch Codes: https://www.energycodes.gov/stretch-codes

Category (9) Energy Distribution Technologies

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Application and implementation of energy distribution technologies that significantly increase energy efficiency, including—

A. Distributed resources; and
B. District heating and cooling systems

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- The application and implementation of energy distribution technologies that significantly increase energy efficiency, including distributed resources and district heating and cooling systems.
- The activity must result in a significant increase in energy efficiency within the jurisdiction of the eligible activity.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Microgrid technologies
- District heating and cooling systems
- Combined heat and power systems (CHP)
- Cogeneration systems
- Energy Storage systems

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITY

- Blueprint: Solar + Storage: Power Purchase Agreements and Direct Ownership
- Blueprint 6: Unlocking Sustainable Financing for Energy Projects and Programs - Revolving Loan Funds
- Resources around CHP are available from DOE Better Buildings Program can be found here.
- Resources around grid modernization are available through the DOE Grid Deployment Office can be found here.
- Additional technical assistance around specific technology areas may be available through various DOE offices and national laboratories. For the latest, visit the EECBG Technical Assistance webpage.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- Renewable energy, storage, and CHP can provide revenue streams while grid-connected, and these energy and cost savings may lower the overall cost of a microgrid and allow for the incorporation of additional microgrid components. When integrated into a microgrid, distributed energy technologies can also increase survival time during a grid outage when fuel supplies are limited.

- Implementing energy efficiency measures in conjunction with renewable energy, storage, and/or CHP can reduce the cost of each of these systems by allowing a smaller system to meet the reduced energy needs of the facility.
- Leverage federal tax incentives where feasible, such as the Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Credits.
- CHP technologies are most applicable to sites that have a reliable gas supply and steady thermal and electric loads such as industrial operations; commercial operations such as hospitals, nursing homes, or hotels; and institutional and residential sites such as schools, universities, prisons, or multi-family buildings. If CHP with gas is considered, be sure to consider the expected lifetime of the CHP system and how it aligns with broader jurisdictional goals in existing climate and/or sustainability plans.
- Consider district heating configurations that further reduce emissions, such as combined renewable energy configurations (e.g., solar, wind, steam, sustainably sourced fuels) and power systems or geothermal district heating.
- Prioritize sites that directly serve the community and that provide one or more infrastructure and services to the community, such as community centers, water and wastewater treatment facilities, police and fire stations, schools, libraries, and other facilities. These sites could benefit from microgrid, CHP and/or storage systems by lowering energy costs and enhancing community resilience, such as providing backup power or emergency shelter in the event of a natural disaster or extended power outage, especially when combined with onsite renewable investments described in Category 14.

Category (10) Material Conservation Programs

STATUTORY LANGAUGE

Activities to increase participation and efficiency rates for material conservation programs, including source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs that lead to increases in energy efficiency

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- The activity must be for the purpose of increasing the participation in and/or the efficiency rates of a material conservation program (e.g., source reduction, recycling, and recycled content procurement programs); and
- The activity must occur within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.
- If the activity is a recycled content procurement program within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity, there must be an associated increase in energy efficiency and/or conservation of fuel.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- The cost of vehicles required for a materials conservation/recycling program, such as recycling trucks
- Municipal waste reduction programs, including education and outreach
- Establishing or expanding policies and programs for materials reuse and recycling, including equipment and facilities and associated tracking and reporting systems.
- Organic and food waste recovery and recycling via food waste recovery programs, and organics recycling, such as composting, and anaerobic digesters for clean renewable electricity generation)
- Expanding infrastructure and/or participation in existing recycling programs

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- Consider the energy consumption associated with producing and recycling different materials, as well as the environmental implications of their disposal.
- Consider coordination with other local jurisdictions to develop facilities that can serve multiple jurisdictions.

Category (11) Reduction, Capture, and Use of Landfill Gases

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

The purchase and implementation of technologies to reduce, capture, and, to the maximum extent practicable, use methane and other greenhouse gases generated by landfills or similar sources

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- The activity must be for the purchase and implementation of technology, for the purpose of reducing, capturing, or using methane or other greenhouse gases generated by landfills or similar sources; and
- The activity must occur within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Reducing the carbon emissions of landfills or similar waste-related sources, including wastewater treatment plants, operations producing food waste, dairy farms, and other animal operations, through measures to reduce, capture and use methane and other greenhouse gases
- Anaerobic digestion systems
- Utilization of landfill gas for electricity generation
- Direct use of landfill gas to offset the use of other fuels
- Conversion of landfill gas to renewable natural gas

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- Activities in this category may present an opportunity to lessen the burden of environmental regulatory requirements through the reduction, capture, and use of landfill gases.
- Cogeneration systems, like those discussed in Category 9 of this document, can use landfill gas to generate electricity and thermal energy.
- Additional information, including tools and resources for reducing or avoiding landfill methane emissions, is available from the U.S. EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP). Additional information on renewable natural gas systems and a database of renewable natural gas projects are available from the Alternative Fuels Data Center and the Renewable Natural Gas Database.

Category (12) Replacement of Traffic Signals and Street Lighting

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Replacement of traffic signals and street lighting with energy efficient lighting technologies, including—

A. Light emitting diodes; and
B. Any other technology of equal or greater energy efficiency

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- The activity must be for the replacement of traffic signals, street lights[23] or street signs;
- The replacement of traffic signals or street lights must be light emitting diodes (LEDs) or other technology of equal or greater energy efficiency. Traffic signals and street light replacements may include solar panels that power the street lights so long as the panels are part of a replacement effort that installs LEDs or other technology of equal or greater efficiency for lamps;
- Generally, only the cost of replacement lamp is eligible unless replacement/upgrade of supporting structure (e.g., posts) is necessary to support the replacement of the lamps.
- The activity must occur within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- LEDs and any other technology of equal or greater energy efficiency
- Computerized traffic management systems, installed on street lights, to minimize vehicle-based traffic congestion during peak driving hours

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITY

- The Better Buildings Outdoor Lighting Accelerator Toolkit provides tools and resources, including a decision tree for upgrading or replacing public outdoor lighting systems, technical support resources, and lessons learned.
- The Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium (MSSLC) helps local governments make informed decisions on the purchase of LED street lighting and maximize the energy savings. Resources include lighting specifications, financing resources, technical reports, presentations, and FAQs on outdoor street lighting, including resources on lighting selection and design considerations.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- The replacement of a lighting fixture, an arm, a pole, or any part of a light is an eligible use of funds if the more efficient lighting technology necessitates such a replacement. However, regular maintenance is an ineligible cost. For example, EECBG Program funds cannot be used to replace a rotten pole due to insufficient maintenance. LED lights should be procured with strong

[23] A "street light" is an outdoor source of light that is raised and that is intended to provide functional illumination to the area below the light.

warranty terms and meet certifications (e.g., ENERGY STAR or otherwise) to ensure energy performance, longevity and lighting quality over time.

- When considering which locations to make street light improvements, consider incorporating approaches to ensure equitable access to street light improvements, such as scoring criteria that consider equity, safety, and access.

Category (13) On-site Renewable Energy On or In a Government Building

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Development, implementation, and installation on or in any government building of the eligible entity of onsite renewable energy technology that generates electricity from renewable resources, including—

A. Solar energy;
B. Wind energy;
C. Fuel cells; and
D. Biomass.

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- The activity must be for the development, implementation, and installation of onsite renewable energy technology (e.g., solar energy, wind energy, fuel cells, or biomass);
- The installation of the renewable energy technology must be on, in or under a government building[24] of the eligible entity (the renewable technology is considered installed on a government building if it is installed on a government-owned site and connected to the government building behind the meter); and
- The renewable energy technology must be for the generation of electricity, or result in more efficient heating/cooling. The renewable energy source need not provide a building's entire electricity usage and not all of the electricity needs to physically go into the government building.
- The installation of renewable energy technologies on commercial buildings, or other non-government buildings or sites, is not an eligible use of funds under Category 13. Renewable energy technologies, however, are eligible for installation on non-governmental buildings under Category 14, as part of programs for financing and installing energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero emissions transportation systems, including financing programs, grants, incentives or rebates.[25]

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Financing mechanisms that enable this activity such as power purchase agreements for solar PV installations on multiple government buildings

[24] For the purpose of eligible under the EECBG Program, "government building of the eligible entity" generally means a building built by or for the use of the government that is the grantee/recipient of award funds. This includes buildings owned or leased by the eligible entity. This does NOT include state, Federal, or other government buildings that are not government buildings of the eligible entity.

In the case of tribal governments, exclusions from the definition of tribal government buildings are privately owned tribal housing and commercial buildings; facilities owned by 501(c) (3) entities (unless the organization was chartered and delegated by the Tribe to act on its behalf); and those owned by a Federal Agency (e.g., U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc.)

[25] Entities proposing to purchase and install renewable energy technologies on government buildings may include the proposed activities under either Category 13 or 14.

- Installation of renewable energy technologies (e.g., solar energy, wind energy, fuel cells, or biomass) at or on government property

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITY

- Blueprint 4A: Solar + Storage - Power Purchase Agreements and Direct Ownership
- Blueprint 4D: Renewable Resource Planning
- National Renewable Energy Lab provide technical assistance to Local Governments around Waste-to-Energy
- Additional technical assistance around specific technology areas, including solar, may be available through various DOE offices and national laboratories. For the latest, visit the EECBG Technical Assistance webpage.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- In addition to locational and structural characteristics (such as roof conditions, shading, orientation, etc.), considering the projects' proximity to electrical infrastructure is critical for solar and wind projects (behind-the-meter projects exempted).
- Leveraging eligible energy efficiency and conservation activities can reduce the cost of on-site renewable energy investments by meeting a government building's energy requirements with less on-site generation capacity.
- Activities under this category should align with the local policy context, including siting limitations; utility-specific requirements for interconnections; state policies and programs such as renewable energy credits, rebates, and net metering; and available federal incentives, including tax credits.[26]
- Prioritize sites that directly serve the community and that provide one or more infrastructure and services to the community. For example, consider community centers, water and wastewater treatment facilities, police and fire stations, schools, libraries, and other facilities that could benefit from on-site renewable energy systems by lowering energy costs, and enhancing community resilience, such as providing backup power or emergency shelter in the event of a natural disaster or extended power outage (including when combined with energy storage systems, as described in Category 9).

[26] Consider exploring siting resources provided by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, such as the Clean Energy to Communities Program.

Category (14) Programs for Financing, Purchasing, and Installing Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Zero-emission Transportation (and associated infrastructure) Measures and Capital Investments, Projects, and Programs for Leveraging Public and Private Sector Funds

STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Programs for financing energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero-emission transportation (and associated infrastructure), capital investments, projects, and programs, which may include loan programs and performance contracting programs, for leveraging of additional public and private sector funds, and programs that allow rebates, grants, or other incentives for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero-emission transportation (and associated infrastructure) measures

PROGRAM GUIDANCE

- This category may include the purchase and deployment of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero emissions technologies. This may include technologies that promote the electrification of buildings and transportation.
- Projects and programs in this category include efforts to develop and/or implement programs that encourage and promote the use of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero emissions technologies. These programs may also include financing and loan programs to support energy efficiency, renewable energy, and zero emissions transportation.
- Projects may leverage public and private funds, including partnerships with third-party lenders, co-lending, third-party administration of loans, loan loss reserves, and partnerships with utilities.
- Equipment acquisitions and installations for infrastructure projects will be subject to restrictions and review as outlined in statute under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). NEPA will apply to equipment acquisition and installation, and to all other activities outlined in the Administrative and Legal Requirements Document.
- Equipment acquisitions and installations may also be subject to restrictions and review as outlined in statute under the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA). When necessary, exemptions under BABA may be possible.

EXAMPLE ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES:

Transportation:

- Infrastructure development to support electric vehicles (EV), EV charging stations, rural EV infrastructure, and increasing EV charging access in underserved communities and communities with high energy burdens
- The purchase or lease of zero-emission vehicles, including electric buses, bikes, and scooters, as well as the acquisition, construction, and leasing of required supporting facilities

Energy Efficient & Renewable Technology

- Pre-development planning costs for further energy efficiency and conservation projects and programs.

- Infrastructure improvements to support the deployment of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation
- The purchase, deployment, and infrastructure development of energy efficient and renewable energy technologies, including projects occurring in or on non-government buildings or privately owned land and facilities.
- The purchase and deployment of a battery storage system if combined with a renewable energy generation system and/or energy efficiency at government and/or non-government buildings or facilities
- Grid modernization efforts necessary to support renewable energy and electrification initiatives, such as upgrading metering infrastructure, grid-interactive equipment and appliances, and interconnection of local renewable energy systems (e.g., community solar systems, wind turbines and other renewable energy systems)

Clean Energy Programs

- Loan programs, such as revolving loan funds, on-bill financing programs, energy savings performance contracting, or solar lending programs
- Credit enhancements, such as loan loss reserves and financial incentives, interest rate buy downs, or rebates
- Programs for public education, training, workshops, technical assistance, measurement and verification, and energy management systems to support the use of energy efficiency, renewable energy and zero emissions transportation
- Innovative deployment and financing models for renewable energy, including community solar and solarize campaigns

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Blueprint 2A: Energy Efficiency – Energy Assessments and Building Upgrades
- Blueprint 2B: Efficiency and Electrification of Buildings -- Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- Blueprint 2C: Building Electrification Campaign
- Blueprint 3A: Solar + Storage - Power Purchase Agreements and Direct Ownership
- Blueprint 3B: Community Solar
- Blueprint 3C: Solarize Campaign
- Blueprint 3D: Renewable Resource Planning
- Blueprint 4A: Electric Vehicles and Fleet Electrification
- Blueprint 4B: EV Charging Infrastructure for Communities
- Blueprint 5: Unlocking Sustainable Financing Solutions for Energy Projects and Programs – Revolving Loan Funds
- Blueprint 6: Workforce Development
- Additional technical assistance may be available through various DOE offices and national laboratories. For the latest, visit the EECBG Technical Assistance webpage.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- Community solar projects mitigate some of the physical and siting barriers to solar installation by enabling multiple subscriber customers to receive bill credits for electricity generated from solar power without having to host a solar installation on their property. DOE resources for community solar projects are available through the National Community Solar Partnership.
- Seek opportunities to leverage EECBG Program funds with private capital or design programs to deliver ongoing energy savings by reinvesting funds from loans or energy savings (e.g., a municipal revolving loan fund or energy savings performance contracting).
- Larger-scale installation projects may require extended time to go through the NEPA review and approval process. Be sure to schedule in ample time for this important process.
- Entities pursuing EV charging projects under this category should consider strategies to ensure equitable distribution of EV infrastructure to disadvantaged communities. Likewise, EV charging placement would ideally align with other state and federal efforts per category 7 above.

LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF EECBG PROGRAM FUNDS

There are several limitations on the use of EECBG Program funds. Eligible entities must consult their award agreements for more information about those limitations.

Limitations for funds:

Local and tribal governments:

- Use up to 20 percent or $250,000, whichever is greater, of the grant funds for the establishment of revolving loan funds.
- Use up to 20 percent or $250,000, whichever is greater, of grant funds for the provision of sub-grants to nongovernmental organizations for the purpose of assistance with overseeing, establishing, and monitoring the EECBG Program activities of the applicant.

  Sub-granting Requirements & Notes:
  - This limitation applies only to subgrants. Sub-contracts to address specific needs of the recipient to fully implement its energy efficiency and conservation strategy are not bound by this limitation, subject to approval by DOE. However, recipients must ensure that the majority of the grant funding is used to achieve the objectives of their EECBG Program grant.
  - In addition, funding that is intended to be used for implementation of measures described in the recipients EECS and / or grant award may be passed-through a support subgrantee without counting against the limitation on subgrants.
  - All pass-through entities are responsible for administration of sub-granted funds, including flow-down requirements (i.e., award special terms & conditions), monitoring and oversight and reporting on sub-grantee activities.[27]
- Use up to 10% or $75,000 of their funds for administrative expenses (excluding the cost of the reporting requirements).[28]

States and territories:

- Are required to subgrant not less than 60% of the amount provided to the State to ineligible local governments within the state.
  - American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are exempt from the 60% sub-grant requirement.
- Use up to 10% of their funds for administrative expenses.

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[27] Requirements for pass-through entities may be found in 2 CFR 200.332.

[28] Grantees should use their established definitions of "administrative expenses". States may not use more than 10 percent of amounts provided under the program for administrative expenses (42 USC 17155 (c)(4)). Units of local government and Indian tribes may not use more than 10 percent or $75,000, whichever is greater, for administrative expenses (42 USC 17155 (b)(3)(A)). EECBG funds may be used for compensation of employees or contractors. Whether or not the administrative cost cap applies depends on the nature of the responsibilities of the staff hired. Administrative activities are those that cannot be identified with any single program but are necessary to the general conduct of the activities of the entity organization; this could include such items as the overall direction of the organization, record keeping, budgeting, and business management.

Programs or Activities Using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds:
For recipients that are administering programs or activities through EECBG Program funds received under ARRA, such as financing programs, the ARRA prohibitions on use of funds still apply. Specifically, ARRA prohibits, without exception, the use of funds for any casino or other gambling establishment, aquarium, zoo, golf course, or swimming pool. Any buildings or infrastructure supporting the above establishments are also ineligible.

Questions regarding the eligibility of a specific activity, measure, or program under the EECBG Program should directed to the EECBG Program Project Officer assigned to your award.

/s/ Michael Li

Michael Li
Acting Deputy Director, Community Energy Programs
Office of State and Community Energy Programs

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Sustainability Commission Members
From: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator
Date: March 29, 2024
Subject: **Approve the SCRES Educational Modules**

Background

The technical team has been collecting historical data and preparing to create a menagerie of energy educational materials as directed by the Sustainability Commission and informed by the results of the community scoping survey. The proposed modules are as follows:

1. Sitka's Energy Today
2. Sitka's Energy History
3. Reliability and Resilience
4. Energy Economics
5. Self Sufficiency and Independence
6. Energy Efficiency and Conservation
7. Sitka's Energy Options
8. Sitka's Energy Future

Each module intends to answer a series of corresponding questions and ideally, meet yet to be determined learning objectives that can be used to evaluate the success each module in working towards the outcomes of the SCRES outlined in the previously presented logic model.

Modules 1-7 are intended to prepare community members to engage with discussion and activities related to module 8 by comprehensively illustrating Sitka's energy landscape and help support informed decision making by connecting questions to larger themes that frequently appeared throughout survey responses.

The modules are presented in two formats: a concept map and list. The concept map serves to visualize how different topics and necessary supporting materials feed into the modules.

Recommendation

Please provide input on the current series of modules and give direction on learning objectives development if desired. Consider utilizing the concept map to give specific directions on supporting deliverables for each module. If satisfactory, approve the SCRES education modules.

Encl: SCRES Energy Education Modules, Key Questions, and Objectives
SCRES Educational Concept Map
SCRES Community Scoping Survey Final Report

POSSIBLE MOTION(S)

I MOVE TO approve the SCRES education modules as outlined in the packet.

I MOVE TO approve the SCRES education modules as outlined in the packet and amended through Commission discussion.

I MOVE TO add/reword/replace/reorder module(s) _____.

SCRES Energy Education Modules

No.	Module Topic	Key Question
1	Sitka's Energy Today	What is a grid and how does it work?
		What is unique about Sitka's grid?
		How much electricity does Sitka have?
		What is Sitka's energy usage today?
Objectives		
1.1		Participants will be able to list the 3 major components of the grid
1.2		Participants will be able to compare islanded and interconnected grids
1.3		Participants will be able to describe Sitka's energy users
1.4		Participants will be able to identify which group of energy users they belong to.
2	Sitka's Energy History	How has Sitka's energy needs changed over time?
		How have these needs changed the grid?
		How does historical approach inform future energy choices?
Objectives		
2.1		
3	Reliability and Resilience	What is the current state of the infrastructure?
		What are the strengths and weaknesses of, threats to, and opportunities for Sitka's grid?
		What are the ways to increase reliability and resilience?
Objectives		
3.1		
4	Energy Economics	How are rates determined/ what impacts the cost of electricity?
		What is Sitka's electricity infrastructure debt?
		How can the cost of electricity be reduced?
Objectives		
4.1		
5	Self Sufficiency and Independence	How do we balance generation and distribution?
		How does investment in the grid translate to self-sufficiency and independence?
		What are the social, cultural, and environmental impacts associated with new infrastructure?
Objectives		
5.1		
6	Energy Efficiency and Conservation	How do everyday energy choices influence Sitka's energy future?
		Who plays what roles in energy efficiency and conservation?
		What is the role of policy in energy and conservation?
Objectives		
6.1		
7	Sitka's Energy Options	What options does Sitka have to increase generation? (ETIPP 1)
		What are the strengths and weaknesses of each type?
		Which types are best suited for Sitka and why?
Objectives		
7.1		

SCRES Energy Education Modules

8	Sitka's Energy Future	Where do we want to go?
		How will we get there?
Objectives		
8.1		

Outcomes from the SCRES Logic Model

The Community Will:

Knowledge

- Know where Sitka's electricity comes from
- Understand Sitka's energy is used
- Know how electricity rates are determined
- Understand how their rates compare across AK, USA, and globally
- Know what options Sitka has for renewable expansion (ETIPP1)
- Understand energy debt, how it financed, where it comes/came from

Attitudes

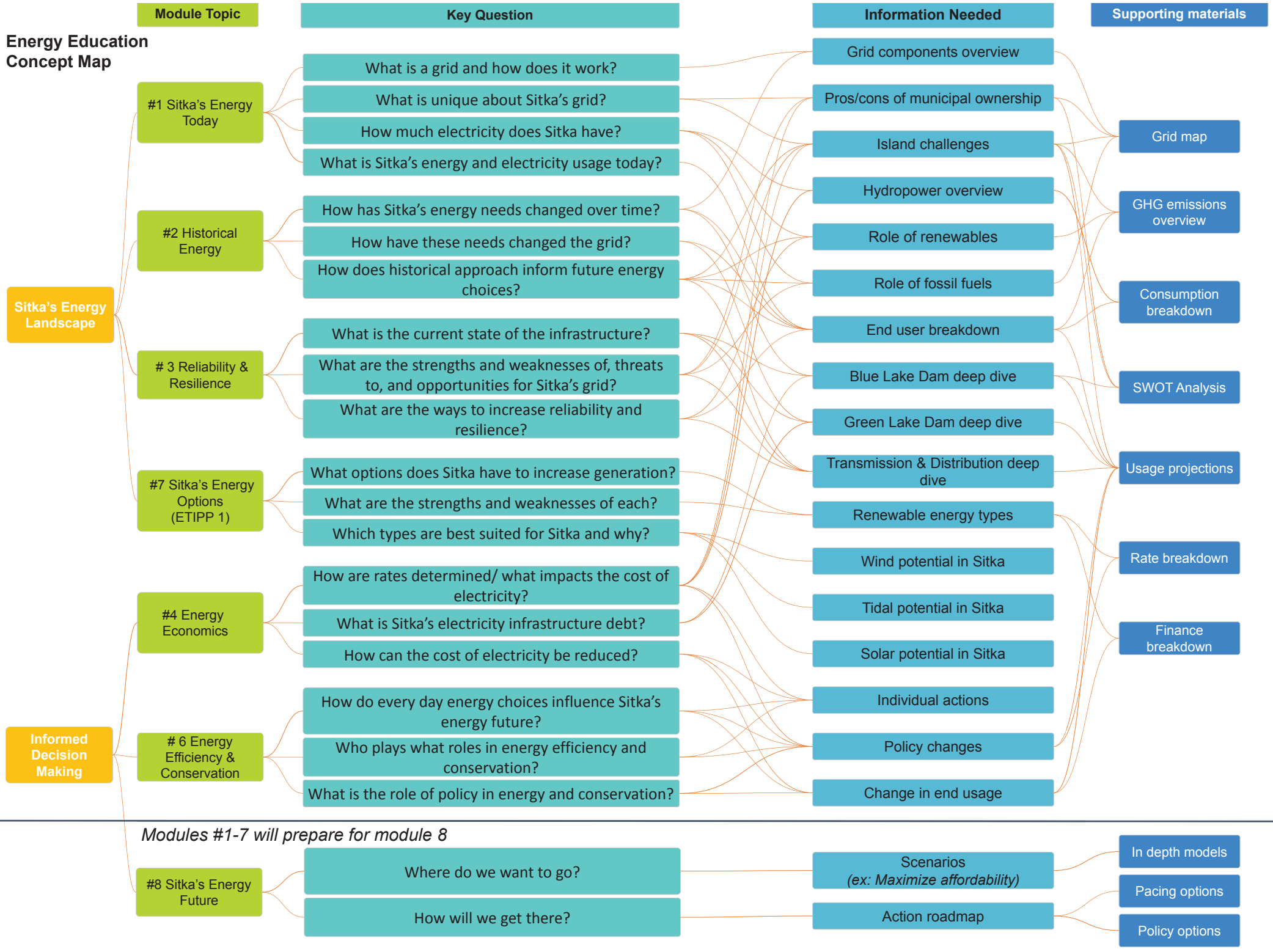
- Understand why energy matters
- See electricity as a valuable resource that should be conserved
- Support CBS and the Commission in their efforts on renewable energy

Skills

- Have the tools and confidence to participate in collective decision-making about energy
- Learn how to engage in the public process
- Setting a personal energy budget

Behavior

- Will electrify more to reduce fossil fuel use
- Use electric energy more efficiently


Module Topic
Key Question
Information Needed
Supporting materials
Energy Education Concept Map
Sitka's Energy Landscape
Informed Decision Making
#1 Sitka's Energy Today
#2 Historical Energy
3 Reliability & Resilience
#7 Sitka's Energy Options (ETIPP 1)
#4 Energy Economics
6 Energy Efficiency & Conservation
#8 Sitka's Energy Future
What is a grid and how does it work?
What is unique about Sitka's grid?
How much electricity does Sitka have?
What is Sitka's energy and electricity usage today?
How has Sitka's energy needs changed over time?
How have these needs changed the grid?
How does historical approach inform future energy choices?
What is the current state of the infrastructure?
What are the strengths and weaknesses of, threats to, and opportunities for Sitka's grid?
What are the ways to increase reliability and resilience?
What options does Sitka have to increase generation?
What are the strengths and weaknesses of each?
Which types are best suited for Sitka and why?
How are rates determined/ what impacts the cost of electricity?
What is Sitka's electricity infrastructure debt?
How can the cost of electricity be reduced?
How do every day energy choices influence Sitka's energy future?
Who plays what roles in energy efficiency and conservation?
What is the role of policy in energy and conservation?
Grid components overview
Pros/cons of municipal ownership
Island challenges
Hydropower overview
Role of renewables
Role of fossil fuels
End user breakdown
Blue Lake Dam deep dive
Green Lake Dam deep dive
Transmission & Distribution deep dive
Renewable energy types
Wind potential in Sitka
Tidal potential in Sitka
Solar potential in Sitka
Individual actions
Policy changes
Change in end usage
Grid map
GHG emissions overview
Consumption breakdown
SWOT Analysis
Usage projections
Rate breakdown
Finance breakdown
Modules #1-7 will prepare for module 8
Where do we want to go?
How will we get there?
Scenarios
(ex: Maximize affordability)
Action roadmap
In depth models
Pacing options
Policy options

Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy

Community Scoping Survey Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

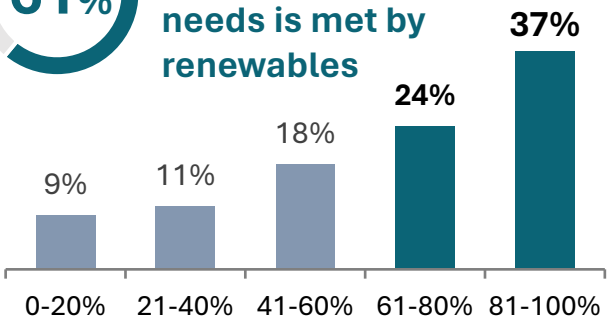
When asked to describe where Sitka's electricity comes from in one sentence...

63% Nearly 2/3 just said *hydro, hydropower, hydroelectric,* or simply *dam(s)*

36% The other 1/3 named one or both dams

51% Of those who did:
Half named both dams
48% named only Blue Lake
1% named only Green Lake

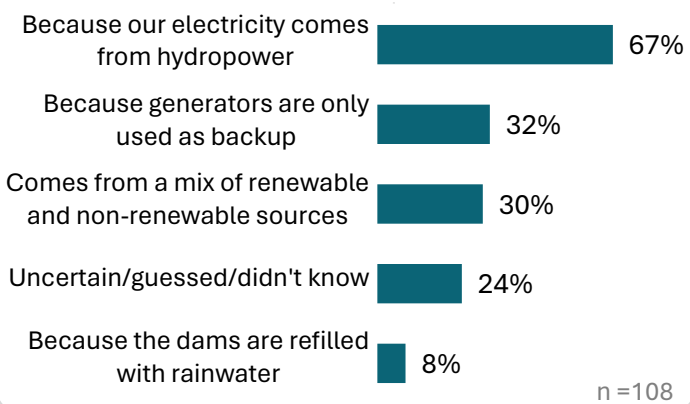
61% **Most respondents thought most of Sitka's energy needs is met by renewables**



How much of Sitka's energy needs do you think is met by renewable energy?

n =139

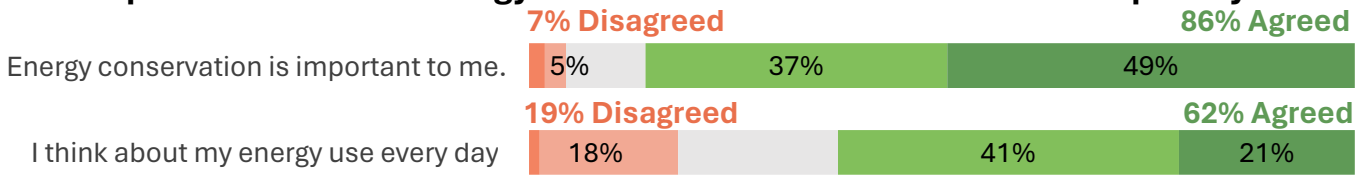
When asked why, the most common explanations for their choice were:



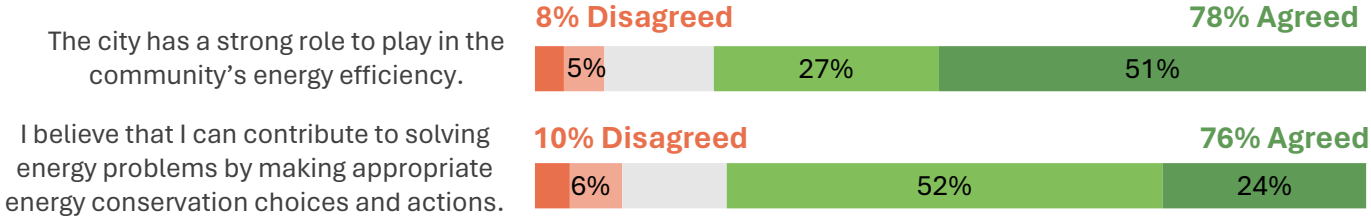
n =108

Most questions asked were about the operations and infrastructure of Sitka's electric grid (50%).

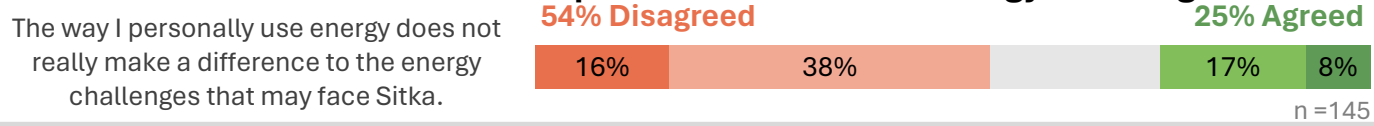
Respondents valued energy conservation and think about it frequently...



...and saw the City and themselves as having large roles in energy efficiency...



But were more divided on how their personal use affects energy challenges in Sitka.



n =145

Common themes from open-ended comments were:

Affordability | Reliability | Self Sufficiency & Independence | Energy Efficiency | Transparency | Environmental Responsibility

Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy
Community Scoping Survey Report

Prepared By: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

BACKGROUND

The Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) is a City and Borough of Sitka-led project heavily supported by its Sustainability Commission in collaboration with energy experts via technical assistance from the Department of Energy's Energy Transition Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP).

Vision:

Establish a shared vision of Sitka's energy future to guide energy-related community decisions.

Mission:

Shape a roadmap for community and policy actions that advance the shared energy vision.

PURPOSE

To inform development of the SCRES technical team's approach for public energy education and engagement to bolster community knowledge and participation in future energy visioning.

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

1a. What are the gaps in the community's understanding of Sitka's energy landscape?

1b. What are gaps in the community's energy knowledge that inhibit informed decision making?

2. What are the best ways to increase understanding and share energy knowledge with the community?

3. What values does the community want to guide the development of the Community Renewable Energy Strategy?

4. What is the action is the community currently taking to conserve energy?

Comparisons between demographic groups were made, when possible, to further inform the SCRES engagement strategy.

LIMITATIONS

In addition to typical sampling biases inherent in survey-based methodologies, such as self selection and potential accuracy of self-reported data, the findings in this report should be interpreted with several limitations in mind and should be considered exploratory in nature.

The sample collected is not large enough to be considered truly representative of the community of Sitka and is highly likely to be skewed towards members of the community with a preestablished interest in energy. This is likely due to recruitment methods via channels highly linked to CBS and its Sustainability Commission as well as the purpose of the SCRES.

Additionally, comparisons between demographic groups were difficult as sample sizes, particularly for renters, varied between 26 and 30 responses, depending on the question. Comparisons were attempted between the largest sample groups possible, but still occasionally fell below what is typically considered statistically significant in some cases. These comparisons were aggregated from 5-point scales to 3-point scales.

Future efforts should be made to continue gather data to further refine SCRES scenarios and reach audiences underrepresented these results as well as those not easily reached by typical engagement methods.

METHODOLOGY

An was developed to gauge participant's attitudes around energy conservation, understanding of the current energy landscape of Sitka, and desired involvement. They survey also asked about preferred ways to receive information and/or engage with the SCRES work. Finally, the survey offered space for open-ended space for energy-related questions. The survey could be taken online via the *Survey Monkey* platform or via physical copies located at various events and locations.

RECRUITMENT

The survey was open from November 28th, 2023, to February 29th, 2024. Various recruitment methods were utilized including social media, attendance to in person events, PSAs, bulletin boards, and through advertisements in the local paper. Efforts to track the success of each method was attempted by creating unique QR codes and URLs when possible. However, due to the simplicity of directing participants directly to the webpage was simpler, the success of each recruitment method can only be estimated. For example, CBS social media directed prospective participants to the SCRES site, not a unique link.

TRACKED COLLECTORS

Location	Collector Type	Responses	
		Digital	Paper
SCRES site	Link	114	
Sustainability Email invitation (11/28)	Link	19	
Sustainability Commission site	Link	16	
City Hall Flyers	QR Code	6	
SCRES Tech Team Outreach (2/5)	QR Code/Link/Paper	3	2
Electrification Expo (2/17)	QR Code	3	
Tourism Task Force Events	QR Code	4	4
Sitka Daily Sentinel (2/16, 2/21,2/23, 2,28)	QR Code	4	
Utility Counter	QR Code	4	1
Library	QR Code	0	0
Paper Drop Offs	NA		1
Total		**172**	**8**

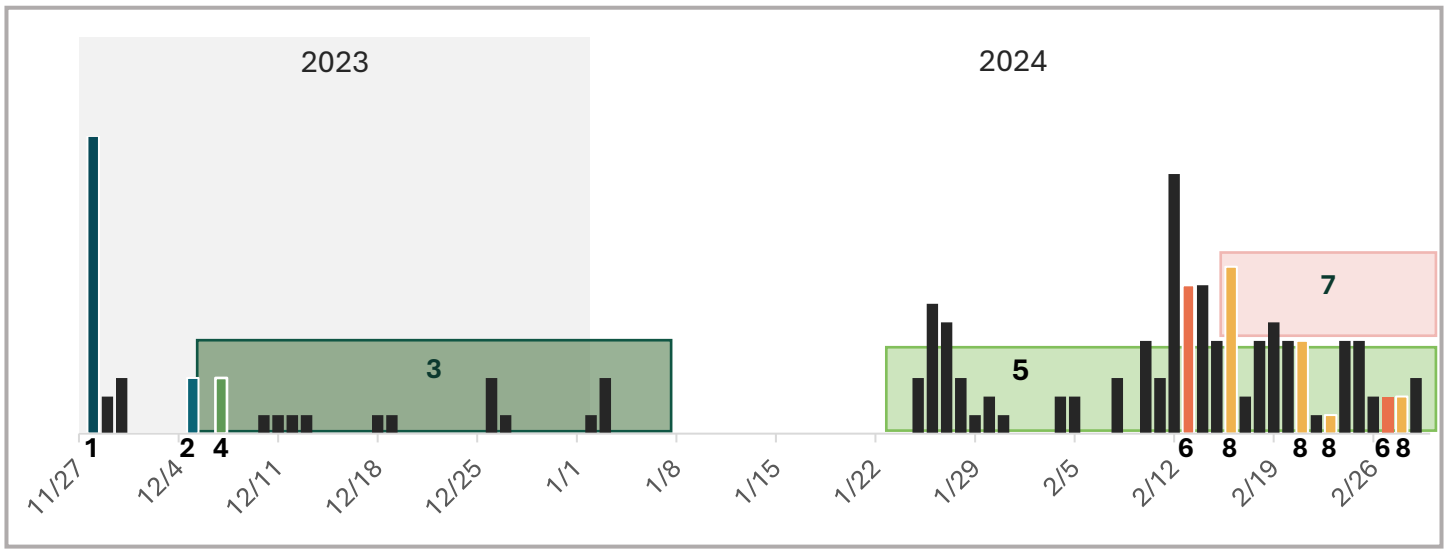
Validated Responses*	Opened Link Only**	Usable Total
164	12	**152**

*Online responses were validated through two screening questions: *1) Are you a robot? 2) Do you currently live in Sitka, Alaska?* 8 responses were removed via screening questions.

**Some participants only answered the screening questions before exiting the survey, answering no other questions.

SURVEY RESPONSES OVER TIME

November 28, 2023 – February 29, 2024



Number	Activity	Date(s)
1	Emailed Sustainability mailing list	11/28
2	SCRES Tech Team Engagement (Ginger Build, Schools, etc.)	12/5
3	Social Media- Ginger Build	12/6-1/8
4	Tourism Task Force Town Hall	12/7
5	Social Media - SCRES	1/24-2/29
6	Assembly Meeting Announcements	2/13 and 2/27
7	Raven Radio PSA	2/16-2/29
8	Daily Sitka Sentinel Ads	2/16, 2/21,2/23, 2,28

DATA INSIGHTS

of responses were valid

Only 8 were removed via screening questions

of respondents completed the survey

12 responses answered no questions after the screening.

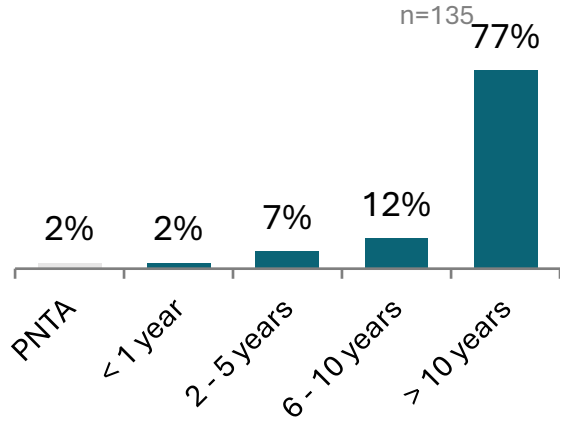
was the average time spent

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE

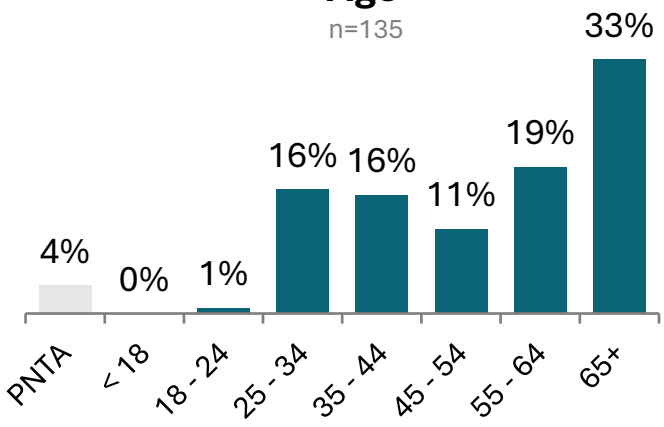
81-89% of participants provided some or all their demographics

PNTA = Prefer not to answer

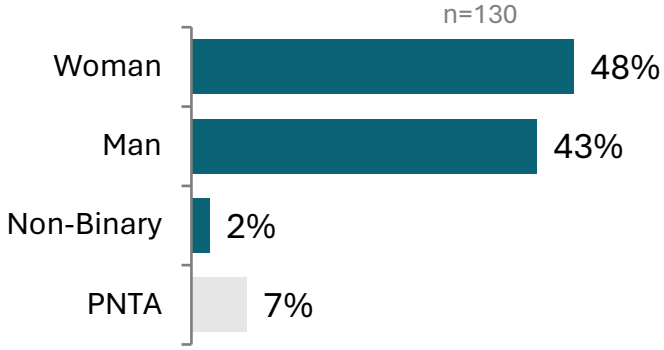
Sitka Residency Length



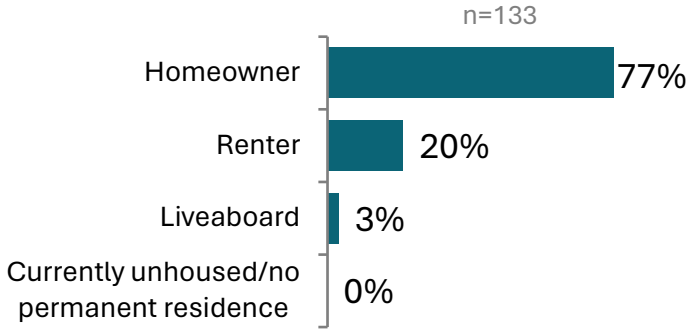
Age



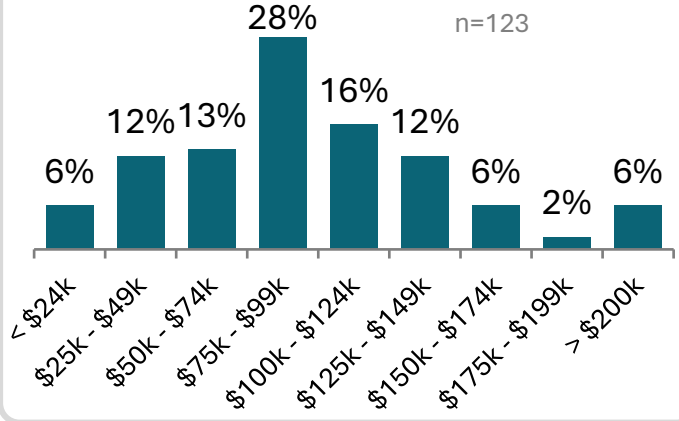
Gender Alignment



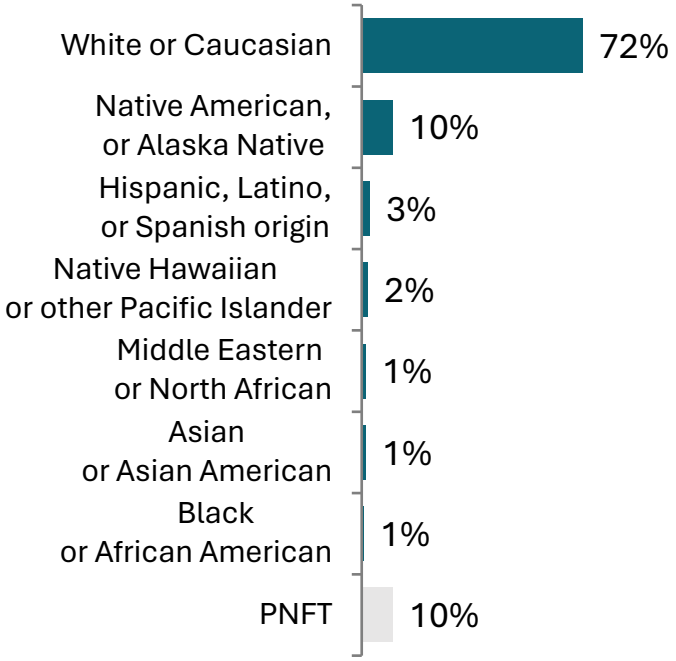
Housing Status



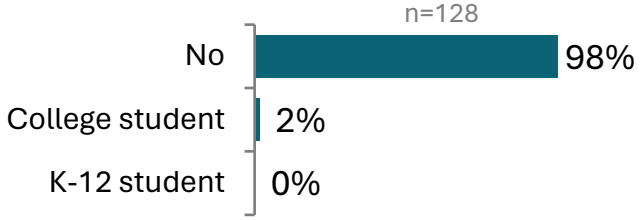
Household Income



Race



School Enrollment



ACCURACY OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

To determine how well the sample represented the community of Sitka, demographics were compared to the most recent census data available; the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS). Limitations of even the ACS to fully capture the diversity of the community should also be taken into consideration. Overall, the sample represented the community within moderate reason, with overrepresentation of homeowners, those 65 years old or older, and White or Caucasian individuals and underrepresentation of those less than 24 years old, Asian and Asian American individuals, and those currently enrolled in school.

Age	2022 ACS	Survey Results	+/-
<18%*	4% (15-17)	0%	-4%
18-24	8%	>1%	-7%
25-34	17%	16%	-1%
35-44	17%	15%	-2%
45-54	14%	16%	+2%
55-64	18%	19%	+1%
65+	19%	33%	+12%

**The 2022 ACS uses more granular age brackets. For this comparison, only the ages 15-17 age group was used.*

School Enrollment	2022 ACS	Survey Results	+/-
Not Enrolled	78%	98%	+20%
K-12	16%	0%	-16%
College	6%	2%	-4%

Housing Status	2022 ACS	Survey Results	+/-
Homeowner	67%	77%	+10%
Renter	30%	20%	-10%
Liveaboard	NA	3%	NA

Gender*	2022 ACS	Survey Results	+/-
Woman	48%	53%	5%
Man	52%	47%	-5%
Non-Binary	NA	2%	NA

**The 2022 ACS reports only a sex ratio. To compare the sample to the ACS, non-binary responses were excluded to calculate sex ratio.*

Household Income	2022 ACS	Survey Results	+/-
< $24k	10%	6%	-4%
$25k - $49k	14%	12%	-2%
$50k - $74k	14%	13%	-1%
$75k - $99k	17%	28%	+9%
$100k - $124k	25%	16%	+3%
$125k - $149k		12%	
$150k - $174k	10%	6%	-2%
$175k - $199k		2%	
> $200k	9%	6%	-3%

Length of Residency	2022 ACS	Survey Results	+/-

ACS does not collect this data; no comparison is available.

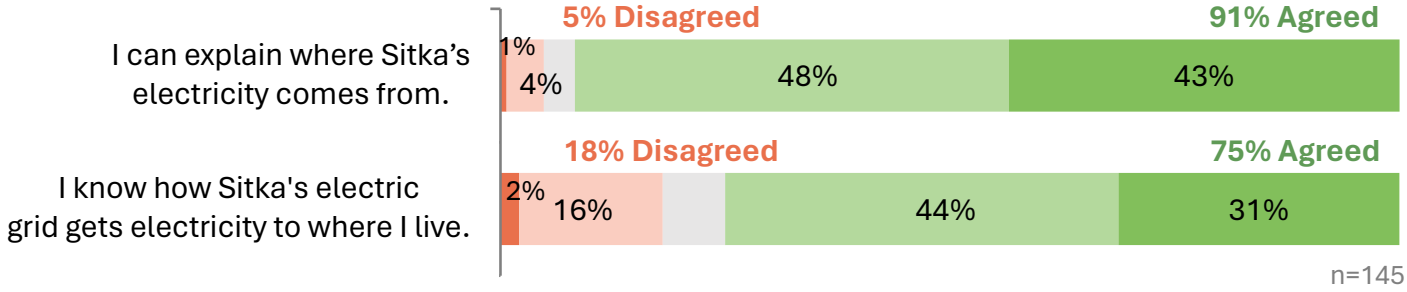
Race – Alone or in Combination*	2022 ACS	Survey Results	+/-
White or Caucasian	66%	72%	6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	17%	11%	-5%
Asian or Asian American	9%	2%	-7%
Hispanic or Latino	5%	3%	-2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2%	2%	0%
Black or African American	1%	1%	0%
Middle Eastern or North African	Not Available	1%	NA

**The 2022 ACS does not allow for selection of multiple races only "more than one race". ACS results show that 17% selected 2 or more races. Only 5% of survey participants chose more than one option.*

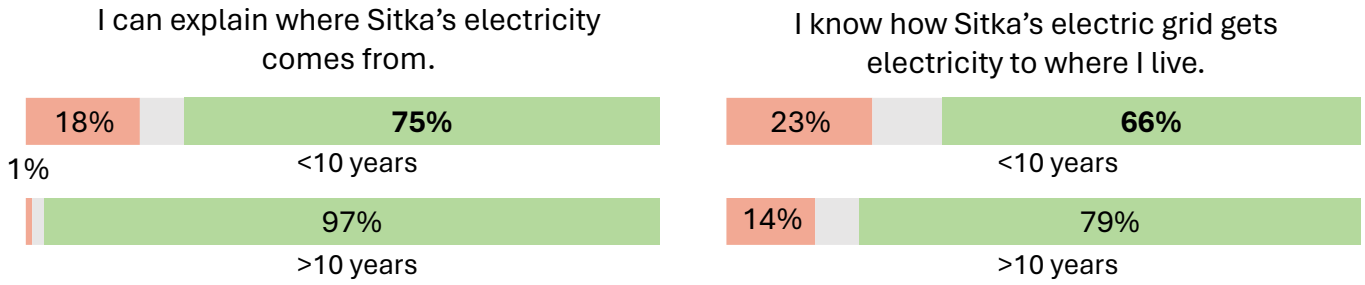
1a. What are the gaps in the community's understanding of Sitka's energy landscape?

Disagreed = Strongly Disagree (1) + Disagree (2)
Agreed = Strongly Agree (5) + Agree (4)

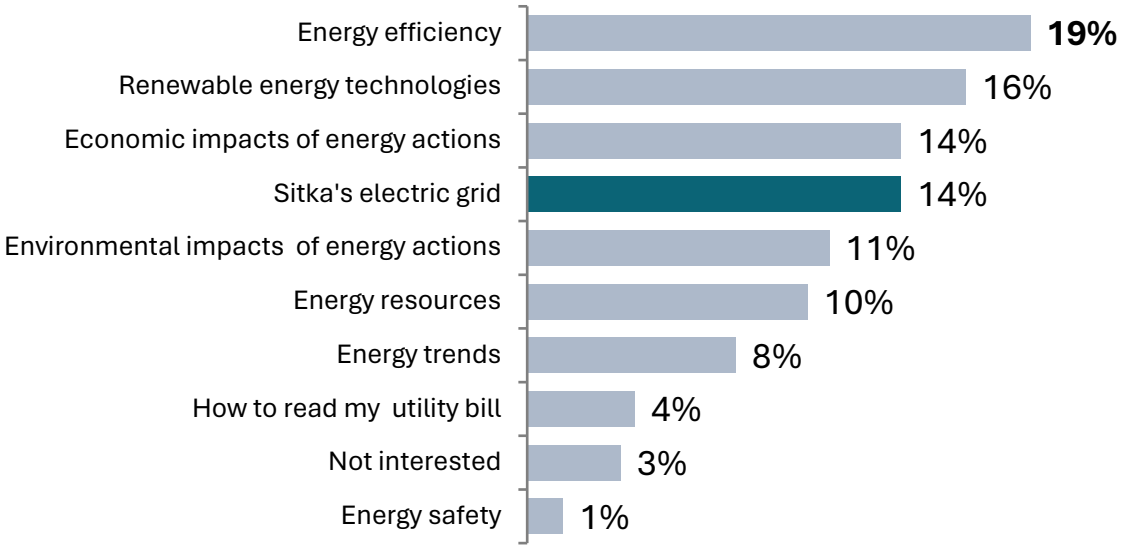
Almost all participants felt they could explain where Sitka's electricity comes from, but they were less confident in explaining the grid.



But residents who have lived in Sitka for less than a decade were less confident in their ability explain both the source and the grid.



Regardless, it was still one of the most popular choices that respondents would like to know more about.



1a. What are the gaps in the community's understanding of Sitka's energy landscape?

When asked to describe where Sitka's energy comes from in one sentence...

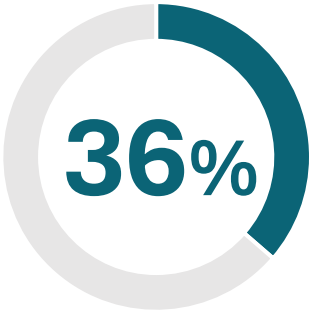
1/3 just said *hydro, hydropower, hydroelectric,* or something similar.

About 1/3 just said the *dam* or *dams*

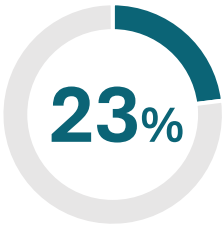
About 1/3 named one or both dams

Most said *the dam*

Half named both dams
48% named only Blue Lake
1% mentioned only Green Lake



1/3 of respondents stated that there is only one dam or only named Blue Lake



About ¼ mentioned diesel generators as backup or for high electric use scenarios

very few participants explained that Sitka's energy comes from hydroelectric and other fossil fuels.

Open-ended questions showed the following themes:

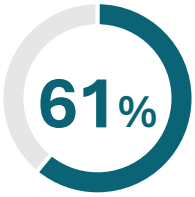
Operations of Infrastructure (50%)
Operations of the Blue Lake Project (18%)
Integration of renewables and when (17%)
Resiliency, self sufficiency, and independence (8%)

Social Concerns (31%)
Transparency in energy planning (9%)
The impacts of large consumers (11%)
Environmental impacts of oil (7%)
Population changes and tourism (4%)

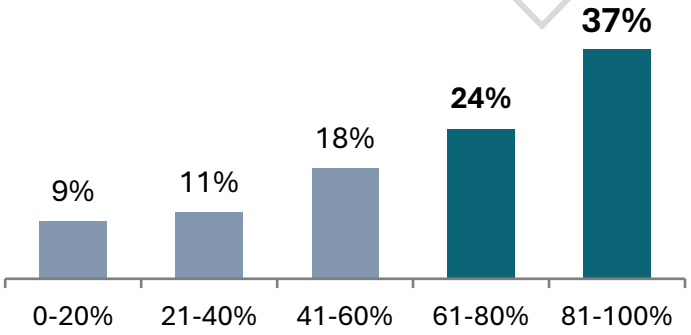
Financing (44%)
Affordability of the Blue Lake Expansion Project (16%)
Rate concerns, in general (16%)
Affordability of new generation (14%)

Ways to be more energy-efficient (16%)
Weatherization (11%)
Heat pumps (5%)

1a. What are the gaps in the community's understanding of Sitka's energy landscape?

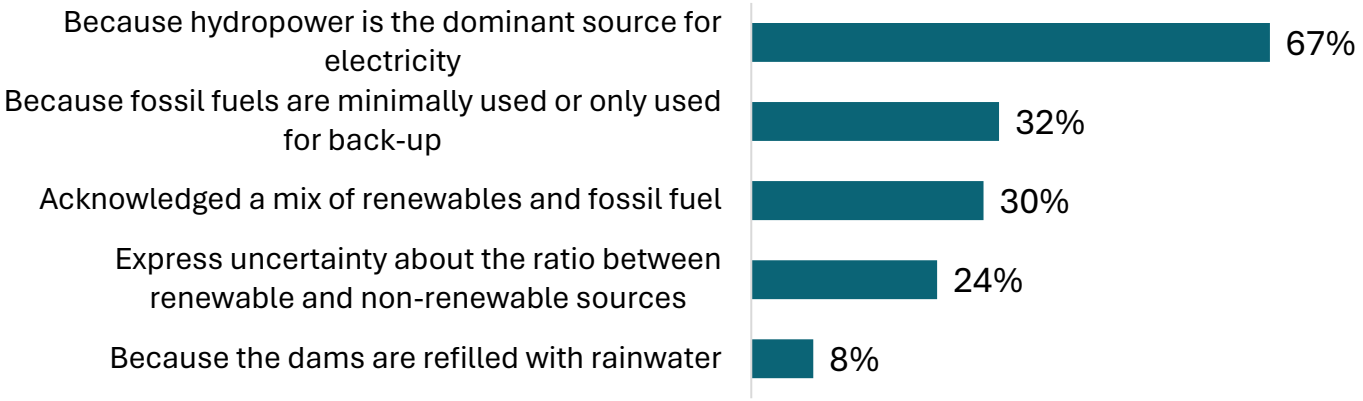


The majority of respondents thought most of Sitka's energy needs are met by renewables

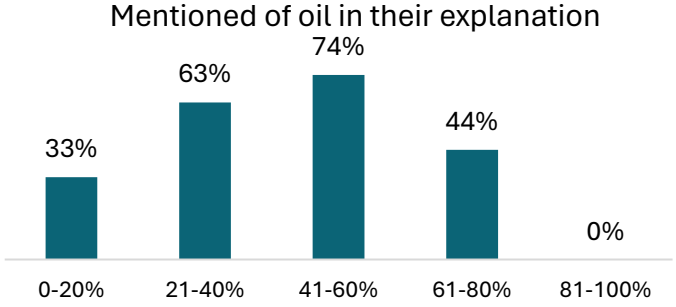


78% of respondents provided their reasoning.

Most common explanations for their choice:



Those who mentioned fossil fuels or a mix of energy sources chose a lower total renewable percentage more often.



The most mentioned reasons for fossil fuel uses were:

Backup for hydroelectric
Home heating
Transportation
(Cars, boats, and shipping)

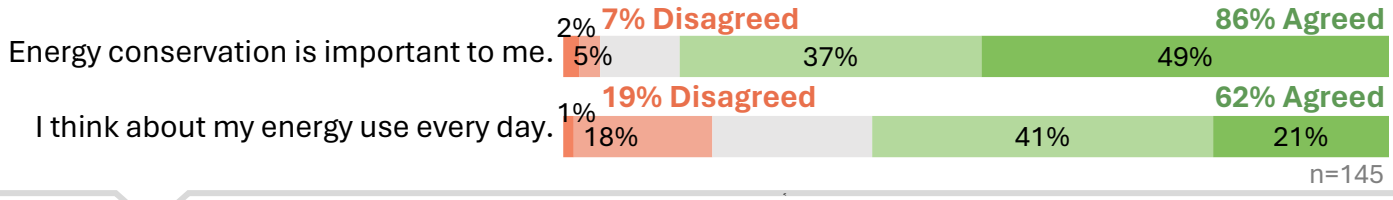
Other reasons included:

Sitka's remote location
Cruise tourism
Fishing

1b. What are gaps in the community's energy knowledge that inhibit informed decision making?

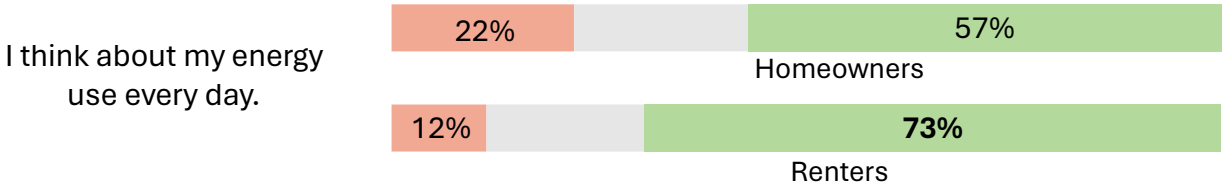
Disagreed = Strongly Disagree (1) + Disagree (2)
Agreed = Strongly Agree (5) + Agree (4)

In general, respondents value energy conservation and think about it frequently.

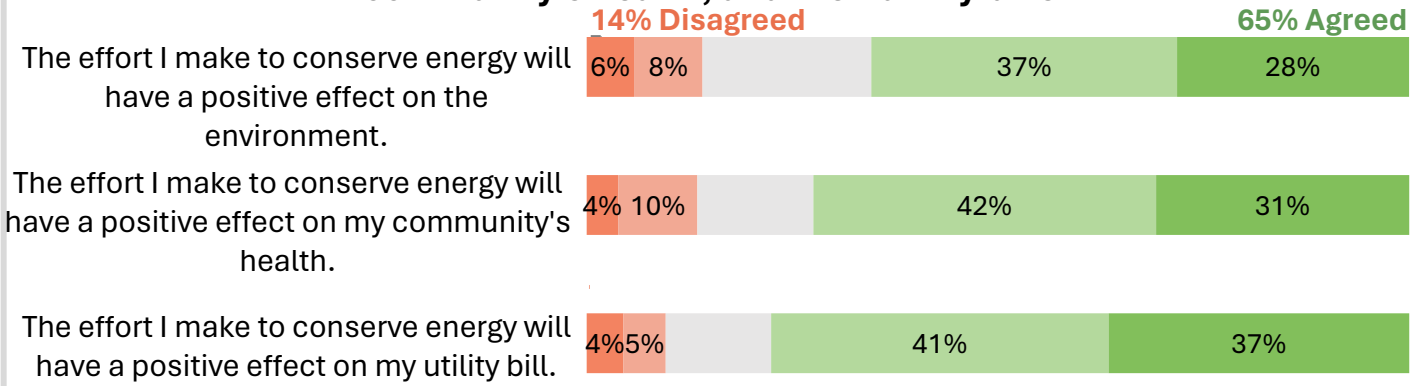


n=145

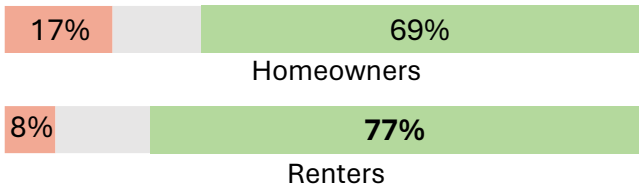
But renters thought about their every use every day more often than homeowners.



Most see their choices as having positive impacts on the environment, the community's health, and their utility bills.

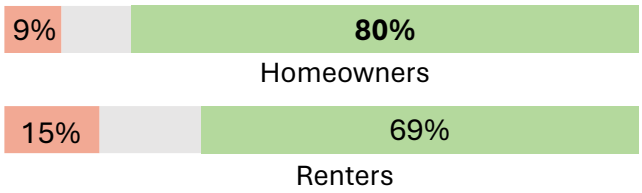


But more renters thought their efforts had positive effects on the community's health...



Homeowners were twice as likely to disagree with their efforts having positive effects on the community's health...

...and more homeowners agreed that their efforts had positive effects on their utility bills.



... but was the opposite for positive effects on utility bills. Renters were almost twice as likely to disagree with that statement.

1b. What are gaps in the community's energy knowledge that inhibit informed decision making?

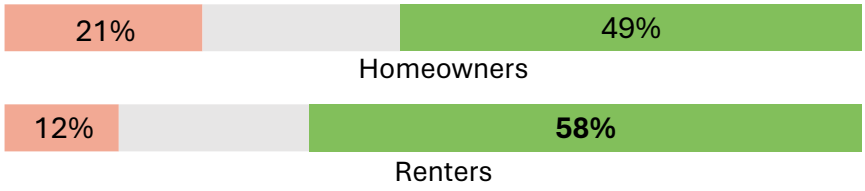
Disagreed = Strongly Disagree (1) + Disagree (2)
Agreed = Strongly Agree (5) + Agree (4)

Despite potential barriers, most were willing to do more to save energy.

I would do more to save energy if I knew how.

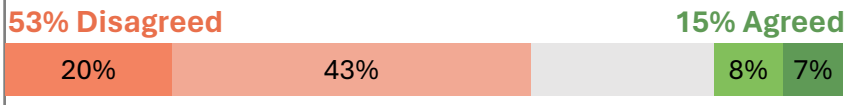
More renters than homeowners indicated their willingness to do more.

I would do more to save energy if I knew how.



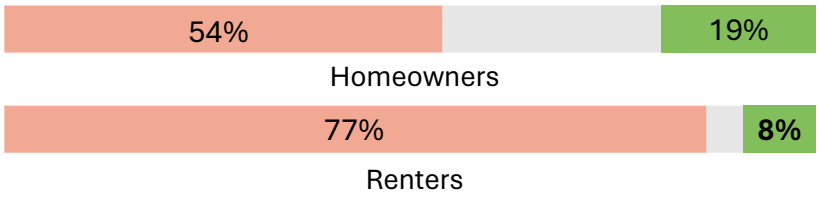
And most were willing to conserve more energy, even if it reduced their comfort.

I am not willing to conserve energy at my home if that comes at any cost to my comfort.



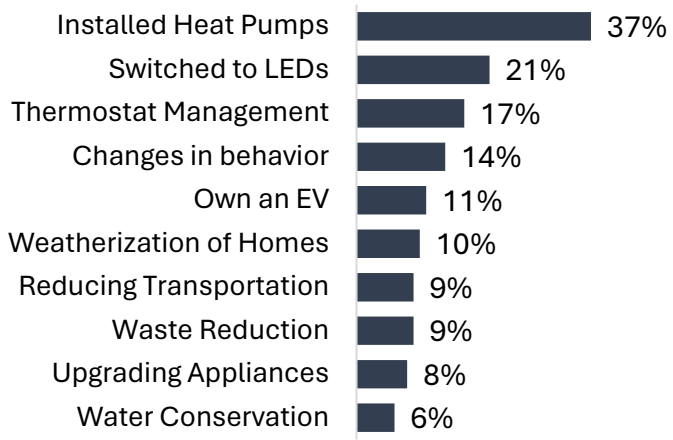
Renters were also more willing to conserve energy at the cost of their own comfort.

I am not willing to conserve energy at my home if that comes at any cost to my comfort.

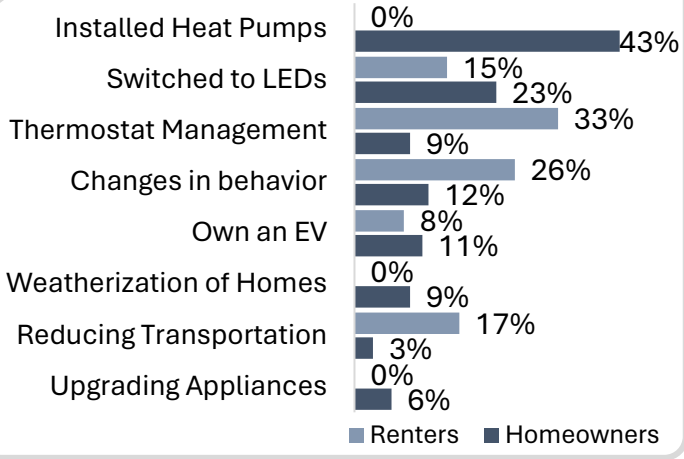


Similarly, energy conservation actions differed depending on homeownership.

All responses



Renters compared to homeowners



Renters more often cited changes in behavior, like turning off lights or unplugging appliances, and energy management while homeowners more often sited infrastructure upgrades.

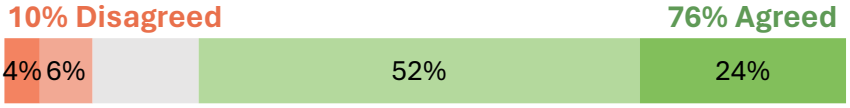
1b. What are gaps in the community's energy knowledge that inhibit informed decision making?

Disagreed = Strongly Disagree (1) + Disagree (2)
Agreed = Strongly Agree (5) + Agree (4)

Respondents saw the City and themselves as having large roles in energy efficiency.

The city has a strong role to play in the community's energy efficiency.

I believe that I can contribute to solving energy problems by making appropriate energy conservation choices and actions.



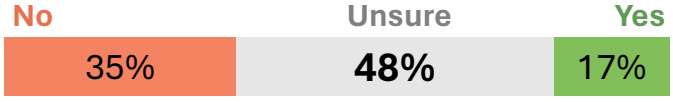
But were more divided on how their personal use affects energy challenges in Sitka.

The way I personally use energy does not really make a difference to the energy challenges that may face Sitka.

Similarly, although half of respondents said their voices do help impact energy policies...

I believe I have a voice in helping to impact energy policies.

...nearly half said they were unsure about participating in energy planning.



Would you like to participate in energy planning?

Open-ended questions showed the following themes:

Suggestions (24%)

Promoting/incentivizing electrification (19%)
Electric vehicles in the City fleet (5%)

Social Concerns (24%)

The impacts of large consumers (11%)
Public involvement and education (6%)
Population changes or cruise impacts (4%)

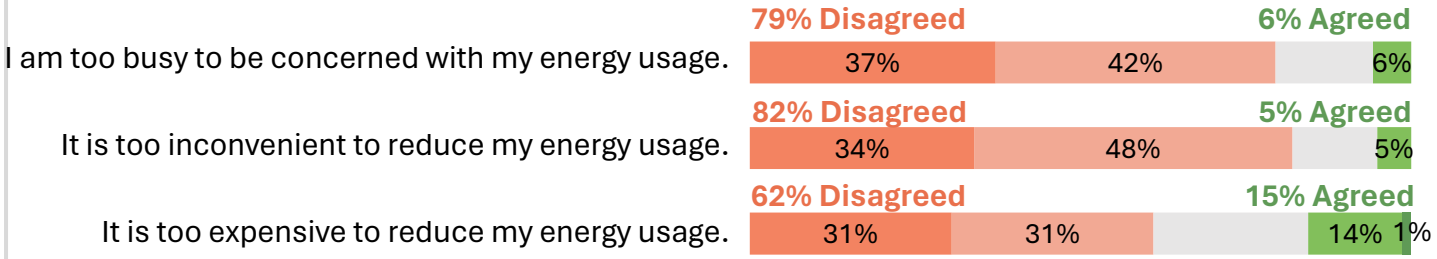
Environmental Concerns (17%)

Impacts of additional renewable generation (10%)
Impacts of current oil uses (7%)

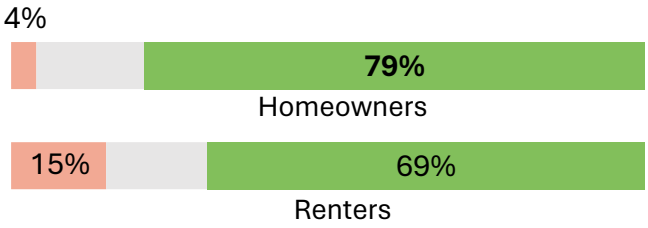
1b. What are gaps in the community's energy knowledge that inhibit informed decision making?

Disagreed = Strongly Disagree (1) + Disagree (2)
Agreed = Strongly Agree (5) + Agree (4)

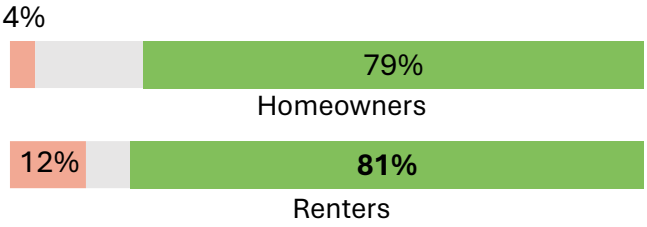
Most respondents did not indicate that their schedules, convenience, or expense was a barrier to reducing their energy usage.



However, renters were more likely to respond that scheduling, convenience, or expense was a barrier in reducing their energy usage.

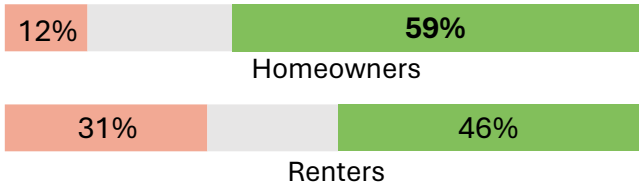


Renters were three times as likely to say that they were too busy.



Renters were three times as likely to say that it was too inconvenient.

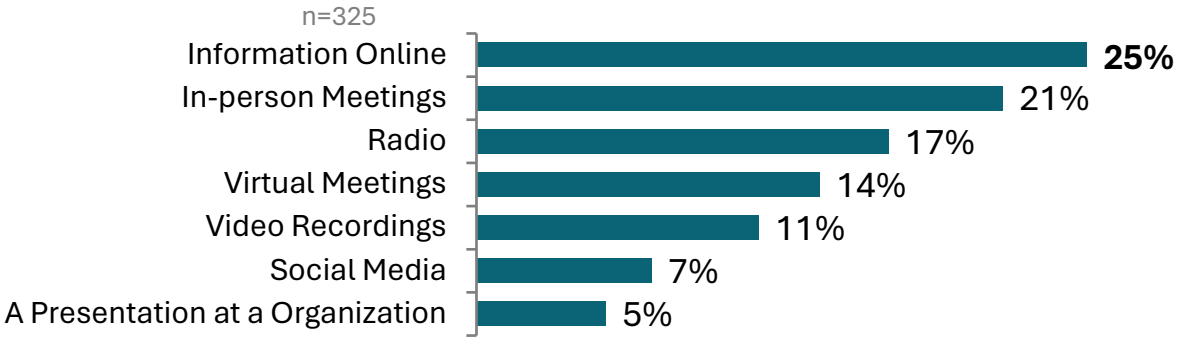
The largest barrier was the expense with 1/3 of renters saying it was too expensive to reduce their energy usage.



This response was 2.5 times more common in renters than homeowners, with more than half of homeowners indicating that expense was not a major barrier.

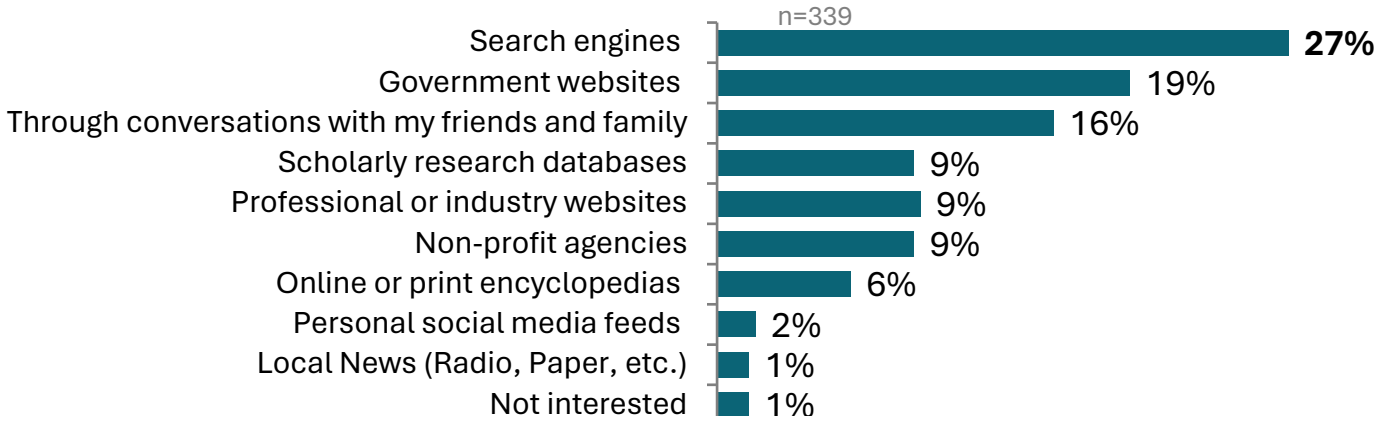
2. What are the best ways to increase understanding and share energy knowledge with the community?

Respondents would like to engage by:



Requested Organizations (No order): City Assembly, Sitka Chamber of Commerce, Sitka Sound Science Center, Sitka Unitarian Fellowship, Transition Sitka

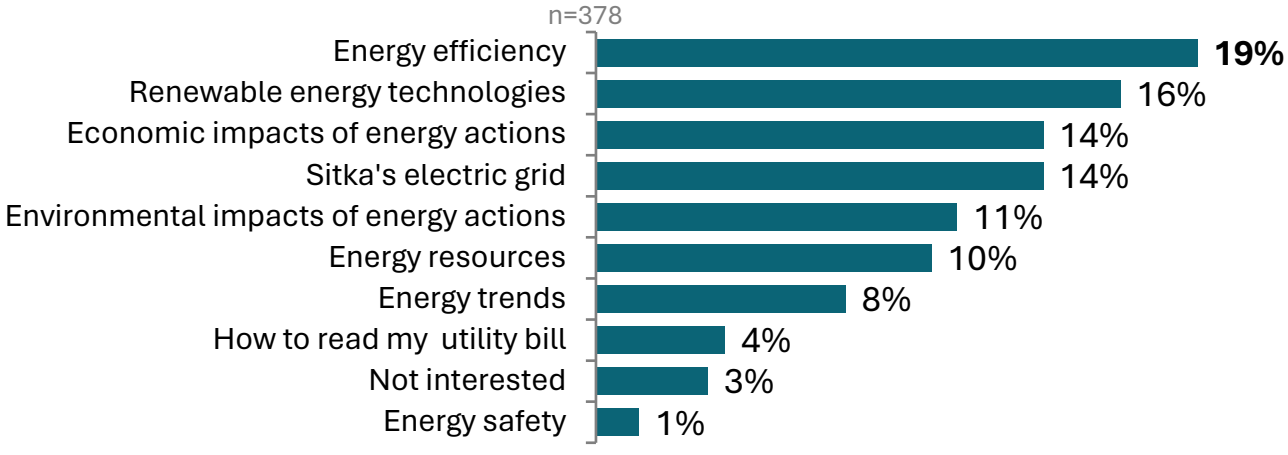
Respondents looked for energy information through:



Most respondents were willing to encourage their friends and family to make energy-efficient choices.

I encourage my friends and family to make energy-conservation choices.

Respondents wanted to learn more about:



3. What values does the community want to guide the development of the Community Renewable Energy Strategy?

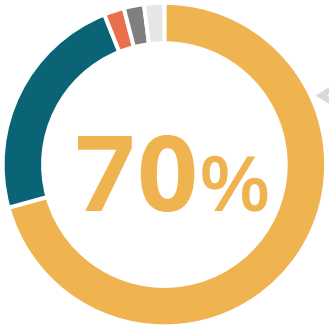
All open-ended response opportunities were aggregated, and the following themes emerged. No percentages were attributed but the relative prevalence is conveyed through the size of text.

Affordability
Reliability
Self Sufficiency & Independence
Efficiency & Energy Conservation
Transparency
Environmental Responsibility

4. What is the action is the community currently taking to conserve energy?

PRIMARY HEAT SOURCE OF HOMES:

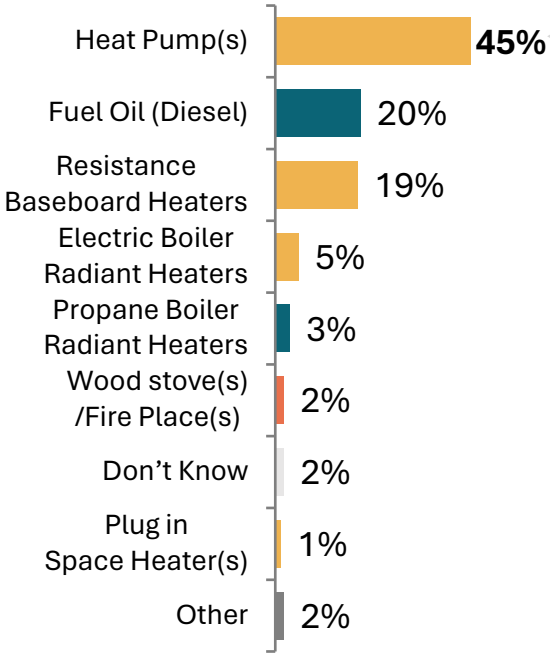
n=147

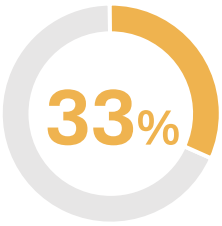


of homes were heated with electricity

23% with fossil fuels

2% with biomass



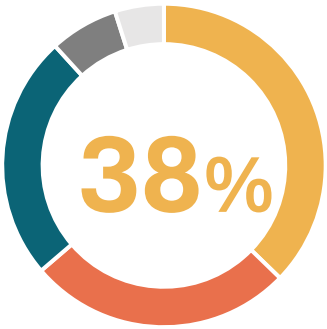


1/3 had more than one heat pump

86 heat pumps were reported

SECONDARY (BACK UP) HEAT SOURCE OF HOMES:

n=141



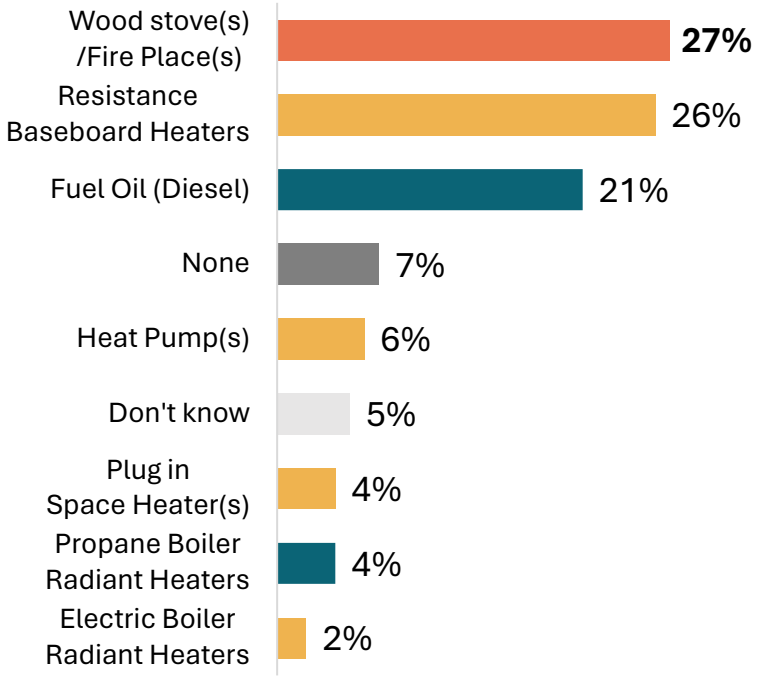
of homes had electric back up heat systems...

27% used biomass

25% used fossil fuels

7% had no back up

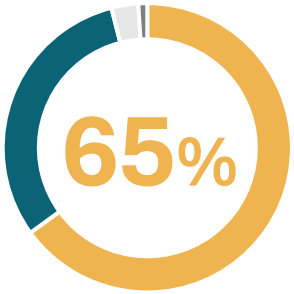
...but biomass was the most common source of back up heat



RESULTS

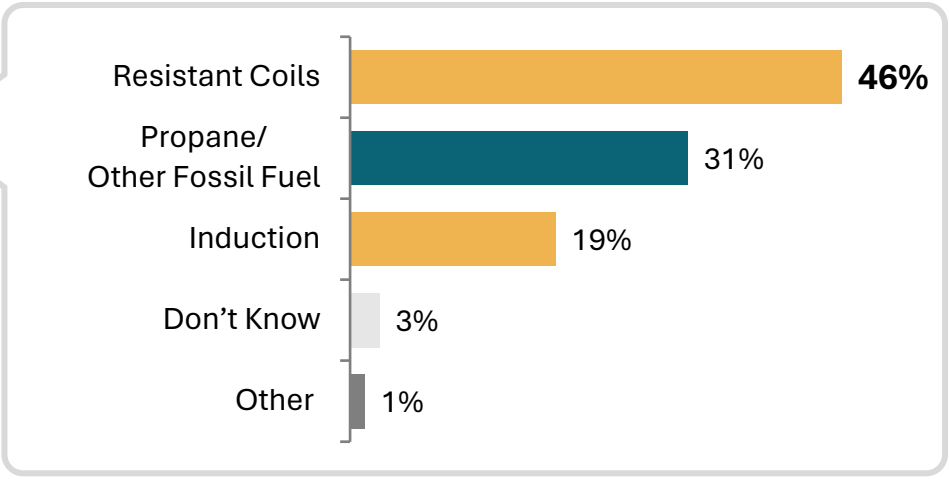
KITCHEN COOKTOPS:

n=147



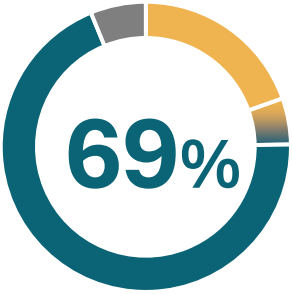
used electric cooktops

31% used fossil fuels



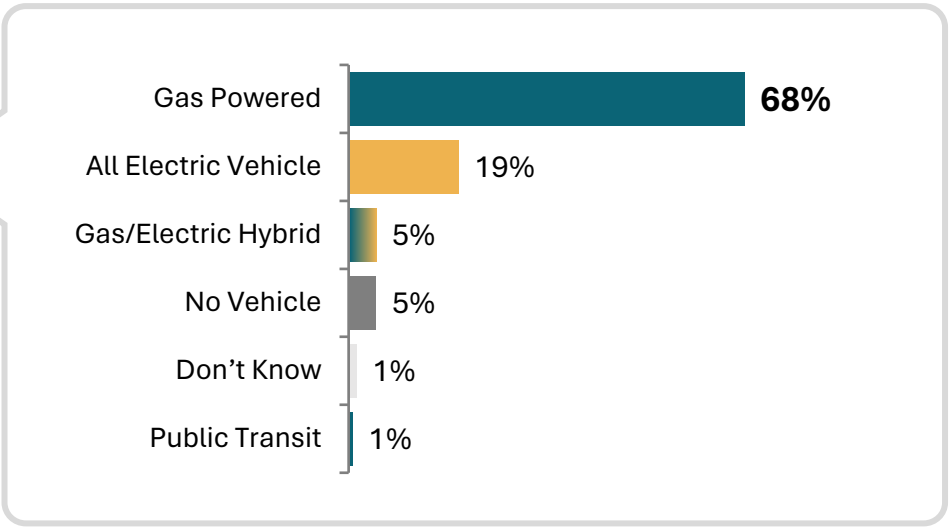
TRANSPORTATION:

n=146



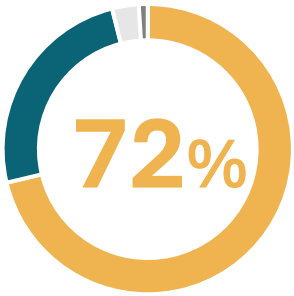
drive personal or used public gas-powered vehicles

19% drive all electric vehicles



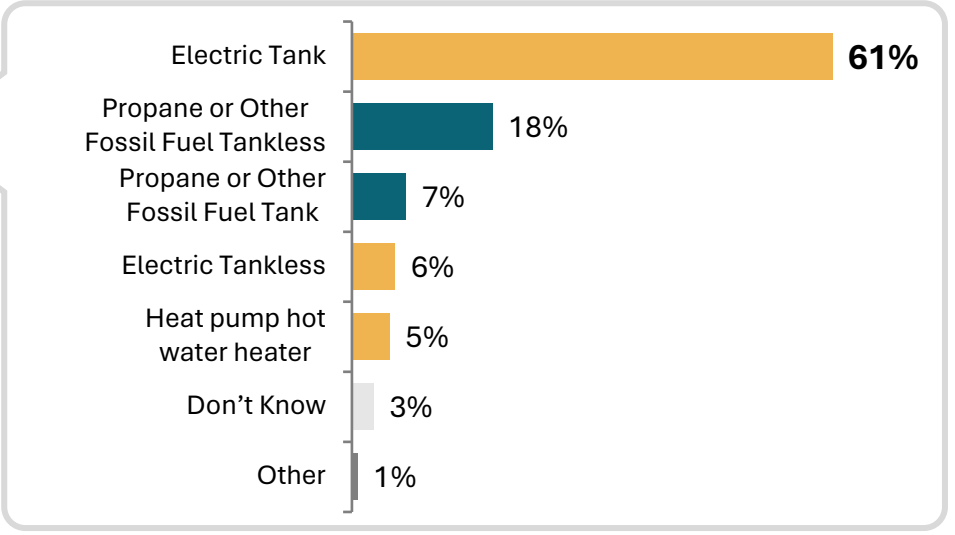
HOT WATER HEATERS:

n=145



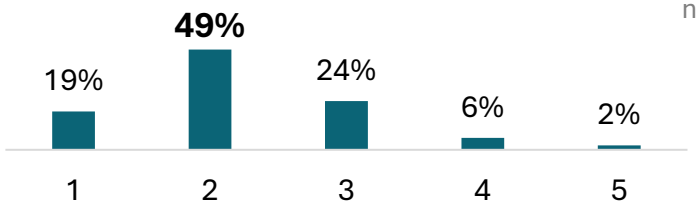
used electricity to heat water

25% used fossil fuels



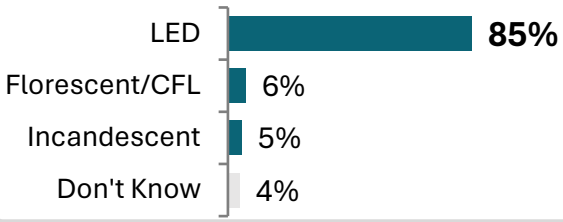
NUMBER REFRIGERATORS AND/OR FREEZERS:

n=138



LIGHTING:

n=141



CONCLUSIONS

1a. What are the gaps in the community's understanding of Sitka's energy landscape?

In general, respondents indicated they felt comfortable explaining Sitka's energy generation and distribution, but most did not expand beyond hydroelectric generation or Blue Lake, specifically. Regardless, most respondents indicated they wanted to know more.

Most respondents thought most Sitka's energy needs come from renewable sources. This was largely attributed to its hydroelectric capacity for electricity, however, many acknowledged that they don't know the exact composition of Sitka's energy usage or where unsure of the exact ratio of renewable and fossil fuels. This may be attributed energy and electricity being used interchangeably in communications or through differences in individual understanding of the distinction.

Respondents had questions about specifics about how the electric generation and transmission infrastructure work and how renewables will be integrated and when. Many questions were specific to day-to-day operations of the current generation and infrastructure, such as the role of back up generators and whether the need for additional generation was warranted, and if so, when.

Respondents wanted to know more about was financing, both existing infrastructure and potential future infrastructure. Many questions were specific to the funding of the Blue Lake Expansion Project and how that debt may be increased with additional renewable generation.

1b. What are gaps in the community's energy knowledge that inhibit informed decision making?

Most agreed that their energy use plays a role in Sitka's energy usage and that their voices impact energy policy, but only the majority were unwilling or unsure about participating in energy planning.

Overall, respondents were actively thinking about energy and were willing to do more. Many saw their choices to conserve energy had a positive impact on the environment, the community's health, and their utility bills. Renters were more likely to indicate they did not see positive impacts from their choices on their utility bills.

Although the majority didn't indicate challenges in reducing their energy usage, renters were more likely to indicate barriers, including their schedules, convenience, and most significantly, cost.

2. What are the best ways to increase understanding and share energy knowledge with the community?

Respondents were highly self motivated to gather information on their own. Making information regarding energy and specifics about Sitka's energy landscape on available online was highly requested via open-ended comment sections and highly selected on the survey.

3. What values does the community want to guide the development of the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy?

Affordability, reliability, and self-sufficiency and independence were the most common themes from open-ended comments and emphasize the need for realistic and achievable outcomes of the SCRES.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To increase the community's understanding of Sitka's energy landscape:

Build consensus on what "Sitka's energy landscape" includes or does not include. For example, some respondents asked if certain modes of transportation for certain purposes, like air travel or grocery barges, were part of this landscape and how they played a part. This will allow for better conversations to take place about what Sitka's energy landscape can or should look like.

Make the distinction between energy and electricity clear and how our electric generation and grid can support Sitka's energy needs and overall independence. Consistently differentiating energy and electricity will further clarify areas that can be changed quickly vs those that are still technologically lacking. Similarly, illustrate the grid clearly to showcase current limitations and what will need to be done to achieve the shared energy vision.

Be realistic in how much hydroelectric power supports the community now and how it will become more critical in the future. It is possible that because of Sitka's renewable electric generation there is a misconception that most of Sitka's energy needs are from renewable sources. It is possible this is due to the existing messaging of "100% renewable" being used without explanation in the larger context of Sitka's energy landscape.

To promote informed decision making in the community:

Highlight the impacts of individual choices and actions on the energy landscape. Overall, there was a lack of consensus around who uses the most energy and how individual changes impact Sitka's energy needs. Show how impacts do impact Sitka's grid and how it is a community effort.

Build ways for community members to see their impact in the development of the SCRES throughout the process. Most respondents were unsure about participating in energy planning. While no reasons were given, showing how their input shapes the direction of the SCRES will be critical to increase engagement.

Most respondents were willing to encourage their friends and families to conserve energy. They may be willing to encourage other to participate as well. Based on the general willingness and attitudes around energy conservation, it is possible that those who participate in the beginning will encourage others to get involved if their input is readily integrated.

Create connections to things they see as important to increase engagement and confident decision making. Use areas of interest, such as efficiency, renewable technologies, or financial benefits to help participants feel informed to make choices now and in the future.

To increase understanding and share energy knowledge with the community:

Consider the different priorities and actions of different community groups and their ability to engage in the SCRES based on those priorities and actions. Reported actions of energy conservation varied greatly as a whole and differentiated between certain groups. Take advantage of the variety of ways participants would like to engage by but be mindful of how different groups are able to engage and able to make change. Consider tailoring some engagement to certain groups so information shared is applicable and meaningful.

In general:

Keep collecting data. If certain aspects of the original survey can be used to inform or refine scenarios, consider continuously collecting the information throughout the development of the SCRES.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Sustainability Commission Members
From: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator
Date: March 29, 2024
Subject: **Amend Commission Bylaws: Article IV. Meetings; Section E: Order of Business**

Background

The Sustainability Commission currently has a standing agenda item *IV: Unfinished Business; A: Updates and Next Steps from Working Groups*. Under this item, the Commission has discussed working group composition and tasks for each with no formal action. Because much of what is necessary to inform working groups is covered under new business, the Commission has routinely modified the agenda to address *IV: Unfinished Business after V. New Business.*

Analysis

To streamline meetings, it is proposed to amend *Article IV: Meetings; Section E: Order of Business* to add two articles to meeting agendas: *V. Special Reports* and *IX: Reports (Staff, Chair, Assembly, Commissioners).*

V. Special Reports would be reserved for other municipal boards/commissions/ committees/task forces, guest speakers, students, etc. to update the Sustainability Commission on their work.

IX: Reports would be reserved by members of the Commission. An order is included based on the typical cadence of past meetings.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS SECTION E: ORDER OF BUSINESS

Currently Reads	Will Read
I. Call to Order and Roll Call	**I.** Call to Order and Roll Call
II. Consideration of the Agenda	**II.** Consideration of the Agenda
III. Consideration of the Minutes	**III.** Consideration of the Minutes
IV. Persons to be Heard *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda)*	**IV.** Persons to be Heard (not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda)
V. Unfinished Business	**V.** Special Reports
VI. New Business	**VI.** Unfinished Business
VII. Persons to be Heard *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda)*	**VII.** New Business
VIII. Set Next Meeting Date and Agenda	***VIII.*** Persons to be Heard *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda)*
IX. Adjournment	***IX.*** Reports *(Staff, Chair, Assembly, Commissioners)*
	X. Set Next Meeting Date and Agenda
	XI. Adjournment

Amending the bylaws as proposed would allow a clear spot for guests to present more formal reports that do not fit cleanly under persons to be heard or may require brief discussion with the Commission. Addressing member reports at the end of the meeting will expedite the time it takes to get to the evening business as well as prevent the Commission from needing to amend the agenda. This is more in line with the Assembly meeting agenda as well.

Recommendation

Amend *Article IV. Meetings; Section E: Order of Business* of the Bylaws to update the order of business to include *Articles V. Special Reports and IX. Reports.*

POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO amend the Sustainability Commission Bylaws, Article 4 “Meetings”, Section E “Order of Business”, to add sections 5 "Special Reports" and 9 "Reports".