

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Sustainability Commission Members
From: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator 
Date: February 27, 2026
Subject: **March Work Session Materials**

Per the direction given at the January regular meeting, the February and March will be used as a work session to focus on creating the 2026-2027 Sustainability Commission Work Plan.

Work Session Objectives:

- Review 2026-2027 Work Plan Draft
- Advise staff on any changes or modifications to the document
- Recommend any appendices to be included

Agenda:

6:00-6:15: Review 2026-2027 Work Plan Draft

6:15: Commission Discussion on Draft Work Plan and/or Goals

The work session is anticipated to adjourn no later than 8:00

Strategic Documents:

[2025-2026 Sustainability Commission Work Plan](#)

[CBS 2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#)

[2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory](#)

Continue Supporting Sustainable Municipal Operations

2025-2026 Updates

- Limited progress here due to City staff vacancies
- EV comments here? (see Sept 2025 for comments in meeting packet)
- September 2025 – Appoint commissioners to DRIVE
- DRIVE charter was applied to vehicle procurement

2026-27 Next Steps

- Start GHG Emissions Inventory for CBS
 - Determine parameters/scoping for the inventory
 - Scope with city staff to be the most helpful for Decarb 2030
 - Identify data sources
- Engage with the DRIVE advisory group
 - Focus on efficiency and right-sizing vehicles rather than procuring electric vehicles
- Collaborate with the Sustainability Coordinator to determine the best ways for the Sustainability Commission to support more sustainable municipal operations
 - Consider whether/how new software might inform vehicle decision making

Continue Explore Regional Approach to Sustainability

2025-2026 Updates

Explore ways Southeast communities may work together on sustainability strategies, such as adding this topic to the Southeast Conference in either a main agenda item or a breakout session. Items to speak on, or discuss, are; Waste Management (Recycling and Non-recycling). Other topics could include Transportation and Energy. Then identify immediate, short-term and long-term goals. Begin to identify other people/commissioners/board members in neighboring communities.

Add more details about the SEASWA/SEC regional planning work

2026-27 Next Steps

Solicit commitments from other people/commissioners/board members in neighboring communities to address regional sustainability topics to collaborate with/on, such as; Waste Management (Recycling and Non-recycling). Other topics could include Transportation and Energy, to potentially be identified in immediate, short-term and long-term goals.

Explore approaches to more sustainable/reliable/frequent ferry service

Explore ways to collaborate with other CBS Commissions (e.g., Tourism, Health Needs, etc.) to integrate sustainability more broadly

Continue Collaborating with City Staff on Strategic Management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)

2025-2026 Updates

- The City and Borough of Sitka learn from the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority (SEASWA) Regional Planning Project—work plan submitted to Southeast Conference for funding to support waste profile development, local engagement, and solution evaluation
 - Sustainability Coordinator participates in SEASWA meetings
- Awarded Waste to Energy Technical Assistance for State, Local, and Tribal Governments
 - Researched waste to energy approach across Southeast Alaska to inform the federal funding for ~40 hours of technical assistance from a federal lab / met with Juneau
 - Ongoing/Scoping: Technical Memo: WTE Technical Assistance: recommended assumptions for evaluating our waste stream because a waste stream analysis is such a big undertaking: it will be like lessons learned/similarities to other communities

2026-27 Next Steps

- Engage with the Public Works Director to determine the best ways for the Sustainability Commission to support MSW in CBS.
 - Revive the Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG) with input from the current Public Works Director
 - Develop a Municipal Solid Waste group charter and strategy
 - Revisit and update the SWOT analysis created in collaboration with the previous Public Works Director in 2024
- Engage with SEASWA, as appropriate
 - Potential public engagement related to the SEASWA Regional Planning Project
- Complete the Waste to Energy technical assistance project and share recommendations with stakeholders (e.g., Assembly, Public Works)

Finalizing the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy

2025-2026 Updates

- Six of eight energy education modules completed
 - Reliability & Resilience and Energy Independence to be completed
- Ongoing updates to the SCRES website
 - Some outreach to the public to share the website
- Developed future energy scenarios by holding community workshops (NUMBER) to develop a roadmap to 2050 energy vision
 - Recommend showing examples to the Assembly and/or providing an overview of findings (preliminary draft should be ready to share)
- Completed the Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory
- Federal administration changes led to project delays from the technical teams at the national labs

2026-27 Next Steps

- Post final energy education modules on the new CBS website
- Create plans to share the SCRES website more broadly with the public to increase engagement
- Finalize the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES)
 - Determine what “done” looks like and who hears about it in what ways (likely “adopted” by the Assembly)
- Tie back to Goal #1 – using GHG inventory to narrow scope to CBS municipal operations
- Review SCRES recommendations to determine next steps – this could become a new or modified goal to keep the work ongoing despite the document being done

Create a plan to implement SCRES Recommendations

Description

-

Identify funding sources

- AEA RE-VEEP (building renewable energy at scale)



City and Borough
of Sitka

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION WORK PLAN 2026-2027

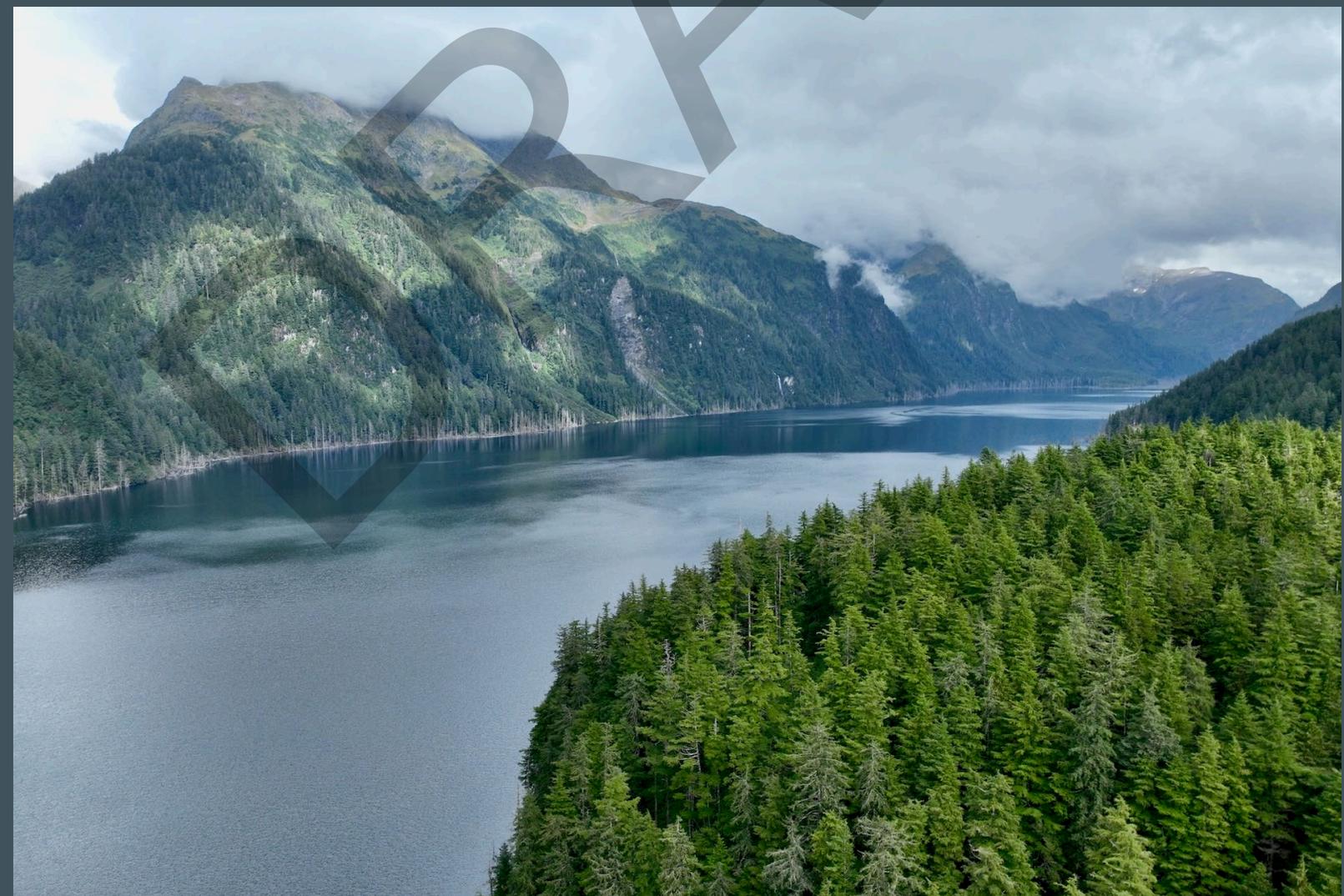




TABLE OF CONTENTS



Executive Summary	#
2025-2026 Goal Updates and Actions	#
2026-2027 Goals	#
1. Continue Supporting Sustainable Municipal Operations	#
2. Continue Exploring a Regional Approach to Sustainability	#
3. Continue Collaborating with City Staff on Strategic Management of Municipal Solid Waste	#
4. Finalize the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy	#

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Aurora Taylor, Chair
Elizabeth Bagley, Vice Chair
Erik de Jong, Secretary
Gerry Hope
Adam Vail

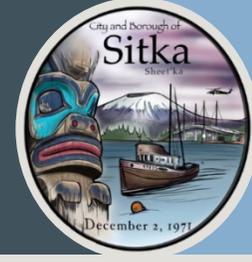
Bri Gabel, Staff Liaison
Tim Pike, Assembly Liaison
Kevin Mosher, Alt. Assembly Liaison

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City and Borough of Sitka

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Sustainability Commission acts as an advisory body to the Assembly with the purpose of catalyzing and developing municipal and community-focused approaches that support the social, environmental, and economic sustainability of the City (SGC 2.31.010).

2025-2026

NOTABLE ACTIONS

- Released the final 2023 community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory
- Drafted CBS comments for the Alaska Marine Highway System code revision on electric vehicle transportation
- Assisted in scoping National Lab of the Rockies technical assistance to support strategic planning of municipal solid waste

CONTINUE

1. SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

In 2025, the Commission prioritized working on goals and support the Assembly's direction to decarbonize city operations by 2030 (CBS Res. 22-18). **To support this goal over the next year, proposed actions include:**

- Start scoping the municipal greenhouse gas emissions inventory with City staff.
- Identify key data sources for municipal greenhouse gas emissions inventory.
- Focus on operational improvements to support emission reduction of the municipal fleet.

2. EXPLORING REGIONAL APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

This goal aims to develop the Commission's regional and local role by:

- Connecting with neighboring communities with similar bodies to identify overlap in goals.
- Identifying opportunities to collaborate with other CBS bodies to broadly integrate the principles of sustainability.
- Support the Alaska Marine Highway Service to improve reliability, sustainability, and frequency.

3. COLLABORATING WITH CITY STAFF ON STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE (MSW)

In the past year, staffing changes have made this goal particularly challenging. **To support this goal over the next year, proposed action items include:**

- Engage with the Public Works Director to determine the best ways for the Sustainability Commission to support MSW.
- Revisit and revise the Solid waste advisory group with input from the new director and develop group charter and update 2024 SWOT analysis.
- Draft recommendations from the findings of the Waste to energy technical assistance.

4. FINALIZING THE SITKA COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY (SCRES)

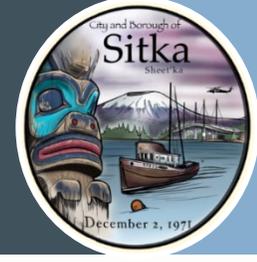
While anticipated to be completed in 2025, federal administration changes have delayed the completion of the SCRES. **To support its finalization over the next year, action items include:**

- Promote resources and findings in education modules and the 2023 GHG emission inventory.
- Determine next steps for GHG emission inventory and support Assembly adoption of the final strategy.

City and Borough of Sitka

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES SGC 2.31.060 B

-  Fossil energy use reduction and development of local, renewable energy sources.
-  Responsible use of natural resources.
-  Diminution of Sitka's supply-chain fragility.
-  Food security enhancement.
-  Sustainable transportation options that leverage Sitka's locally generated, renewable energy sources.
-  Solid waste consumption, reduction, composting, recycling, and re-use.
-  Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.
- Other matters as the Assembly or Commission may deem beneficial for the City.

2025 ACTIONS

SUPPORTS:

Sustainable Municipal Operations Support



Appointed 2 Commissioners to the Decarbonizing and Right-sizing to Improve Vehicle Efficiency (DRIVE) Advisory Group

				✓			
				✓			✓

Drafted CBS comments for the Alaska Marine Highway System code revision on electric vehicle transportation

Regional Approach to Sustainability

Attended Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority meeting at Southeast Conference

					✓		
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Strategic Management of Municipal Solid Waste Collaboration

Assisted in scoping National Lab of the Rockies technical assistance to support strategic planning

					✓		✓
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Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy

Released the final 2023 community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory

✓		✓		✓		✓	
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Completed energy education modules for CBS website

✓	✓	✓					
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2025-2026 GOAL UPDATES & ACTIONS

On March 11th, 2025, Chair Taylor presented the 2025-2026 Work Plan to the City Assembly which was unanimously approved (Item 25-041). Throughout the following year, the Sustainability Commission made steady progress towards the goals as despite challenges from federal administration changes, CBS vacancies, and quorum requirements. As such, this work plan is primarily focused on updates and anticipated next steps for the upcoming year. **The 2025-2026 goals were presented as:**

1. SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

In 2025, the Commission reframed the goals to primarily focus on CBS operations rather than project-based goals. The Commission drafted potential strategic deliverables to support the Assembly's direction to decarbonize city operations by 2030 (CBS Res. 22-18). Unfortunately, with many of these deliverables contingent on other goals and/or collaboration with vacant CBS positions, this goal did not unfold as initially anticipated. However, many of the proposed deliverables are still viable options and would benefit CBS and vacancies have gradually been filled. Fortunately, the Sustainability Commission was able to remain responsive to requests from CBS staff as unexpected events and opportunities arose throughout the year.

In August 2025, the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) announced a brief public comment period for a code review shortly after Alaska Marine Lines announced it would no longer ship electric vehicles (EVs). With the AMHS now the only way for EVs to arrive in Sitka, **the Municipal Administrator requested the Sustainability Commission to draft comments for CBS outlining the importance of the AMHS's service and recommended ways to improve the booking process, summarized global safety developments, and to the importance as the only option for municipal EV procurement.**



2025-2026 GOAL UPDATES & ACTIONS

2. EXPLORE REGIONAL APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

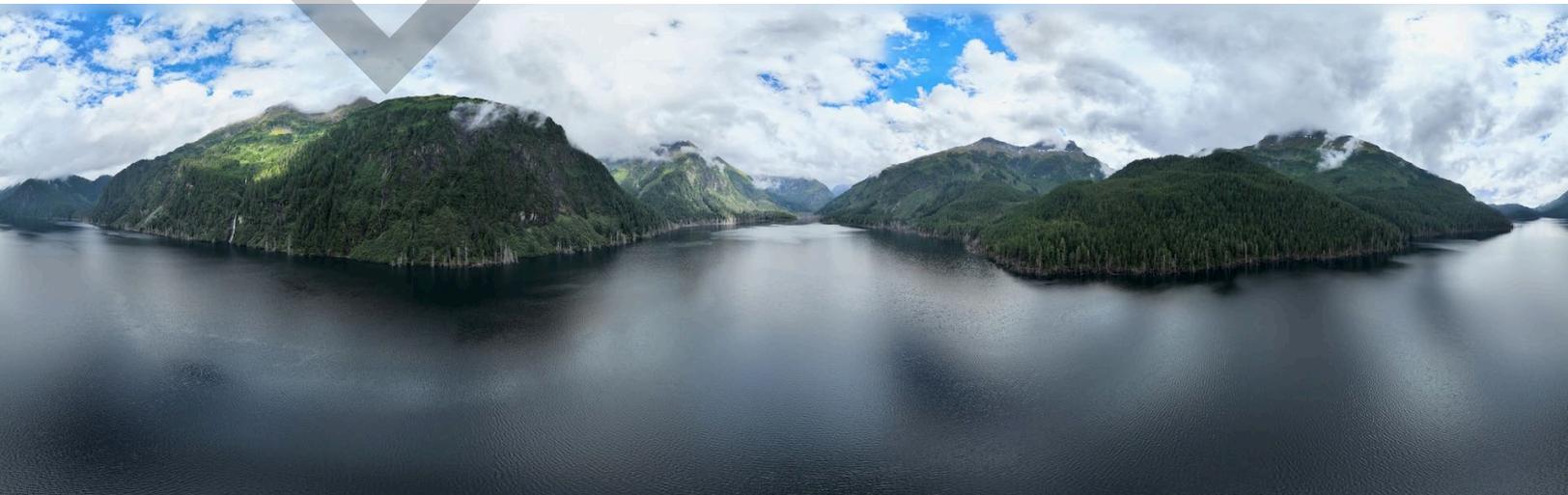
Much of the progress made on this goal closely overlapped with goal 3, as CBS is a participant in the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority's (SEASWA) regional planning project in partnership with Southeast Conference. This project aims to prepare a regional approach to municipal solid waste. **In September 2025, Southeast Conference held its annual meeting in Sitka which included a session on municipal solid waste and the SEASWA project, which was attended by two Commissioners who connected with other communities and other MSW stakeholders.**

3. COLLABORATE WITH CITY STAFF ON STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE (MSW)

Progress on this goal was adversely affected by the extended vacancy of the Public Works Director position. Fortunately, regional progress was still possible through the regional SEASWA planning effort as summarized in goal 2. **The Solid Waste Advisory Group Commissioners assisted the Sustainability Coordinator in scoping a small technical assistance award from the National Lab of the Rockies.**

4. CONTINUE SUPPORTING AND FINALIZE THE SITKA COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY (SCRES)

Progress on this goal was significantly adversely affected by federal administration changes that inhibited the technical support of the national labs through CBS's Energy Technology Innovation Partnership Project (ETIPP) award. Changes to the publishing process at the labs led to long delays and travel restrictions shifted much of the public engagement to the Sustainability Coordinator. While circumstances minimized the Sustainability Commission's ability to support this goal for much of 2025, **the final 2023 community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory was released in early 2026 and is available online. The Sustainability Commission is prepared to support the public engagement with the inventory and the finalization process of the strategy as adjusted timelines as determined by CBS staff and the national lab technical team.**



CONTINUE SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

1

SUPPORTS:



Fossil energy use reduction and development of local, renewable energy sources.



Responsible use of natural resources



Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.

SUMMARY: In 2025, the Commission reframed the goals to primarily focus on CBS operations rather than project-based goals. The Commission drafted potential strategic deliverables to support the Assembly's direction to decarbonize city operations by 2030 (CBS Res. 22-18). This goal is meant to position the Commission to support Assembly direction given to decarbonize City operations by 2030 (Res. 22-18) by supporting the City's asset management program. By focusing on ongoing CBS operations and projects, the proposed strategic deliverables are meant to integrate principles of sustainability into the workings of the City, build resources to support long-term change, and create tools to evaluate progress.

INVOLVED DEPARTMENTS: Planning and Community Development, Public Works

FOCUS:

Municipal - Improves existing service

Municipal - Adds new service

Community

FITS WITHIN EXISTING CITY BUDGET:

No

Somewhat

Via grants

Yes

TIME INTENSITY:

Low

Moderate

High

Substantial

CBS STAFF:

During
Post



COMMISSION:



TIMEFRAME:

Q2 2026

Q3 2026

Q4 2026

Q1 2027

CHALLENGES

Unfortunately, many of the proposed deliverables in the 2025-2026 Work Plan were contingent on other goals and/or collaboration with vacant CBS positions. As such, this goal did not unfold as initially anticipated. However, many of the proposed deliverables are still viable options and would benefit CBS and vacancies have gradually been filled in the past year. Meanwhile, the Sustainability Commission was able to remain responsive to requests from CBS staff as unexpected events and opportunities arose throughout the year.

MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DRAFTED CBS COMMENTS FOR THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM TO SUPPORT MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROCUREMENT

In August 2025, Alaska Marine Lines (AML) issued a notice that it would no longer transport electric vehicles (EV) and plug-in hybrid EVs as of September 1, 2025. Shortly after, the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) put out a request for information on potential reforms to regulations to the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). With the AMHS now the only way for EVs to arrive in Sitka, the Municipal Administrator requested the Sustainability Commission to draft comments for CBS outlining the importance of the AMHS's service and recommended ways to improve the booking process, summarized global safety developments, and to the importance as the only option for municipal EV procurement.

The Sustainability Commission drafted comments with seven recommendations pertinent to municipal vehicle procurement and EV accessibility in Sitka (APPX #?). **These recommendations were:**

1. Clarify and maintain that alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) are permitted on AMHS vessels.
2. Increase the number of EVs allowed per sailing.
3. Establish a reservation system for EVs to increase booking certainty.
4. Proactively develop operational procedures informed by current best practices to improve utilization of AMHS.
5. Align all applicable sections of AMHS code to better adapt and respond to anticipated updates and safety protocols for transporting AFVs.
6. Ensure Fare Parity for AFVs.
7. Improve public communication with up-to-date information via the AMHS website.

NEXT STEPS

REENGAGE WITH CITY STAFF IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Many of the strategic deliverables originally proposed in the previous Work Plan were dependent on collaborating with CBS staff in the Public Works Department, most notably the Director and Asset Manager. These positions were either vacant or occupied in the interim, limiting the Commission's ability to engage meaningfully for much of the year. Fortunately, each of those positions are now filled, and it is the intent of the Commission to reengage to progress on the original proposed deliverables which have been reframed to reflect updates from the past year.

UPDATE THE MUNICIPAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

The technical team that assisted with the community-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions (see Goal 4 for more information) began initial work for a municipal inventory. However, due to delays in the publishing process and CBS staff capacity, the municipal inventory did not progress. This year, the Sustainability Commission anticipates this process by:

- Scoping the municipal GHG emission inventory with City staff to support operational needs
- Identify key data sources and/or collection methods for the municipal inventory

FOCUS ON OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO SUPPORT EMISSION REDUCTION OF THE MUNICIPAL FLEET

While the Decarbonizing and Right-sizing to Improve Vehicle Efficiency (DRIVE) Advisory Group was established to assist integrating EVs and other drive trains into the municipal fleet, challenges in the past year require focusing on areas that CBS has direct control over be prioritized. While EVs are significantly more challenging to procure for municipal purposes, CBS still has opportunity to reduce emissions and lower fuel spending by addressing operational changes in the fleet. These can include measures including but not limited to:

- Maximizing the longevity of existing CBS vehicles
- Right-sizing vehicles for their intended use and purpose
- Reducing engine idling

ADVANCE OTHER PROPOSED STRATEGIC DELIVERABLES AS TIME ALLOWS

Identifying sustainability metrics for municipal operations that align with the CBS strategic plan and integrating sustainability metrics into existing and near future CBS projects are still important to supporting sustainable municipal operations. However, it is likely that the focus will be on the municipal GHG emission inventory and vehicle operation improvements will take most of the time over the next year. Regardless, the Commission will continue to assess opportunities to support these efforts as opportunities arise.

CONTINUE EXPLORING A REGIONAL APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

2

SUPPORTS:



Responsible use of natural resources



Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.



Other matters as the Assembly or Commission may deem beneficial for the City.

SUMMARY: Now entering its fourth year, the Sustainability Commission will explore opportunities to collaborate with Sustainability initiatives regionally. The goal will be to identify overlap with ongoing efforts within the region.

INVOLVED DEPARTMENTS: Planning and Community Development

FOCUS:

Municipal - Improves existing service

Municipal - Adds new service

Community

FITS WITHIN EXISTING CITY BUDGET:

No

Somewhat

Via grants

Yes

TIME INTENSITY:

Low

Moderate

High

Substantial

CBS STAFF:

During



Post



COMMISSION:



TIMEFRAME:

Q2 2026

Q3 2026

Q4 2026

Q1 2027

MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2024, the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority (SEASWA) an authority of 8 communities aimed at reducing the cost of solid waste disposal in the region, received a \$500,000 Denali Commission grant to create a regional solution. Although Sitka is not a member, the Sustainability Coordinator negotiated an MOU to allow for Sitka's participation.

In September 2025, Southeast Conference held its annual meeting in Sitka which included a session on municipal solid waste and the SEASWA project, which was attended by two Commissioners who connected with other communities and additional municipal solid waste stakeholders.

NEX STEPS

CONNECT WITH NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES WITH SIMILAR BODIES TO IDENTIFY OVERLAP IN GOALS

Many of the sustainability challenges that communities face are not unique and may benefit from a regional approach, as demonstrated by the SEASWA regional municipal solid waste planning project. As such, the Sustainability Commission will seek to connect with similar bodies throughout Southeast Alaska and identify how goals may overlap and find ways to learn from and contribute to organizations, such as Southeast Conference, that support region-wide approaches.

IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER CBS BODIES TO BROADLY INTEGRATE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY

CBS has numerous bodies that address specific community needs and priorities. As the Sustainability Commission has learned and grown since its establishment in 2022, it hopes to support other bodies apply the principles of sustainability to their work as opportunities arise.

SUPPORT THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM TO IMPROVE RELIABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND FREQUENCY

Similar to how the Sustainability Commission supported CBS by drafting comments for the AMHS, the Commission aims to find other opportunities to bring attention to the criticality of the ferry service for communities in the region.

CONTINUE COLLABORATING WITH CITY STAFF ON STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

3

SUPPORTS:



Solid waste consumption, reduction, composting, recycling, and re-use.



Responsible use of natural resources



Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.

SUMMARY: : Using the asset management program the City utilizes to strategically approach municipal solid waste (MSW), rather than just staff participating in the process, Sustainability Commissioners from the solid waste working group were also included.

INVOLVED DEPARTMENTS: Planning and Community Development, Public Works

FOCUS:

Municipal - Improves existing service

Municipal - Adds new service

Community

FITS WITHIN EXISTING CITY BUDGET:

No

Somewhat

Via grants

Yes

TIME INTENSITY:

Low

Moderate

High

Substantial

CBS STAFF:

During

Post

COMMISSION:

TIMEFRAME:

Q2 2026

Q3 2026

Q4 2026

Q1 2027

CHALLENGES

Similar to Goal 1, this goal was negatively impacted by vacancies in the Public Works Department. Without key positions to collaborate with, development of the solid waste advisory group charter and strategy made minimal progress as proposed in the 2025-2026 Work Plan. However, opportunities to improve CBS's ability to strategically manage municipal solid waste locally and regionally (see page #) progressed.

MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ASSISTED IN SCOPING NATIONAL LAB OF THE ROCKIES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT STRATEGIC PLANNING OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

In 2025, CBS received a small award from the National Lab of the Rockies (NLR, previously known as the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)). This small award of approximately 40 hours (<\$10,000), of technical assistance addresses knowledge gaps, specific challenges, decision-making considerations, planning, and project implementation strategies related to Waste-to-Energy. In collaboration with the Sustainability Coordinator, Commissioners on the Solid Waste Advisory Group (SWAG) connected with previous recipient communities to assess options for scoping the technical assistance.

The scope of the technical assistance includes:

- Summary results from waste composition studies conducted in communities with similar characteristics. These results will include recommendations for assumptions for Sitka's waste streams in lieu of a formal waste composition study, which is costly, time consuming, and likely unnecessary based on little variation between waste composition studies of similar communities.
- Suggestions for enhancing the transfer station and recycling center, focusing on improving services (e.g., adding or strengthening recycling programs) or incorporating new materials for collection. The evaluation will aim to increase operational efficiency and maximize waste diversion from landfills, drawing on examples and best practices from similar facilities nationwide.
- If time allows, a summary of options for challenging and/or unique waste, such as tires and fish waste.

NEX STEPS

Many of the sustainability challenges that communities face are not unique and may benefit from a regional approach, as demonstrated by the SEASWA regional municipal solid waste planning project. As such, the Sustainability Commission will seek to connect with similar bodies throughout Southeast Alaska and identify how goals may overlap and find ways to learn from and contribute to organizations, such as Southeast Conference, that support region-wide approaches.

CONTINUE COLLABORATING WITH CITY STAFF ON STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

3

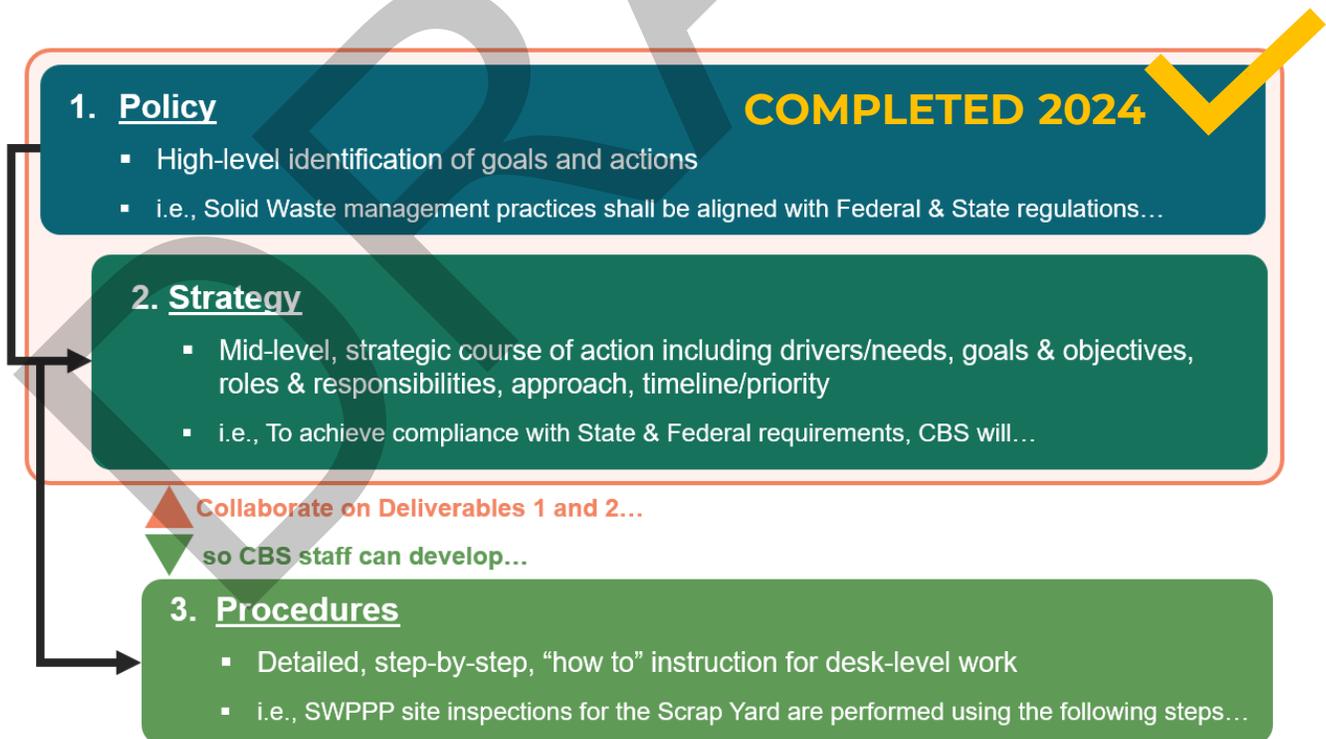
NEX STEPS

REENGAGE WITH CITY STAFF IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Like Goal 1, the municipal solid waste strategy originally proposed in the previous Work Plan heavily depended on collaborating with CBS staff in the Public Works Department. With the Public Works Director position now filled, determining the best ways for the Sustainability Commission to support municipal solid waste (MSW) is the first step.

REVISIT AND REVISE THE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY GROUP (SWAG) WITH INPUT FROM THE NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

As outlined in CBS Public Works Policy 24-01-01, the SWAG will create an MSW Strategy and means to effectively communicate this directive to the appropriate parties, internally within CBS and externally to the public. To begin, SWAG will work on developing a group charter that outlines a working process for collaboration and additional components necessary for strategy development with input from the new Public Works Director. Additionally, revisiting the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis conducted in 2024 will provide context and an opportunity for collaboration.



DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINDINGS OF THE NLR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Once available, the Commission anticipates reviewing the findings from the NLR WTE technical assistance and draft recommendations for the next steps.

FINALIZE THE SITKA COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY



SUPPORTS:



Fossil energy use reduction and development of local, renewable energy sources.



Responsible use of natural resources



Robust and healthy local ecosystems and natural communities.

SUMMARY: In late 2023, was successfully selected as one of nine communities for the third cohort of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DoE) Energy Technology Innovation Partnership Project (ETIPP) to support the development of the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES). **The SCRES aims to establish a shared vision of Sitka's energy future to guide energy-related community decisions by shaping a roadmap for community and policy actions that advance the shared energy vision.** The Sustainability Commission defined The scope to include a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventory, public energy education, the development of future energy scenarios, and a compilation of community actions and policy recommendations based on continuous community engagement throughout the project.

This City-led project, heavily supported by the Sustainability Commission, works in collaboration with energy experts, collectively known as the technical team, primarily at the Pacific Northwest National Lab (PNNL). The SCRES is funded through the ETIPP program and the Sustainability Coordinator's time.

INVOLVED DEPARTMENTS: Planning and Community Development, Electric

FOCUS:

Municipal - Improves existing service

Municipal - Adds new service

Community

FITS WITHIN EXISTING CITY BUDGET:

No

Somewhat

Via grants

Yes

TIME INTENSITY:

Low

Moderate

High

Substantial

CBS STAFF:

During



Post



COMMISSION:



TIMEFRAME:

Q2 2026

Q3 2026

Q4 2026

Q1 2027

CHALLENGES

Progress on this goal was significantly adversely affected by federal administration changes that inhibited the technical support of the national labs as originally scoped in 2024. Changes to the publishing process at the labs led to long delays and travel restrictions shifted much of the public engagement to the Sustainability Coordinator. While circumstances minimized the Sustainability Commission's ability to support this goal for much of 2025, the new processes and procedures with the technical team are settling and the SCRES is anticipated to be completed in 2026.

MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

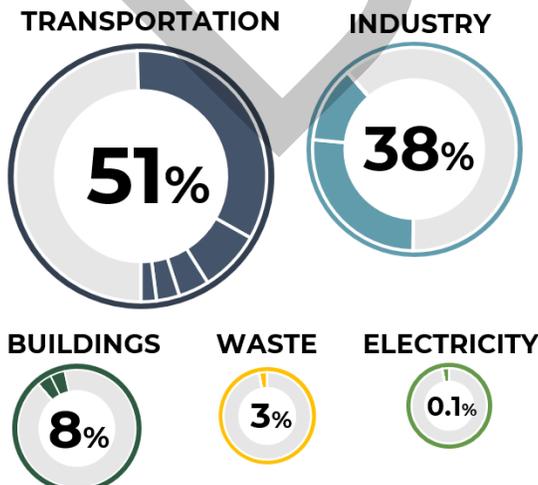
RELEASED THE 2023 COMMUNITY-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

After the initial draft and over 40 pages of public comment in late 2024, the community-wide the inventory was published in January 2026 after being further refined to reflect new information and community insights. The 2023 Sitka Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory is available online. ([Link](#))

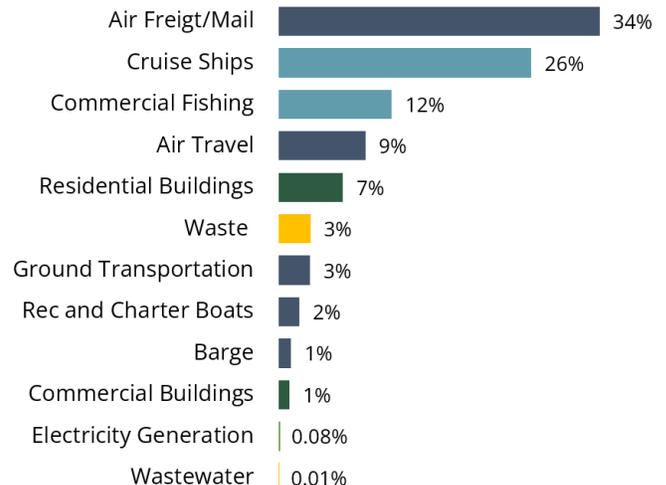
IN 2023, SITKA PRODUCED 128,675 METRIC TONS OF CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT (MTCO₂e)



BY CATEGORY



BY END USES



FINALIZE THE SITKA COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY

APPROVED GUIDING PRINCIPLES FROM COMMUNITY ROADMAPPING WORKSHOPS

Community workshops were held to facilitate the creation of personalized visions and paths to Sitka in 25 years, based on real data available from Sitka's electric grid and needs. This exercise was formatted as a boardgame called *Energy Quest: Sitka's Path to 2050*. The purpose of this game was to help community members understand the complexity of energy planning as both a consumer and electric utility. This exercise informed player's priorities of what can be electrified by when, and how additional demand can be met if needed. Through this process, four guiding principles for Sitka's energy future emerged: affordability, reliability, self-sufficiency, and innovation. The full report of the findings is currently under review by PNNL.

2025 ENERGY QUEST ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



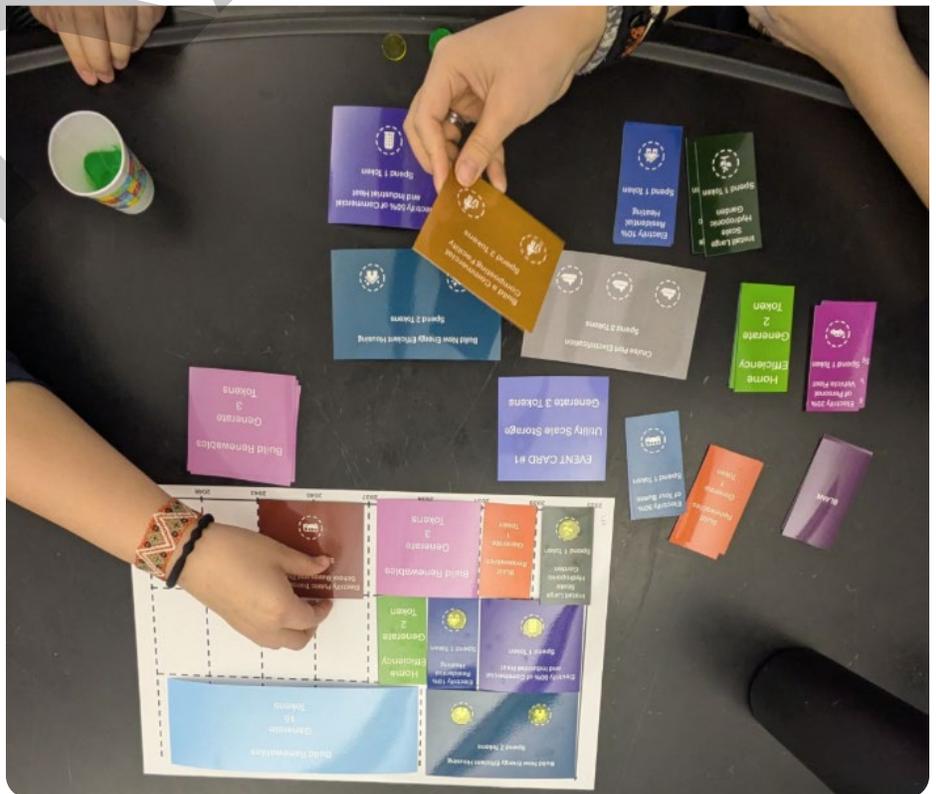
12
Workshops
Half in high school classes



59
Roadmaps



84
Players



101
Questionnaire Responses



120+
Hours of Community Input

NEX STEPS

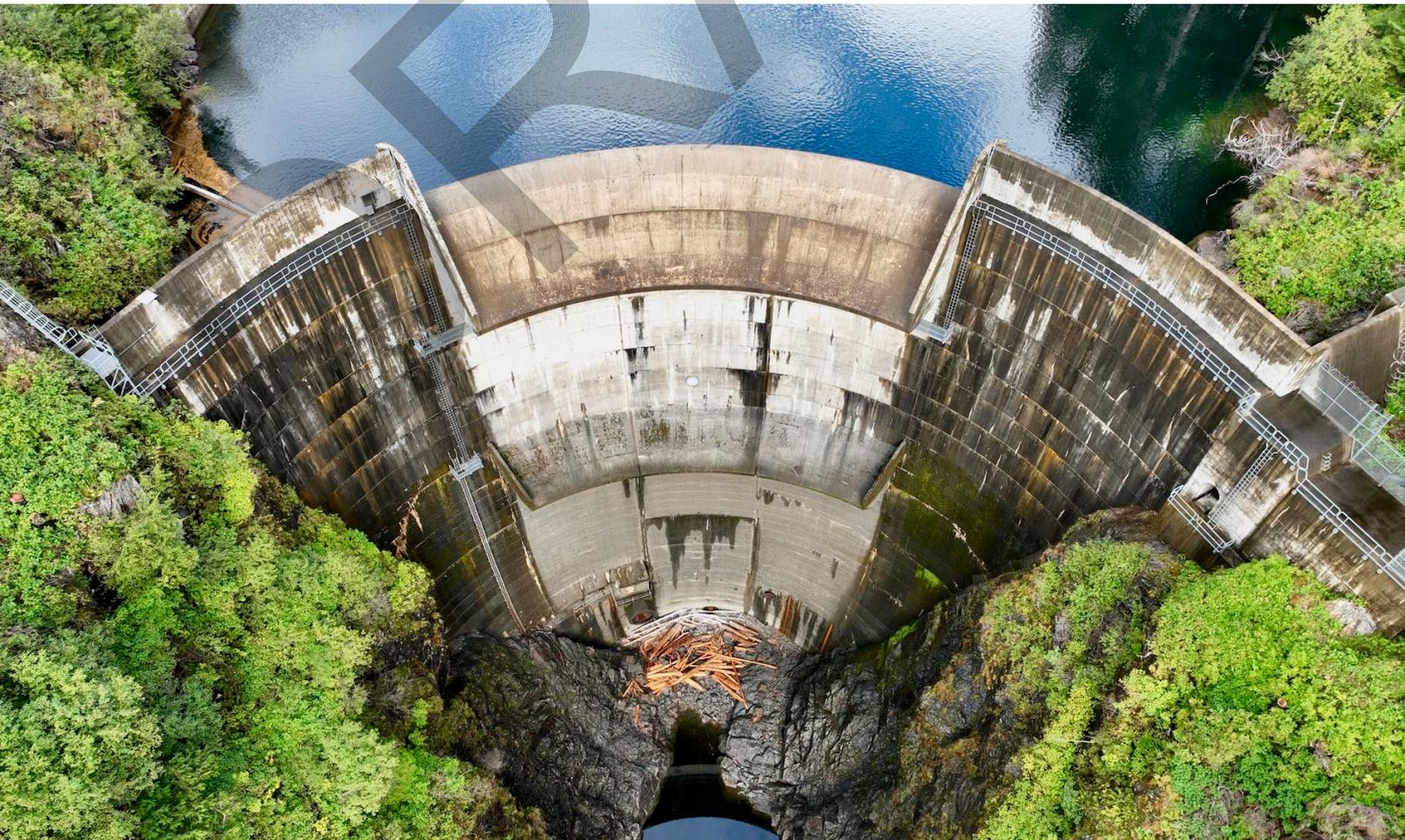
PROMOTE RESOURCES AND FINDINGS IN EDUCATION MODULES AND THE 2023 GHG EMISSION INVENTORY

Information on the SCRES website, which now includes all education modules, as well as results from the 2023 Sitka GHG Emissions Inventory, should be shared with community members. The Commission intends to create ways to communicate key findings and actions to improve the public's energy understanding so they can continue to contribute to community decision making.

DETERMINE NEXT STEPS FOR GHG EMISSION INVENTORY AND SUPPORT ASSEMBLY ADOPTION OF THE FINAL STRATEGY

The 2023 Sitka GHG Emissions Inventory does not contain actionable recommendations. It serves only descriptions and estimation of energy sources and uses to inform goal setting and further strategic planning. As such, the Sustainability Commission intends to work with the Assembly to determine the best path forward with the GHG inventory, such as updating frequency or further goal setting direction.

Similarly, the technical team is finalizing the timeline for the SCRES completion. The Sustainability Commission will continue to provide input on the strategy as needed, in preparation for its review and recommended approval for Assembly adoption later this year.





DRAFT



City and Borough of Sitka

MISSION

To provide public services for Sitka that support a livable community for all.

Service | Integrity | Teamwork | Kindness | Accountability