

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Agenda Sustainability Commission

Officers: Chair Katie Riley, Vice Chair (Vacant), Secretary Carol Voisin

Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Aurora Taylor, Fernanda Zermoglio

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

6:00 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

II. ELECTION OF ACTING CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the October 16, 2023 minutes

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

VI. REPORTS

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Updates and Next Steps From Working Groups

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Review Community Scoping Survey for the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy

C. Review Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Draft Scope

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

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

XI. ADJOURNMENT



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Minutes Sustainability Commission

Officers: Chair Katie Riley, Vice Chair Angie Bowers, Secretary Carol Voisin

Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Kent Barkhau, Aurora Taylor, Fernanda Zermoglio

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Monday, October 16, 2023

6:30 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Acting Chair Bowers called to order at: 6:41 P.M.

Present: Angie Bowers (Acting Chair), Elizabeth Bagley, Kent Barkhau, Katie Riley (Telephonic)
Aurora Taylor, Carol Voisin, Fernanda Zermoglio, Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator), Amy Ainslie (Planning Director)

Public: Bruce Belley, Larry Edwards, Leah Mason, Lisa Sadlier-Hart

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Bowers proposed that Item C under new business be addressed first, and unfinished business and reports be addressed after completing new business.
Seeing no objections, the agenda was changed.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the September 5, 2023 minutes.

Bagley moved to approve the September 5, 2023 minutes.

Motion PASSED 7-0 by roll call vote.

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

Leah Mason expressed concern about the scope of the greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Bruce Belley spoke to Sitka's hydroelectric generation, diesel generation, and asked that the Electric Department's website be updated with more information.

V. REPORTS

Chair: Bowers thanked the commission for their work and said that she looked forward to continuing engaging with the commission as a member of the public. Commissioners applauded Bowers for her service.

Staff: Gabel thanked Bowers for her work on the commission

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Updates and Next Steps for Working Groups

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory: Molly Gear, Technical Lead for the Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) team assisting with the Sitka Community Renewable Energy

Strategy (SCRES), presented an overview of greenhouse gas emissions inventories and what information would be needed to scope one for the community of Sitka.

Zermoglio summarized the discussion she had with Barkhau, Gabel, and ETIPP. Bagley suggested that the commission consider how the inventory would be used to help inform the scope.

Gabel noted that the next step would be working with the technical team to get a draft scope based on the working group's feedback and feedback from the discussion and that she anticipated it being an agenda item in November or December. She suggested that Zermoglio and/or Barkhau attend the Alaska Municipal Climate Network's upcoming meeting which was about the recently completed statewide greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Public Energy Education: Bagley summarized her conversation with Voisin, Gabel, and the technical team about the survey that was being developed. Gabel noted that as a next step, she would follow up with the working group with a draft of the survey questionnaire for feedback on the questions specific to education.

Public Engagement Planning: Taylor summarized her conversation with Riley, Gabel, and the technical team about what worked well and did not work well in previous ETIPP supported projects. Taylor explained that the working group would help collect key contact information for community groups that should be involved, specifically schools.

Gabel requested that the working group draft a timeline for public engagement during the scoping phase of the SCRES to bring to the November meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Approve Community Scoping Survey Guiding Questions

Gabel explained that based on the conversations she had had with the working groups and the technical team, she drafted guiding questions based on what the working groups were looking to answer. Q1a,b for were for Public Energy Education, Q2 was for Public Engagement Planning. Question 3 was for rooting the SCRES in community values as the commission had desired based on the Sustainable Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan reviewed at the September meeting. She added that these questions would not be used directly in the survey, instead they would be used to keep the survey's questions focused.

- 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 do the community want to guide the development of the Community Renewable Energy Strategy?

Mason suggested that the survey ask the public about what they want to know about. Belley requested the survey focus on the impact, cost, and logistics of integrating renewable energy into Sitka's grid.

**Zermoglio moved to approve the community scoping survey guiding questions as written.
Motion PASSED 7-0 by roll call vote.**

C. Approve Community Renewable Energy Strategy Name, Mission, and Vision

Commissioners refined the name, mission, and vision of the project originally drafted in the work session.

Name: The Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES)

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.

Larry Edwards suggested a different approach of deriving the values from the problem and emphasized public involvement. Mason supported Edward's comments and noted that ownership comes with involvement. Lisa Sadlier-Hart drew comparison between shaping a vision and painting a picture and emphasized the need for the vision to be shared.

Bagley moved to approve community renewable energy strategy name, mission, and vision as written above.

Motion PASSED 7-0 by roll call vote.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

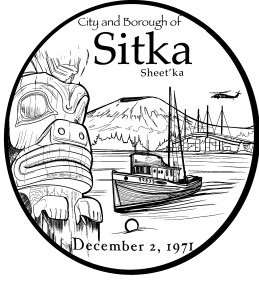
The next meeting was scheduled for November 7, 2023 at 6:00 P.M., in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Barkhau moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at 8:44 P.M.

Minutes By: Carol Voisin, Secretary



THE SITKA COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY (SCRES) COMMUNITY SURVEY

THIS SURVEY WILL TAKE ~10 MINUTES

QR CODE
HERE

Want to save some paper? Scan QR code to take the survey online!

The city is developing Sitka’s Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) with the help of the Sustainability Commission and technical assistance from the Energy Transition Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP). The SCRES aims to establish a shared vision of Sitka’s energy future to guide energy-related community decisions. The Sustainability Commission is gathering input from the community to scope public engagement, education, and root the SCRES in community values.

The results will be used to help shape the scope of the SCRES so that community feedback can be considered for incorporation into the project.

Your completion of is completely voluntary and you may stop taking the survey at any time. Responses are anonymous. If you choose to leave your email to receive updates, they will not be connected to your responses. All responses will be used for general analytical purposes only.

If you need assistance completing the survey, please call (907) 747-1856 or email sustainability@cityofsitka.org to make arrangements.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.	Neither Agree nor Agree				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Energy conservation is important to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In my home, I take actions to conserve energy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am not willing to conserve energy at my home if that comes at any cost to my comfort.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I encourage my friends and family to make energy-conservation choices.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The effort I make to conserve energy will have a <u>positive effect on the environment.</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The effort I make to conserve energy will have a <u>positive effect on my community’s health.</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The effort I make to conserve energy will have a <u>positive effect on my utility bill.</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Many of my everyday decisions are affected by my thoughts on energy use.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am too busy to be concerned with my energy usage.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is too inconvenient to reduce my energy usage.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is too expensive to reduce my energy usage.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would do more to save energy if I knew how.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE →

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.	Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree nor Disagree Agree Strongly Agree				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I can describe what Sitka's energy resources are.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can explain where Sitka's energy comes from.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how Sitka's grid gets energy to where I live.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In one sentence, how would you explain energy, in general, to your friend?

In one sentence, how would you explain where Sitka's energy comes from to someone new to town?

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

(Write a number between 0 and 100, with 0 = none and 100 = all)

Would you like to explain why you chose this amount?

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

- I am concerned about the cost impacts of using diesel to generate electricity for Sitkans.
- I am concerned about the environmental impacts of using diesel to generate electricity for Sitka.
- I am concerned about the health impacts of using diesel to generate electricity for Sitkans.
- I am concerned about the cost impacts of renewable energy to generate electricity for Sitkans.
- I am concerned about the environmental impacts of renewable energy to generate electricity for Sitka.
- I am concerned about the health impacts of using renewable energy to generate electricity for Sitkans.

	Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree nor Disagree Agree Strongly Agree				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am concerned about the <u>cost impacts of using diesel</u> to generate electricity for Sitkans.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about the <u>environmental impacts of using diesel</u> to generate electricity for Sitka.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about the <u>health impacts of using diesel</u> to generate electricity for Sitkans.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about the <u>cost impacts of renewable energy</u> to generate electricity for Sitkans.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about the <u>environmental impacts of renewable energy</u> to generate electricity for Sitka.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about the <u>health impacts of using renewable energy</u> to generate electricity for Sitkans.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I think energy-independence is vital to the long-term success of Sitka.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think energy conservation is vital to the long-term success of Sitka.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sitka needs to invest more in energy generation resources.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sitka needs to develop more ways of producing energy, even if that means energy will cost more.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sitka needs to develop more ways of producing energy, even if it means energy will be less reliable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The city has a strong role to play in our community's energy efficiency and conservation policies.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe that I can contribute to solving energy problems by making appropriate energy conservation choices and actions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way I personally use energy does not really make a difference to the energy challenges that may face Sitka.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe I have a voice in helping to impact energy policies.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Would you like to participate in energy planning or addressing energy issues in your community?

- Yes No Maybe

Would you like to receive updates about upcoming energy discussions and planning events?
(Emails will be separated from your responses. Your email will not be shared with any third parties)

The City and Borough of Sitka is guided by five overall values: people, innovation, integrity, sustainable, and service.

What other values, if any, do you think should guide the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy?
(up to 5 single words)

Which general topic areas are you most likely to gather information about over the next year?

(Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy efficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic impacts of energy actions | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental impacts of energy actions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Role of foreign affairs in energy decisions | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy trends | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(please specify)</i> : _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am unlikely to gather any information about energy | |



When you have a question about energy, where do you go for information? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> By talking to my friends and family | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal social media feeds (e.g. Facebook) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Search engines (e.g. Google, Yahoo, Bing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Government websites (e.g. CBS website, Dept. of Energy) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarly research databases | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional or industry websites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online or print encyclopedias (e.g. Wikipedia) | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit agencies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am not interested in energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |

If you wanted to engage in discussions about energy in Sitka, how would you like to do it? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending in-person meetings and/or workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending virtual meetings (Zoom) meetings and/or workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A presentation to my community group or organization (please write the name below)
_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Engaging online via social media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Watching video recordings |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Reading information online |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Listening to the radio |

Are there any other questions about energy in Sitka you would like to ask?

END OF SURVEY | THANK YOU!

Reaching the community in its entirety is key to the success of the SCRES. **Please consider helping us ensure that as much of the community is represented by providing your demographics.**

(All demographics are optional; skip those you do not wish to share.)

How long have you lived in Sitka?

- Less than 1 year 2-5 years 6-10 years More than 10 years

What is your age?

- 17 or younger 18-24 25- 34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65 or older

What is your housing status?

- Homeowner Renter Liveaboard Currently unhoused

Which option most closely aligns with your gender?

- Woman Man Non-binary Prefer to self-describe: _____

How would you describe yourself? (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> White or Caucasian | <input type="radio"/> Black or African American | <input type="radio"/> Middle Eastern or North African |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian American | <input type="radio"/> Native American or Alaskan Native | <input type="radio"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander |
| <input type="radio"/> Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin | <input type="radio"/> Prefer to self-describe: _____ | |

What is your approximate average household income?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Less than \$24,999 | <input type="radio"/> \$75,000 - \$99,999 | <input type="radio"/> \$150,000 - \$174,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> \$25,000 - \$49,999 | <input type="radio"/> \$100,000 - \$124,000 | <input type="radio"/> \$ 175,000 – \$ 199,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> \$50,000 - \$74,000 | <input type="radio"/> \$125,000 - \$149,000 | <input type="radio"/> \$More than \$200,000 |



Proposed GHG Inventory for Sitka Community Review



Tuesday, November 7, 2023
City of Sitka Sustainability Commission Meeting

Below is a proposed scope for the Sitka community GHG emission inventory. While the proposed sectors do not capture every possible emission related to Sitka, it focuses on those sectors that the Sitka community can take more directly act on.

Proposed GHG Included Sectors		
SCOPE 1		
Sector	Details	Potential Data Source*
Electricity Consumption	Utility owned by the municipality	Total electricity generated from the utility annually, with percentage of diesel generation.
Heating Oil Combustion	Fuel is imported to Sitka	Total heating oil imported annually to Sitka from gas station data, with assumption on % that goes to heating.
Land Transportation	Include cars, trucks, buses, snow mobiles	Total gasoline and diesel sold annually at gas station with assumption on % to land transportation. Alternatively, utilizing NEI data.
Water Transportation	Ferrys, boats that leave and return to Sitka	Total gasoline and diesel sold annually at gas station with assumption on % to water transportation. Use database of registered vessels and their approximate uses.
Wastewater	Wastewater treatment plant is owned by the municipality	Total gallons of wastewater treated annually.
SCOPE 3		
Sector	Details	Potential Data Source*
Waste	Exported through shipping to Washington	Total tons of waste shipped to WA. Estimated break down on waste type by percentages

**Potential data sources may change after discussion and availability of data.*

Proposed Excluded Emission Sectors		
Sector	Details	Reason for exclusion
Air Travel	Flights to and from Sitka	Fewer actions would be available to mitigate emissions
Marine Shipping	Included shipping materials such as heating oil, food, and consumer products to Sitka	Fewer actions would be available to mitigate emissions